

# FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-35

November 2023

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

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



## FIPRESCI-INDIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD IN GOA



The Annual General Meeting of FIPRESCI-India held on 23rd Nov 2023 in Goa during the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). This year the AGM shifted from its usual venue in a hotel on the hillock in Panaji to the beautiful Tennis Club on the magnificent sea beach in Miramar close to the NFDC Film Bazar – the film market of IFFI. The AGM was followed by a complimentary lunch at the club restaurant. The AGM took many important decisions especially on academic activities like organizing the film appreciation course and seminars in collaboration with different film festivals, colleges and universities. The Annual Report on the activities of the organization was passed unanimously. Fourth volume of the annual film journal CINE-INDIA was published in the AGM. Exclusive desktop calendar for 2024 paying tribute to the master filmmaker Mrinal Sen to commemorate his birth centenary was released. On the basis of the recommendations by the Executive Committee the AGM approved inclusion of three new members namely, Madhu Janardanan, Anna Vetticad, and Abhijit Deshpande from Kerala, Delhi and Mumbai respectively keeping regional and gender balance.

### **TRIBUTE TO CHIDANANDA DASGUPTA**

FIPRESCI-India celebrated the birth anniversary of the founder president Chidananda Dasgupta on 20th Nov 2023 by presenting the 4th CDG Memorial Lecture by Prof. N Manu Chakravarthi and declaring result of the 4th CDG Memorial Competition for Best Film Criticism 2023. Topic of the lecture was 'The Spirit of the Times and the Cosmology of Cinema'. The lecture attended live by more than 80 pre-registered participants is now available on the YouTube channel of FIPRESCI-India @ <https://youtu.be/rQnxH0E3jmk>. Entries for the Competition for Best Film Criticism were judged by a jury composed of Meghachandra Kongbam, Pranjal Borah, and Sreedevi P Aravind. Sragdharamalini Das won the Best Award and Aditya Modak the Second-Best Award, both with cash and citations. Five Certificate of Merit were awarded to Johnson Rajkumar, Ashwini Jain, Rhythm Mandal, Ashish Dwivedi, and Kalpajyoti Bhuyan.





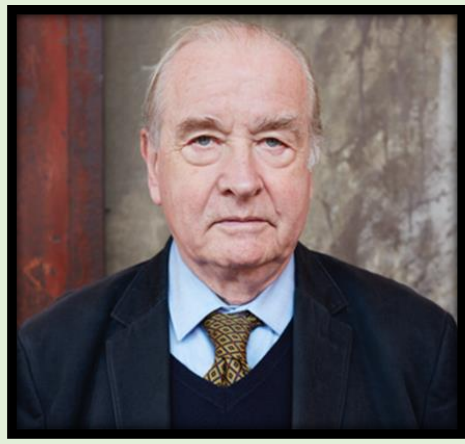
**4th Chidananda Dasgupta  
Memorial Lecture By  
Prof. N. MANU CHAKRAVARTHY**

**Topic:  
THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES AND  
THE COSMOLOGY OF CINEMA**

**20 NOV 2023 MONDAY  
11.30AM  
(ONLINE)\***

**Declaration of Awards  
For 4th Chidananda Dasgupta  
Competition for Best Film Criticism 2023**





## **ABOUT MICHEL CIMENT 1938 – 2023**

***By- Isabelle Danel***

Our French colleague, the famous cinema critic Michel Ciment has left us last on 13th of Nov 2023. He has been the honorary president of FIPRESCI, after having served as its president. He has also been the honorary president of the French Critics Association, SFCC.

Master of conferences at the Paris VII University, Michel Ciment was the longtime chief editor of the French cinema magazine *Positif* where he began to write in 1963. He was also one of the strongest voices debating about films in the French radio show *Le Masque et la plume* (France Inter) since 1970. From 1990 to 2016, he was the animator of the radio show *Projection privée*

(France Culture) where he welcomed directors, actors, historians and journalists as guests to discuss about cinema.

Internationally known and renowned, Michel Ciment wrote prominent books about directors as famous as Elia Kazan, Francesco Rosi, John Boorman, Joseph Losey and Jane Campion. He was in love with cinema, and he was sharp and cultivated about this art, that he had begun to write about as a student. His huge knowledge and restless freedom have always been an inspiration for younger critics. Even when we did not share his opinions, we acknowledged his amazing culture and specific way of looking at films.

Lately, he was sick and walking slowly, arriving to screening rooms with difficulties. But as soon as his eyes crossed one colleague's eyes, he started to talk about the latest film he loved (or sometimes hated) and became suddenly a very young and passionate man again.

[Courtesy: FIPRESCI]

## **SUDHIR NANDGAONKAR MEMORIAL LECTURE IN JIO-MAMI MUMBAI**

Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival (27 Oct to 5 Nov 2023) instituted 'Sudhir Nandgaonkar Memorial Lecture' to pay tribute to the man who first thought of Mumbai's own film festival and made it a reality by working hard with all his passion and efforts to bring Mumbai on the international film festival map. The 1st Sudhir Nandgaonkar Memorial Lecture was delivered by the eminent filmmaker Girish Kasarvalli on 1st Nov

2023 in Mumbai on the topic 'Contribution of Film Society Movement to Indian Cinema'. The initiative was taken by Ashok Rane in memory of Sudhir Nandgaonkar, former president of FIPRESCI-India who passed away on 1st Jan 2023.



## **ROTARY CLUB BANGALORE**

FIPRESCI-India in collaboration with the Rotary Club Bangalore presented an International Film Festival for a Cause at Bangalore International Center on 3rd and 4th Nov 2023. N Vidyashankar coordinated the program on behalf of FIPRESCI-India. Rotary President Nalini Nanjundayya, filmmaker Champa Shetty, and actor Tara Anuradha were present in the inaugural program.

**FAC WITH AWU IN JORHAT**

In continuation of the MOU signed between FIPRESCI-India and Assam Women’s University (AWU) Jorhat on 8th Sept 2022 a one-week Film Appreciation Course was organized by AWU & FIPRESCI-India at AWU Jorhat from 6th to 10th Nov 2023. FIPRESCI member Dr Minakshi Dutta, HOD, Dept. of Cultural Studies, AWU monitored the FAC with the help of another FIPRESCI member Dr Pranjal Borah. More than 30 participants attended the FAC in person.



**FIPRESCI: A SIGNIFICANT BOON TO MANIPURI CINEMA**

Manipuri cinema stands at the forefront among the Tibeto-Burman language-speaking people in India. Filmmakers of this small state having a very rich culture grapple with numerous obstacles in bringing their cinematic visions to life. In an article titled *Manipuri Cinema da FIPRESCI gi Ngaklou* (FIPRESCI’s Support on Manipuri Cinema) published in the *Poknapham*, a leading Manipuri daily on 8th Nov 2023, FIPRESCI member Meghachandra Kongbam delves into the transformative impact of FIPRESCI on the careers of promising filmmakers of Manipur. Notable examples include Haobam Paban Kumar, whose *AFSPA 1958* clinched the FIPRESCI Prize at MIFF 2006, and Mayanglambam Romi Meitei, whose *Eikhoigi Yum* (Our Home) secured the FIPRESCI Prize at IFFK 2022, propelling them into the international spotlight. The recognition continues in the FIPRESCI-India Grand Prix for Indian films with Paban’s *Nine Hills One Valley* and Romi Meitei’s *Eikhoigi Yum* earning spots among the top 10 Indian films evaluated by the FIPRESCI-India in 2021 and 2022 respectively. Rajkumar Johnson from Manipur also emerges as a film critic through the platform of FIPRESCI. The successful collaboration between FIPRESCI and MSFTI (Manipur State Film and Television Institute) in organizing the Film Appreciation Course in Imphal in April 2023 breathes new life into the aspirations of budding film enthusiasts. Kongbam observes that FIPRESCI has become a significant boon to Manipuri Cinema. Responding to the article, Romi Meitei remarks, “One of the best-ever eye-opener columns for upcoming generations. Let Manipuri cinema prosper”.



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**RITWIK GHATAK AWARD**

Madhu Janardanan, a film critic and film society activist from Kerala, a new member of FIPRESCI-India, received the 11th Ritwik Memorial Award on 4th Nov 2023, at the celebration ceremony of 98th Birth Anniversary of the master filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak. Other recipients of this Award this year were Amitava Ghosh, general secretary of Federation of Film Societies of India, Shameem Akhtar and Rakibul Hasan – filmmakers from Bangladesh. The Award is given every year by Ritwik Ghatak Film Society at the ancestral house of Ritwik Ghatak in Rajshahi, Bangladesh on a colorful ceremony. Earlier, FIPRESCI-India Members Premendra Mazumder and VK Joseph also received this Award in 2016 and 2017 respectively for their contributions to cinema.



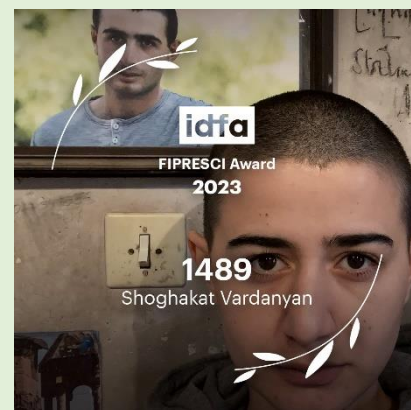


### **COTTBUS**

FIPRESCI Prize in 33rd Festival of East European Cinema, Cottbus Germany, 7-12 Nov 2023 awarded to *Freedom* by Tudor Giurgiu (Romania, Hungary, 2023, 109 min) by the jury composed of Katrin Hillgruber (Germany), Giuseppe Sedia (Italy), and Angelo Mitchievici (Romania). The jury in their motivation said that “the director manages to give shape to the historical chaos by creating a film that goes beyond the aesthetics of the Romanian New Wave.”

### **IDFA-AMSTERDAM**

FIPRESCI Prize in International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) Netherlands, 8-19 Nov 2023 awarded to *1489* by Shoghakat Vardanyan (Armenia, 2023, 76 mins) by the jury composed of Carolin Weidner (Germany), Senem Aytac (Turkey), and Irina Codrea-Trocan (Romania). The jury in their motivation said that the film “reveals the voice of a generation that is at ease with the camera even in its most intimate and vulnerable moments...”



### **STOCKHOLM**

FIPRESCI Prize in 34th Stockholm Film Festival, Sweden, 8-19 Nov 2023 awarded to *Monster* by Hirokazu Kore-eda (Japan, 2023, 126 min) by the jury composed of Sonora Broka (Latvia), Clementine Van Wijngaarden (The Netherlands), and Helena Lindblad (Sweden). The jury in their motivation said, “In this multilayered fable, the director explores the phantom of fear, the ever-changing truth and the alienation of adults and children...”

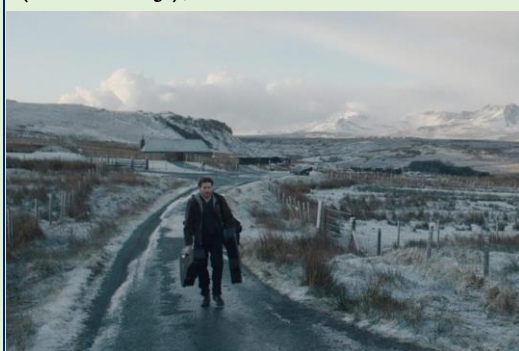
### **THESSALONIKI**

FIPRESCI Prize in 64th Thessaloniki International Film Festival, Greece, 2-12 Nov 2023 awarded to *Murderess* by Eva Nathena (Greece, 2023, 97 min) and *In Camera* by Naqqash Khalid (UK, 2023, 95 min) by the jury composed of Bojidar Manov (Bulgaria), Tim Lindemann (Germany), and Dimitrios Kalantidis (Greece).



### **BLACK NIGHTS**

FIPRESCI Prize in 27th Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Estonia, 3-19 Nov 2023 awarded to *Falling into Place* by Aylin Tezel (Germany, 2023, 113 min) by the jury composed of Yael Shuv (Israel), Tonci Valentic (Croatia), and Tõnu Karjatse (Estonia).



### **LJUBLJANA**

FIPRESCI Prize in 34th Ljubljana International Film Festival, Slovenia, 8-19 Nov 2023 awarded to *Lola* by Andrew Legge (Ireland, United Kingdom, 2022, 79 min) by the jury composed of Živa Emeršič (Slovenia), Michela Manente (Italy), and Mihai Fulger (Romania).

