

# FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-37

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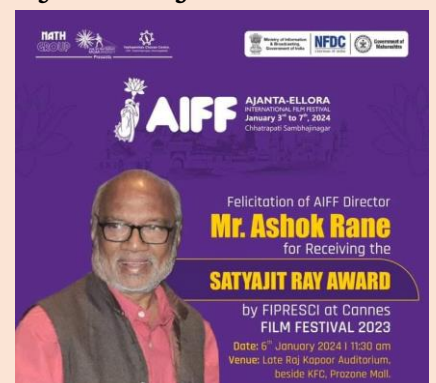
Monthly Bulletin of the India Chapter of International Federation of Film Critics

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

## AJANTA-ELLORA INTL FILM FESTIVAL CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY



9<sup>th</sup> Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival, opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 in Chatrapati Sambhajinagar, previously known as Aurangabad, through a colorful ceremony in presence of Javed Akhtar, R Balki, Anubhav Sinha, and others. The festival conferred the 9<sup>th</sup> AIFF Lifetime Achievement Award with a cash amount of Rs. 2.0 lakh to Javed Akhtar during the opening ceremony. FIPRESCI seminar was held as one of the official events of the festival on 7<sup>th</sup> January at the main venue of the festival. FIPRESCI members Manu N Chakravarthy, Sachin Chatte, Sreedevi P Aravind, and the eminent actor Dhritiman Chaterji took part as panelists in the seminar moderated by Premendra Mazumder, and chaired by the festival director Ashok Rane. Topic was 'Film Criticism: New Media - New Challenges'. The seminar ended with a lively Q/A session. FIPRESCI-India Jury composed of Manu N Chakravarthy, Sachin Chatte, Sreedevi P Aravind awarded the Dutch-Swedish drama *Sweet Dreams* (2023, 102M) written and directed by Ena Sendijarević as the Best Debut Film. Marathi film *Valli* (2023, 143M) directed by Manoj Shinde and Serbian film *Where the Road Leads* (2023, 81M) directed by Nina Ognjanović received the FIPRESCI-India Special Mention. In the Indian competition segment, Marathi film *Sthal* (2023, 104M) directed by Jayant Somalkar won the Best Film Award. Deva Gadekar won the Best Actor Award for *Valli*. Best Actress Award won jointly by Nandini Chikte for *Sthal* and Varsha S Ajit for *Valli*. Assamese film *The Nellie Story* (2023, 95M) directed by Parthajit Baruah won the Best Script Award. Ashok Rane was felicitated in a special function for receiving the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award of FIPRESCI-India.



## **US FILM CRITICS VOTE ON THE BEST FILMS OF 2023**

The National Society of Film Critics (US) has chosen the romantic drama film *Past Lives* (USA, 2023, 106M) by Celine Song, as the Best Film of the year. *Past Lives* is her feature directorial debut, starring Greta Lee, Teo Yoo and John Magaro. *The Zone of Interest* (USA, 2023, 105M) historical drama film written and directed



by Jonathan Glazer has chosen as the 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up. *Oppenheimer* (USA, 2023, 181M), the epic biographical thriller film, written, directed and co-produced by Christopher Nolan chosen as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up. Jonathan Glazer was chosen as the Best Director for *The Zone of Interest*. Sandra Hüller was selected as the Best Actress for the films *Anatomy of a Fall* (France, 2023, 152M) and *The Zone of Interest*. Andrew Scott was chosen as the Best Actor for the film *All of Us Strangers*. *Fallen Leaves* was chosen as the Best Film not in the English Language. *Menus-Plaisirs — Les Troisgros* was chosen as the Best Nonfiction Film. Rodrigo Prieto was chosen as Best Cinematographer for *Killers of the Flower Moon*. The Society, which is made up of 61 of the country's most prominent film critics, held its 58<sup>th</sup> annual awards voting meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The critics voted at in-person assemblies in Los Angeles and New York, and also participated virtually from across the country. Justin Chang was re-elected chair and Joshua Rothkopf was elected vice-chair for 2024. The Society represents film criticism in the United States by supplying the official critic delegate to the National Film Registration Board of the Library of Congress and abroad as the official American representative in FIPRESCI.



## **TROMSØ FILM FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI Prize in the 24<sup>th</sup> Tromsø International Film Festival (Norway, 15 – 21 January 2024) was awarded to *Riceboy Sleeps* (Canada, 2022, 117M) by Anthony Shim. The jury composed of Peter Stuart Robinson (Norway), Simon Popek (Slovenia), and Fernando Salvà Grimalt (Spain) considered a selection of films in the

international competition and in the Critics' Week. The jury in their citation said "With sensitivity and tenderness, our winning film employs a story of mother and child to depict how immigrants find their way in a new country. It displays grace and assurance in the balance it strikes between the bright and the dark, showing us the small victories, as well as the humiliations that the struggle for acceptance and respect can entail."

## **PALM SPRINGS FILM FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI Jury in the 35<sup>th</sup> Palm Springs International Film Festival (USA, 4-15 January 2024) composed of Steffen Moestrup (Denmark), Wilfred Okiche (Nigeria), and Marriska Fernandes (Canada) awarded *Four Daughters* (Tunisia, 2023, 107M) by Kaouther Ben Hania as the Best Film, *The Zone of Interest* (USA, UK, Poland, 2023, 105M) by Jonathan Glazer for the Best Screenplay, Leonie Benesch in the film *The Teacher's Lounge* (Germany, 2023, 98M) by Ilker Çatak as the Best Actress, and Mads Mikkelsen in the film *The Promised*



*Land* (Denmark, 2023, 127M) by Nikolaj Arcel as the Best Actor. In their citation for the Best Film Award to *Four Daughters* the jury in their citation said: “While digging through the details of the tragic disintegration of a Tunisian family, director Kaouther Ben Hania reclaims the cliché of reenactment and reinvents it, emerging with a powerful account of human complexity. This striking blend of fact, meta-fiction and confessional therapy makes a convincing case for the continued vitality of cinema as an art form.”



## **DHAKA FILM FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI Prize in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Dhaka International Film Festival (Bangladesh, 20 – 28 January 2024) was awarded to the feature film *Sabitri* (A Burning Soul) directed by Pantho Prosad and also to the short fiction *Laila* by Baishaki Somadder. The FIPRESCI Jury was composed of Seok Yong Chang (Korea), Jason Tan Liwag (Philippines), and Mofidul Hoque (Bangladesh). The festival concluded awarding Chinese film *The Cord of Life* by Qiao Sixue as the Best Film in the main competition. Indian-Bengali singer-filmmaker Anjan Dutt won the Best Actor Award for his brilliant performance in the film *Chalchitra Ekhon* written and directed by himself. Best Actress Award went to the Chinese actress Badema for the film *The Cord of Life*. Eminent actress Sharmila Tagore (India) chaired the main jury comprising of Anna Shalashina (Russia), Samia Zaman (Bangladesh), Shi Chuan (China), and Tom Waller (Thailand). Syam Benegal’s biopic on Bangabandhu titled *Mujib: The Making of a Nation* received the Audience Award. Special Audience Award was given to the Indian-Bengali film *Bijoyar Pore* by Abhijit SriDas.



**Sudhir Nandgoakar  
Memorial**

**YOUNG CRITICS TALENT CAMP**

**THURSDAY 8 FEB, 2024**

Venue: Vijay Tendulkar Writer's Academy,  
V Shantaram Film City, FTII, Pune

**Registration Fee: NIL**

**Apply now: [indiafipresci@gmail.com](mailto:indiafipresci@gmail.com)**

Eligibility: Students studying in any Graduate or Post Graduate course.

**Extended Deadline: 5th February 2024**

Camp will be followed by Sudhir Nandgaonkar Memorial Contest  
for Best Film Criticism in Marathi Language with Cash Awards

Sponsored by







**CINEMAS ▶ INDIA**

**A Festival of  
Contemporary  
Indian Films**



**9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024**

Venue:  
National Film Archive of India  
Prabhat Road 411004  
Pune 411004

**Friday 9 February**

- 11.00 am** Eeb Allay Ooo (Hindi, 98 min), Dir: Prateek Vats  
**1.30 pm** Barah by Barah (Hindi, 118 mins), Dir: Gaurav Madan  
**4.00 pm** Chicken Curry (Kannada, 84 mins), Dir: Champa Shetty  
**6.00 pm** Biriyaani (Malayalam, 93 mins), Dir: Sajin Baabu

**Saturday 10 February**

- 10.30 am** Aparajito (Bengali, 138 mins), Dir: Anik Dutta  
**2.00 pm** Nasir (Tamil, 78 mins), Dir: Arun Karthik  
**4.00 pm** Nishiddho (Malayalam, 124 mins),  
Dir: Tara Ramanujan  
**6.30 pm** Nine Hills One Valley (Manipuri-Tangkhul, 75 mins),  
Dir, Haobam Paban Kumar

**Sunday 11 February**

- 10.30 am** Naanera. (Rajasthani-Hindi, 149 mins),  
Dir: Deepankar Prakash  
**1.30 pm** I am Not the River Jhelum (Hindi, 95 mins),  
Dir: Prabhash Chandra  
**3.30 pm** This Story Does Not Have a Name  
(Marathi, 141 mins), Dir: Sandeep Sawant  
**6.00 pm** Market (Khasi, 94 mins), Dir: Pradip Kurbah.

**entry open to all**

To pay tribute to our former president Sudhir Nandgaonkar, who left us on 1st January 2023, we are organizing a Young Critics Talent Camp on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Vijay Tendulkar Writer's Academy, V Shantaram Film City, FTII Extended Campus, Pune. Film critic Ashok Rane of FIPRESCI and professor Milind Damle of FTII will conduct the sessions. After the camp, the participants will watch the films in the FIPRESCI-India Festival of Contemporary Indian Cinema from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> February at NFAI Pune, and will write a critique on any one film shown in the festival. Two cash awards first for Rs.6,000, and second for Rs.4,000, sponsored by M/S Custard Apple in the memory of Sudhir Nandgaonkar will be given to the winners.

**UPCOMING FESTIVALS**

✿ **Rotterdam**, The Netherlands, January 25 – February 4, 2024. ✿ **Gothenburg**, Sweden, January 26 – February 4, 2024. ✿ **Luxor**, Egypt, African Film Festival, February 9–15, 2024. ✿ **Berlin**, Germany, Berlinale, February 15–25, 2024. ✿ **Ismailia**, Egypt, International Film Festival for Documentaries and Shorts, February 28 – March 5, 2024. ✿ **Bengaluru**, India, February 29 – March 7, 2024. ✿ **Luxembourg**, The Luxembourg City Film Festival, February 29 – March 10, 2024. ✿ **Colombo**, Sri Lanka, March 6 – 10, 2024. ✿ **Thessaloniki**, Greece, Documentary Film Festival, March 7 – 17, 2024. ✿ **Sofia**, Bulgaria, March 13 – 24, 2024. ✿ **Toulouse**, France, Cinélatino – Rencontres de Toulouse, March 15 – 24, 2024. ✿ **Saguenay**, Canada, Saguenay International Short Film Festival – Regard 24, March 20 – 24, 2024. ✿ **Kraków**, Poland, Mastercard OFF CAMERA International Festival of Independent Cinema, April 26 – May 5, 2024. ✿ **Nyon**, Visions du Réel, Switzerland, April 12–21, 2024. ✿ **Zagreb Dox**, Croatia, April 14–21, 2024. ✿ **Istanbul**, Turkey, April 17–28, 2024. ✿ **Dubuque**, USA, Julien Dubuque IFF, April 24–28, 2024. ✿ **Wiesbaden**, Germany, goEast, April 24–30, 2024. ✿ **Krakow**, Poland, OFF Camera, April 26 – May 5, 2024. ✿ **Schwerin**, Germany, Apr 30 – May 5, 2024. ✿ **Oberhausen**, Germany, Short Films, May 1–6, 2024. ✿ **Ankara**, Turkey, Flying Broom Women's FF, May 9–16, 2024. ✿ **Cannes**, France, May 14–25, 2024. ✿ **Krakow**, Poland, Docs/Shorts, May 26 – June 2, 2024. ✿ **Guadalajara**, Mexico, June 7–15, 2024. ✿ **Cluj-Napoca**, Romania, June 14–23, 2024. ✿ **Brussels**, Belgium, June 25 – July 3, 2024. ✿ **Karlovy Vary**, Czech Republic, June 28 – July 6, 2024. ✿ **Munich**, Germany, June 28 – July 7, 2024.

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