

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-36

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Monthly Bulletin of the India Chapter of International Federation of Film Critics

Website: <https://fipresci-india.org/>

28TH INTL. FILM FESTIVAL KERALA CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY



28th edition of the International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) opened on 8th Dec 2023 in Thiruvananthapuram concluded successfully on 15th showcasing more than one hundred films in different sections. The festival aimed at presenting competition sections of

films exclusively from Asia, Africa and Latin America, and a selection of the best of World Cinema. Like previous years, this year also the FIPRESCI Seminar was held (*Pic. above*) in the festival as its official event on 13th Dec at the Open Forum at Tagore Theater in collaboration with the FFSI Keralam, and Kerala State Chalachitra Academy. Topic of the seminar was 'Film Criticism: New Platforms, New Challenges'.

FIPRESCI members Gutman Pierre-Simon, Melis Behlil, N Vidyashankar, GP Ramachandran, Minakshi Dutta, Sreedevi P Aravind, and guest speaker Aswathy Gopalakrishnan took part in the seminar moderated by Premendra Mazumder, and chaired by VK Joseph. 5th Vijaya Mulay Lifetime Achievement Award 2024 was conferred by FFSI Kerala Region to Amitava Ghosh (*Pic. above*) for his admirable contributions to the film society movement in India along with several other cultural and philanthropic activities in the tribal areas. The award, consists of a citation, a memento, and a cheque for Rs.50,000, handed over to him by the legendary filmmaker Adoor Gopalakrishnan on 12th Dec in the Open Forum of IFFK.



Spirit of Cinema Award was given to esteemed Kenyan director, producer, and author Wanuri Kahiu. Recognizing his exceptional contributions to cinema, the renowned Polish director, producer, and screenwriter Krzysztof Pius Zanussi was honored with the festival's Lifetime Achievement Award in the closing ceremony on 15th Dec where all other awards were also given.



The Best Film Award 'Suvarna Chakoram' won by *Evil Does Not Exist* (Japan, 2023, 106 mins) by Ryusuke Hamaguchi. FIPRESCI Jury composed of Gutman Pierre-Simon (France), Melis Behlil (Turkey), and Minakshi Dutta (India) awarded two films – *Prison in the Andes* (Chile, Brazil, 2023, 104 mins) by Felipe Carmona in the International Competition and *B 32 To 44* (Malayalam, 2022, 108 mins) by Shruthi Sharanyam (*Pic. above*) in Malayalam Cinema section. Tribute was paid to Mrinal Sen on his birth centenary by presenting a retrospective of his selected films.

29TH KOLATA INTL. FILM FESTIVAL OPENED WITH SONG AND DANCE



29th edition of the Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) opened on 5th Dec 2023 with its usual Bollywood star-studded extravaganza at the Netaji Indoor Stadium. Though its regular guests like Shah Rukh Khan and the high-profile members of Bachchan family were not present this year, but the festival hosted Salman Khan, Anil Kapoor, Shatrughan Sinha, Sonakshi Sinha, Mahesh Bhatt with Sourav Ganguly, Gautam Ghose, and others on stage at the opening ceremony where the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee danced with them to the festival's theme song (*Pic. above*). The festival ended on 12th Dec showcased more than hundred films in 23 venues all over the city including 05 at Nandan-Rabindra Sadan complex, the main venue of the festival. *Children Of Nobody* (Israel, 2022, 108 mins) by Erez Tadmor won the Best Film Award in the International Competition while the Bodo language film *Wild Swans* (India, 2023, 95 mins) by Rajni Basumatary won the Best Indian Film Award. *Mon Potongo* (India, 2022, 147 mins) by Sarmistha Maiti and Rajdeep Paul won the Best Film Award in the newly introduced Bengali Panorama Section.

9TH JAFFNA INTL. CINEMA FESTIVAL

9th Jaffna International Cinema Festival (Sri Lanka, 9-14 Dec 2023) concluded successfully by conferring Lifetime Achievement Award to the veteran filmmaker Dharmasiri Bandaranayake. Best Debut Film Award given to *The Red Suitcase* by Fidel Devkota (Nepal/Sri Lanka). *Nona Pani* by Syeda Neegar Banu (Bangladesh) won the Special Jury Mention. Best International Short Film Award won by *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes* by Alvin Lee (Singapore).



16TH INTL. GUWAHATI FILM FESTIVAL

16th International Guwahati Film Festival was held from 6th to 10th Dec 2023 at the District Library Auditorium, Guwahati showcasing about 20 films in different sections. The festival also hosted a Competition of Short Films. The festival is organized every year regularly by the Gauhati Cine Club in collaboration with the Federation of Film Societies of India Eastern Region. This year the World Film Festival Kolkata also collaborated with the festival.





34TH SINGAPORE INTL. FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in 34th Singapore International Film Festival (30 Nov to 9 Dec 2023) awarded to the film *The Tenants* by Yoon Eun-Kyung (South Korea, 2023, 90 min). The jury composed of Müge Turan (Turkey), V K Joseph (India), and Joyce Yang (Hong Kong) (*in picture*) in their motivation said: "Showcasing a remarkable fusion of genres, seamlessly blending elements of sci-fi, horror, and black comedy, the film employs precise and organic storytelling to craft a Kafkaesque dystopian narrative, addressing the urgent and contemporary issue of housing as a global concern. The black and white cinematography skillfully enhances the film's delusional atmosphere, while a metaphysical and surrealistic twist adds depth and intrigue."

36TH EUROPEAN FILM AWARDS

36th European Film Awards conferred to the winners on 9th Dec 2023 on a ceremony in Berlin. Justine Triet's courtroom drama *Anatomy of a Fall* (France, 2023, 152 mins), winner of the Palme d'Or at Cannes this year, won the Best Film, Best Director (Justine Triet), Best Screenwriter (Justine Triet, Arthur Harari), and Best Actress (Sandra Hüller) awards. Molly Manning Walker's *How to Have Sex* (UK, Greece, 2023, 98 mins), winner of the Cannes Un Certain Regard, won the European Discovery Award. Mads Mikkelsen won the Best Actor Award for Nikolaj Arcel's historical drama *The Promised Land* (Denmark, Germany, Sweden, 2023, 127 mins).

Anna Hints won the Best Documentary Award for *Smoke Sauna Sisterhood* (Estonia, France, Iceland, 2023, 90 mins). (PIC: Justine Triet, Marie Ange Luciani & David Thion – director and producers of 'Anatomy of a Fall' receiving the Best Film Award. PC: EFA)



motherhood, work and creativity in our competitive world by a Korean descendant of Yasujiro Ozu."

10TH DUHOK INTL. FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in 10th Duhok International Film Festival (Iraq, 9-16 Dec 2023) awarded to *In the Blind Spot* by Ayşe Polat (Germany, Turkey, 2023, 117 min). The jury composed of Aina Randrianatoandro (Madagascar), Sait Tarakcioglu (Turkey), and Katharina Dockhorn (Germany) (*in pic*) in their motivation said that the award is given to the film "For its powerful political story, its masterful direction and decisive acting".

41ST TORINO INTL. FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in 41st Torino International Film Festival (Italy, 24 Nov – 2 Dec 2023) awarded to *Birth* by Ji-young Yoo (South Korea, 2022, 155 min). The jury composed of Harri Römpötti (Finland), Joanna Orzechowska-Bonis (France), and Roberto Baldassarre (Italy) in their motivation said "Birth is a precisely composed feminist dissection of women's role balancing





FROM THE DESK OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Dear colleagues,

It was a busy year. It was a difficult year, in face of the times and its threats – the wars, the climate, the viruses, the inflation. How many challenges! However, we could still see movies, we could again attend festivals, we could write on cinema (what is our profession and our passion). Also, the work in the framework of our Federation could go on, almost as always.

May this continue and progress in 2024, in favor of our profession and in favor of cinema. We need peace. And we need good films.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a beautiful and happy New Year, be healthy and safe!
Yours, Klaus Eder, General Secretary, International Federation of Film Critics – FIPRESCI

44TH INTL. FILM FESTIVAL HAVANA

FIPRESCI Prize in 44th International Festival of the New Latinoamerican Cinema, Havana (Cuba, 8-17 Dec 2023) awarded to *A Ravaging Wind* by Paula Hernández (Argentina, 2023, 94 min). The jury composed of Carlo Gentile (Italy), Sergio Moreira (Uruguay), and Rafael Grillo Hernández (Cuba) in their motivation said that the award is given “for offering a story about the liberation of new generations with respect to the paths predetermined by the family, the social environment and religion, based on a classic narrative form and structure, but essentially adjusted to the human drama and the psychological problems of its characters.”



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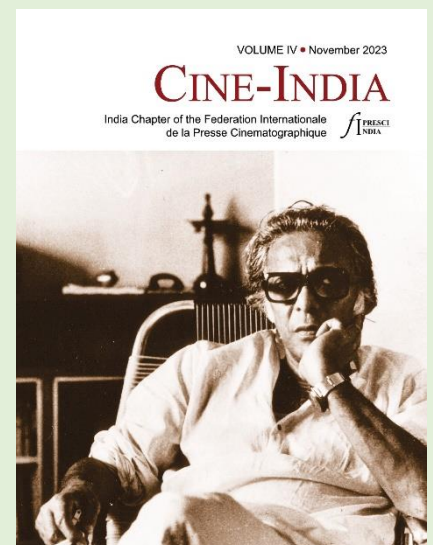
4TH VOLUME OF CINE-INDIA PUBLISHED

4th volume of FIPRESCI-India’s annual film journal (print version) CINE-INDIA (Nov-2023), published in Goa on 20 Nov during 54th IFFI and in Trivandrum on 13 Dec during 28th IFFK, is now available on demand. Interested collectors may contact the FIPRESCI-India for their copies.

6TH EL GOUNA FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in 6th El Gouna Film Festival (Egypt, 14-21 Dec 2023) awarded to *Hollywoodgate* by Ibrahim Nash'at (Germany, USA, 2023, 89 min). The jury composed of Zein Al-abendin Khairy (Egypt), Ola Salwa (Poland), and Stephen Aspelin (South Africa) in their motivation said “This bold, unsettling, and thought-provoking vérité war documentary

humanizes warlords as a fearless artistic endeavor showing how the camera can be used as a weapon on the battlefield of truth.”



UPCOMING FESTIVALS

☼ **Palm Springs, USA**, January 4–15, 2024. ☼ **Tromsø, Norway**, International Film Festival, January 15 – 21, 2024. ☼ **Dhaka, Bangladesh**, International Film Festival, January 20 – 28, 2024. ☼ **Rotterdam, The Netherlands**, January 25 – February 4, 2024. ☼ **Göteborg / Göteborg, Sweden**, January 26 – February 4, 2024. ☼ **Berlin, Germany**, Berlinale, February 15 – 25, 2024. ☼ **Ismailia, Egypt**, International Film Festival for Documentaries and Shorts, February 28 – March 5, 2024. ☼ **Luxembourg**, The Luxembourg City Film Festival, February 29 – March 10, 2024. ☼ **Colombo, Sri Lanka**, March 6 – 10, 2024.

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