

# FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-39

MARCH 2024

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

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

## BENGALURU INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY



15th Bengaluru International Film Festival, opened on 29 February by Sri Siddaramaiah, the Chief Minister of Karnataka (*in pic*), concluded on 7 March presenting 200+ films from 60+ countries on 13 screens. The festival honored Sri M S Sathyu with the

Lifetime Achievement Award 'For the unwavering commitment in searching for truth, for weaving narratives that resonate deeply with the human spirit and for the outstanding contribution to cinema.' In Asian Cinema section the Best Film Award was given to *Inshallah A Boy* (Jordan, 2023, 113 min) by Amjad Al Rasheed while Jayant Somalkar's Marathi film *Sthal* (2023, 104 min) won the second Best Award. Sujay Dahake's Marathi film *Shyamchi Aai* (2023, 140 min) won the Best Film Award in the Chitra Bharati section. The film also won the FIPRESCI prize awarded by the jury composed of Han Tien (Taiwan), Viera Langerova (Slovak Republic), and N Manu Chakravarthy (India). The Best Kannada Film Award went to *Nirvana* by Amar L. FIPRESCI-India presented the 'Critics Week' showcasing a package of films which recently won FIPRESCI prize in different international film festivals worldwide.

### SEMINAR IN BANGALORE

FIPRESCI-India organized a seminar at 15th Bengaluru International Film Festival as its official event on 4 March at the main venue of the festival on the topic



'Contribution of film critics in understanding films as an academic discipline'. Speakers were Prof. Manu N Chakravarthy, Mr. M K Raghavendra, Mr. Ashok Rane, Dr. Rwita Dutta, and Prof. Rahul Dev Raman. The seminar was moderated by Mr. N Vidyashankar, and chaired by Mr. V K Joseph (*in pic*).

## **VISIT TO RV UNIVERSITY BANGALORE**



A FIPRESCI-India delegation with the President V K Joseph, EC Member Ashok Rane, and General Secretary Premendra Mazumder, visited the School of Film, Media and Creative Arts RV University Bangalore on 1 March to discuss several issues on academic activities as per MOU signed earlier between FIPRESCI-India and RVU on mutual collaborations. (pic above: VC of the RVU with the faculty members, students and FIPRESCI-India delegation)

### **REVIVAL OF FIPRESCI JURY IN MIFF**

FIPRESCI International Jury is going to be revived in the 'Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short Fiction and Animation Films' (MIFF) from its 18th edition coming up in June 2024. The FIPRESCI Jury composed of three members (one from India, and two from other countries) will give the award to the Best Indian Documentary from the National Competition section. Besides regular citation of FIPRESCI, the I&B Ministry will also give a trophy and a cash amount of 100,000 INR to the winner of the FIPRESCI Award as a special case.

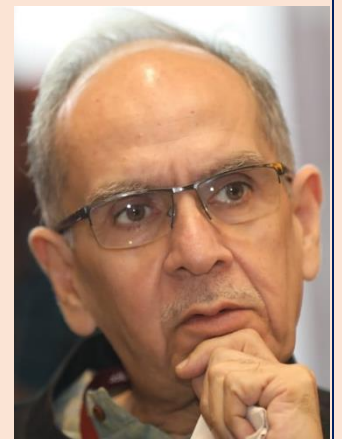


### **PYAR KA RAAG SUNO**

'Pyaar Ka Raag Suno' (PB, 224 pgs. Rs.800) written in Marathi language by FIPRESCI member Meena Karnik along with Hemant Karnik and Dwarkanath Sanjhaigiri as co-authors was released on 9 March by Mahesh Bhatt in Parla's Lokmanya Seva Sangh. Ashok Kothawale's Majestic Publishing House published the book covering the journey of romance in Hindi cinema through Dev Anand to Shahrukh Khan via Shammi Kapoor, Rajesh Khanna and Rishi Kapoor. The book is available online.

### **AMIT TYAGI PASSED AWAY**

Eminent film educator and film maker Amit Tyagi passed away on 17 March in Pune. After graduating from St. Stephen's College Delhi, Tyagi joined the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune and completed his degrees both in Film Editing and Film Direction. He has set up a terrestrial television station in Uganda and won prizes from UNESCO and the French Govt for films while living in Nairobi, Kenya. He has served as Dean (Films) at FTII and was the Associate Director of MIT School of Film and Television, Pune.







### **ISMAILIA**

FIPRESCI prize in 25th Ismailia Festival for Documentaries and Shorts Egypt, Feb 28 - Mar 5 awarded to the film *God Is a Woman* by Andres Peyrot (Switzerland, Panama, France, 2023, 86 min). Jihane Bougrine (Morocco), Soumaya Azzam (Lebanon), and Doha Elwardaney (Egypt)

were in the jury. The film tells the story of the Kuna indigenous people of the Guna Yala islands of Panama who claimed a 1975 documentary that portrayed their community, but was not ever shown to them.

### **LUXEMBOURG**

FIPRESCI prize in 14th Luxembourg City Film Festival Luxembourg, Feb 29 - Mar 10 awarded to the film *Terrestrial Verses* by Alireza Khatami Ali Asgari (Iran, 2023, 77 min). Jury composed of Yun-hua Chen (Germany), Marco Lombardi (Italy), and Jean-Pierre



Thilges (Luxembourg) said 'In a brief, concise yet poignant portrayal and with exceptional courage, this feature film skillfully employs a tone of black irony almost à la Woody Allen, unflinchingly exposing the bureaucratic inferno and faceless authorities that infiltrate every facet of life....'.



### **THESSALONIKI**

FIPRESCI prize in Thessaloniki Docs 2024 Greece, Mar 7-17 awarded to the films *Tack* by Vania Turner (Greece, 2024, 96 min) and *My Stolen Planet* by Farahnaz Sharifi (Germany/Iran, 2024, 82 min). Jury composed of Richard Lawson (USA), Alessandro

Amato (Italy), and Anastasios Dertilis (Greece) awarded *Tack* in the Greek premieres section and *My Stolen Planet* in the International competition section.

### **TOULOUSE**

FIPRESCI prize in the 36th Cinélatino – Rencontres de Toulouse France, Mar 15-24 awarded the film *Memories of a Burning Body* by Antonella Sudasassi Furniss (Costa Rica, Spain, 2024, 90 min). Jury composed of Wolfgang Lasinger



(Germany), Letícia Alassë (Brazil), and Luisa Ceretto (Italy) said 'Aimed at opening a door of conversation between the generations, the film takes us on an exciting and heart-rending journey of lived experiences that need to be made visible in order to transform our social and family environments....'



### **SAGUENAY**

FIPRESCI prize in 28th Saguenay International Short Film Festival Canada, Mar 20-24 awarded to the films *Extras* by Marc-Antoine Lemire (Canada-Quebec, 2024 16 min) and *Mothers and Monsters* by Edith Jorisch (Canada-Quebec, 2024, 15 min). Davide Abbatescianni (Ireland),

Diego Faraone (Uruguay), and Rachel Ho (Canada) were in the jury.

### **ARCUREA AT SRFTI KOLKATA**

FIPRESCI-India collaborated with ARCUREA - the National Colloquium on Archiving and Restoration, Cinema Curation Workshop, Festival of Restored Classics, Live Performances, and other events from 16 to 22 March organized by Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute in association with the NFDC-NFAI and I&B Ministry Govt. of India at SRFTI Kolkata. The program was inaugurated by Sm. Neerja Sekhar, Addl. Secretary, I&B on 16 March where Sri Himansu Sekhar Khatua, Director of SRFTI was present ( *pic above*).



### **NORTH EAST INDIA FILM FESTIVAL**

North East India Film Festival held from 3 to 7 March at MSFDS Auditorium in Imphal. Dominic Sangma's *Rapture* (Garo) won the Best Film Award. Haobam Paban Kumar won the Best Director Award for his Manipuri film *Joseph's Son* ( *in pic*). Former FIPRESCI Parthajit Baruah won the Best Screenplay Award for *The Nellie Story* (Assamese). Several

other awards were given with cash and trophy.

### **NEPAL INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

Rajni Basumatary won the Gautama Buddha Award for Best International Feature Film for *Wild Swans* (India, Bodo, 95 min) in the 7th Nepal International Film Festival ( *in pic*) held at Kathmandu from 14 to 18 March. Mt. Everest Award for the Best International Documentary Film went to *Love Lights* (Portugal, 67 min) by Acácio de Almeida, Marie Carré. Bagmati Award for Best International Short Film went to *I Promise You Paradise* (Egypt, 25 min) by Morad Mostafa. Many other awards were given with cash and trophy.



### **UPCOMING FESTIVALS**

🏆 **Hong Kong**, International Film Festival, March 28 – April 8, 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. 🏆 **ClujNapoca**, Romania, June 14–23, 2024. 🏆 **Mumbai**, 18th International Film Festival for Documentary, Short Fiction and Animation Films – MIFF (Mumbai, India, 15 to 21 June 2024). 🏆 **Brussels**, Belgium, June 25 – July 3, 2024.