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TEN INDIAN FILMS IN BUSAN

TEN Indian films were there in the official selections of the 28th Busan International Film Festival (South Korea, 4-13 October 2023). In A Window on Asian Cinema section there were *Agra* (India, France, 2023, 132 mins) by Kanu Behl which was in Cannes Directors' Fortnight, *Guras* (India, Nepal, 2023, 114 mins) by Saurav Rai – winner of the Karlovy Vary Proxima Special Jury Prize, *Joram* (India, 2023, 138 mins) by

Devashish Makhija which was in Rotterdam Big Screen, *Rapture* (India, China, Qatar, Switzerland, Netherlands, 2023 127min) by Dominic Sangma which was in Locarno Filmmakers of the Present, and *The Scavenger of Dreams* (India, 2023, 84 mins) by Suman Ghosh. *The Spark* (India, 2023, 98 mins) by Rajesh S. Jala was in New Current section. *Rocky and Rani's Love Story* (India, 2023, 169 mins) by Karan Johar was in Open Cinema section. *Flickering Lights* (India, 2023, 90 mins) by Anupama Srinivasan and Anirban Dutta was in Wide Angle Documentary Competition section. *Against the Tide* (India, France, 2023, 97 mins) by Sarvnik Kaur winner of the Sundance World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award was also in the Wide Angle Documentary section. Indo-Sri Lankan coproduction *Paradise* (2023, 93 mins) by Prasanna Vithanage was in Jiseok section. *That Summer's Lie* (South Korea, 2023, 138 min) by Sohn Hyun-lok won the FIPRESCI prize. The FIPRESCI jury (in pic) composed of Gulbara Tolomushova (Kirgizia), Sebastian Lindvall (Sweden), and Hyeshin Kim (South Korea).



APARAJITA PUJARI'S BOOK ON CINEMA RELEASED IN GUWAHATI



FIPRESCI Member Aparajita Pujari's book on cinema in Assamese "Modar Phoolor Jui: Chalchitra Kotha," was released on 18 Oct 2023 at an event in Guwahati. The 345 pages book priced Rs.400 explores the works of several filmmakers like Mrinal Sen, Aparna Sen, Girish Karnad, Anurag Kashyap, Prakash Jha, Bong Joon-ho, and

others. Filmmaker Manju Bora, writer Manoj Goswami, author Apurba Sarma, story writer Kula Saikia, and FIPRESCI Member Manoj Barpujari were present in the occasion (in pic).

MONTREAL

FIPRESCI prize in 52nd Festival du Nouveau Cinéma, Montréal (Canada, 4 – 15 October 2023) awarded to *How to Have Sex* by Molly Manning Walker (Greece, UK, 2023, 98 min). The jury composed of Rachel Ho (Canada), Enoe Lopes Pontes (Brazil), and Andreina Di Sanzo (Italy). The festival is dedicated to “discover a daring and unparalleled cinema”. *How to Have Sex* competed in the Un Certain Regard section at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival, where it won the top prize. Three British teenage girls go on a holiday in Malia on the Greek island what was the best summer of their lives.



concerning the education towards individual liberty and for the skillful use of sub-themes, meaningful mise-en-scène, eye-catching cinematography and impressive acting”. The film tells the story of a high-school literature teacher Ana Bauch who innocently recommends a film to her students, and a parent's complaint spirals her life into chaos.

WARSAW

FIPRESCI prize in the 39th Warsaw International Film Festival (Poland, 6 – 15 October 2023) awarded to the film *Without Air* by Katalin Moldovai (Hungary, Romania, 2023, 105 min). The jury composed of Mike Naafs (The Netherlands), Hamed Soleimanzadeh (Iran), and Dinu-Ioan Nicula (Romania) awarded the film “For the wise transfiguration of a real case

LEIPZIG

FIPRESCI prize in 66th International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Films (Germany, 8 – 15 October 2023) awarded to *Universe Department Store* by Taewoong Won (South Korea, 2022, 80 min). The jury composed of Shy K. Segev (Israel), Irena Kotelovich (Belarus), and Ingrid Beerbaum (Germany). Taewoong Won was born in 1981 when Seoul, devastated in the civil war, was rapidly developing. Under the military dictatorship agricultural fields turned into business areas with multi-storied departmental stores. In front of the Universe Department Store a space shuttle was erected. The film depicts the director's inner memories in a fascinating form.



dares to make trauma explicit and produce a contagious empowerment.’

VIENNA

FIPRESCI Prize in 61st Viennale – Vienna International Film Festival (Austria, 19 – 31 October 2023) was awarded to *Smoke Sauna Sisterhood* by Anna Hints (Estonia, France, Iceland, 2023, 89 mins). The jury composed of Nachum Mochiach (Israel), Barbara Gasser (Austria), and Giuseppe Di Salvatore (Italy) said in motivation that the film ‘commits itself to approaching sensitive topics in an organic way that

VALLADOLID

FIPRESCI prize in 68th Semana Internacional de Cine de Valladolid (Spain, 12 – 28 Oct 2023) awarded to *Foremost by Night* by Víctor Iriarte (Spain, Portugal, France, 2023, 95 min). The jury (in pic) composed of Rwita Dutta (India), Nino Kovacic



(Croatia), and Rosana G. Alonso (Spain) in their motivation said: “This fiction debut feature tries to speak of the unspoken in a fresh and innovative film language, and yet in a deeply emotional way, by inviting to open a dialogue about sins of the past Spanish regime that will point towards a path of healing wounds. With an overwhelming poetic force and intuitive directing, it provocatively explores hurtful politics through a story of subtle interconnections between the protagonists. The film narratively plays with the numerous possibilities that the art form offers, making it not only a strong story that needs to be told but also creating an encapsulating emotional and psychological atmosphere that makes us even more determined to break the silence that the Spanish society is burdened by”.



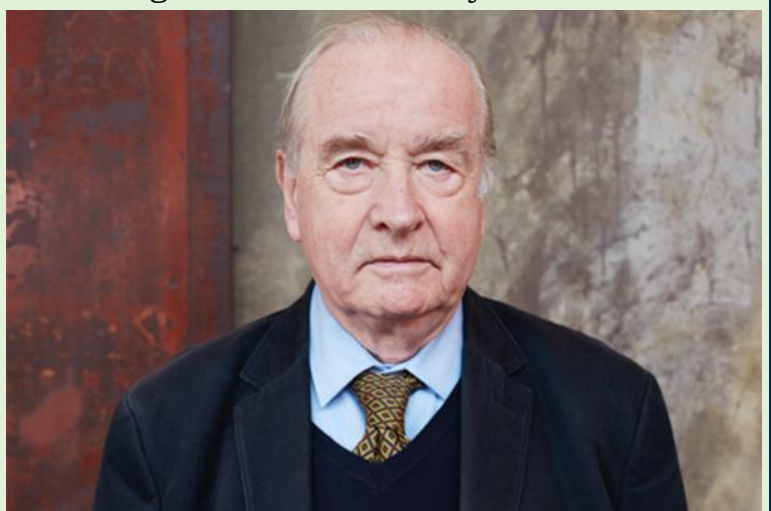
GERMAN CRITICS PRIZE

German Critics prize in 31st Filmfest Hamburg (Germany, 28 Sept to 7 Oct 2023) awarded to the Romanian film *Do Not Expect Too Much of the End of the World* (Romania, Croatia, France, Luxembourg, 2023, 163 mins) by Radu Jude. The film had its world premiere at the Locarno Film Festival in August 2023. Since 2018, a Critics Prize has been awarded at the Filmfest Hamburg

in cooperation with the German Film Critics Association (VdFk). In addition, a Special Mention went to the film *The Goldman Case* (France, 2023, 115 mins) by Cédric Kahn, which had its world premiere at the Directors' Fortnight in Cannes in May 2023.

MICHEL CIMENT HONORED

The Lumière Festival Lyon (France, 14 – 22 Oct 2023) honored Michel Ciment, director of the film magazine *Positif*, and Honorary President of FIPRESCI on 18 October at the Lumière Institute. Michel Ciment (B. 26 May 1938 in Paris) is the author of many books of reference in cinema, and has published famous conversation books with Stanley Kubrick, Joseph Losey, and recently Jane Campion. Ciment is already honored with Chevalier of the Order of Merit, Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, and Officer in the Order of Arts and Letters. He is one of the leading film critics of the world.



DARIUSH MEHRJUI AND HIS WIFE STABBED TO DEATH



Dariush Mehrjui, one of the leading filmmakers of Iranian cinema, and his wife, Vahideh Mohammadifar, scriptwriter, were stabbed to death in their home in the city of Karaj, near Tehran on 14 October 2023. Dariush Mehrjui (B. 8 December 1939) was a member of the Iranian Academy of the Arts. He has more than 23 fiction films to his credit. Some of his unforgettable works like *The Cow* (Gav, 1969), *Mister Naive* (Aghaye Haloo, 1970), *The Cycle* (Dayereye Mina, 1974), *The Tenants* (Ejareh Nashin ha, 1987), *Hamoun* (1997), and a trilogy painting portraits of women, including *Sara* (1993), *Pari* (1995) and *Leila* (1996), are considered as the finest films of Iranian cinema. His other important films are *The Pear Tree* (Derakht-e-Golabi, 1998), *Mum's Guest* (Mehmān-e Māmān, 2004), *Santouri* (The Music Man, 2007), *Ghosts* (Ašbāh, 2014) et al. At the age of 20, Mehrjui moved to USA to study at the University of California, Los Angeles' (UCLA) and completed his graduation in Philosophy. At the age of 27, he made his first film *Diamond 33* (1966). His second film, *The Cow* brought him international recognition. The film is cited as a major work in the history of Iranian cinema. It is considered to be the first film of the New Wave Cinema Movement in Iran, of which Mehrjui was the founding leader with the directors like Masoud Kimiai and Nasser Taqvai. He influenced many other filmmakers in Iran. *The Cow* was adapted from a short story by renowned Iranian literary personality Gholamhossein Sa'edi. Most of his films are inspired by literature and adapted from novels and plays. He was a good musician, and could play the Iranian traditional musical instrument santour, and piano very well. Obviously, he often worked personally on the music of his films. In March 2022, Mehrjui publicly denounced the state censorship announcing "I can't take it anymore, ... I want to fight. Kill me, do whatever you want with me...destroy me, but I want my right." Entire world got deeply shocked with the news of this brutal assassination of Dariush Mehrjui and his wife Vahideh Mohammadifar. (PC: NCRI).

UPCOMING FESTIVALS

Due to Israel-Hamas war, three festivals **El Gouna** (Egypt, 12-20 Oct 2023), **Carthage** (Tunisia, 28 Oct – 4 Nov 2023), and **Cairo** (Egypt, 15-24 Nov 2023) have been postponed.

☼ **Thessaloniki**, Greece, Thessaloniki International Film Festival, November 2-12, 2023. ☼ **Mar del Plata**, Argentina, Mar del Plata International Film Festival, November 2-12, 2023. ☼ **Tallinn**, Estonia, November 3-19, 2023. ☼ **Cottbus**, Festival of East European Cinema, Germany, November 7-12, 2023. ☼ **Rabat**, Morocco, Rabat International Author Film Festival, November 8-18, 2023. ☼ **Amsterdam**, The Netherlands, IDFA – International Documentary Film Festival, November 8-19, 2023. ☼ **Ljubljana**, Slovenia, November 8-19, 2023. ☼ **Stockholm**, Sweden, November 8-19, 2023. ☼ **Taipei**, Taiwan, Golden Horse Film Festival, November 9-26, 2023. ☼ **Coimbra**, Portugal, "Caminhos do Cinema Português", November 10-18, 2023. ☼ **Torun**, Poland, EnergaCAMERIMAGE, International Film Festival of the Art of Cinematography, November 11-18, 2023. ☼ **Lecce**, Italy, Festival of European Cinema, November 11-18, 2023. ☼ **Mannheim-Heidelberg**, Germany, November 16-26, 2023. ☼ **Gijón** (Spain, November 17-25, 2023). ☼ **Athens**, Greece, Panorama of European Cinema, November 30- December 6, 2023. ☼ **Torino**, Italy, November 24 - December 2, 2023. ☼ **Singapore** (November 30- December 10, 2023). ☼ **Havana**, Cuba, "International Festival of the New Latinoamerican Cinema", December 8-17, 2023. ☼ **Duhok**, Iraq, Kurdistan Regional Government, International Film Festival, December 9-16, 2023. ☼ **Kerala**, India, December 8-15, 2023.