

# FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-41

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

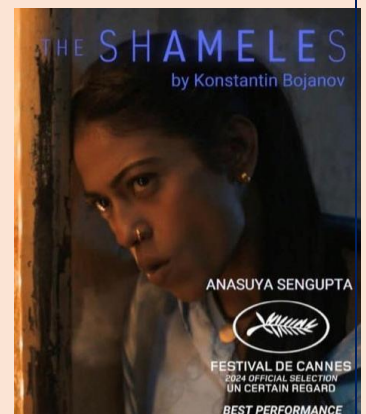


## PAYAL KAPADIA WON GRAND-PRIX IN CANNES

Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia, an alumnus of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Pune, won Grand-Prix, the second highest award, in the Competition section of the recently concluded 77th Festival de Cannes (France, 14 to 25 May 2024) for her Malayalam-Hindi-Marathi film *All We Imagine as Light* (India,

France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Italy, 2024, 115 mins) with the acclaimed Indian actors Kani Kusruti, Divya Prabha, and Chhaya Kadam (*pic above*) in the lead roles. The film also won Jury Special Mention in AFCAE Art House Cinema Award.

Indian actor Anasuya Sengupta won the Performance Prize in Un Certain Regard for the female lead role in the Hindi film *The Shameless* (India, Switzerland, France, Bulgaria, Taiwan, 2024, 115 mins) by Konstantin Bojanov. Another Indian Chidananda S Naik's student film (from FTII Pune) in Kannada language *Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know* (India, 2023, 16 mins) won the Cinéfondation's First Prize. Indian master director Shyam Bengal's Hindi film *Manthan* (India, 1976, 134 mins) shown in Cannes Classic section. Acclaimed Indian cinematographer Santosh Sivan won the Pierre Angénieux Tribute Award in recognition of his 'career and exceptional quality of work'. Palme d'Or, the highest award in the Competition won by *Anora* (USA, 2024, 139 mins) by Sean Baker. Jury Prize, the third highest award in Competition, won by *Emilia Pérez* (France, Mexico, 2024, 130 mins) by Jacques Audiard. Miguel Gomes won the Best Director Award for *Grand Tour* (Portugal, Italy, France, 2024, 129 mins) in the Competition section. FIPRESCI Prizes awarded to *The Seed of the Sacred Fig* (Iran, Germany, France, 2024, 168 mins) by Mohammad Rasoulof in Competition section, *The Story of Souleymane* (France, 2024, 93 mins) by Boris Lojkine in Un Certain Regard and *Desert of Namibia* (Japan, 2024, 137 mins) by Yôko Yamanaka in Parallel section (first feature) of Directors Fortnight and Critics Week. FIPRESCI jury (*pic left*. PC: FIPRESCI) was composed of Marcelo Janot (Brazil), Max Borg (Switzerland), Hossein Eidizadeh (Iran), Patrick Fey (Germany), Barbara Gasser (Austria), Sadia Khalid (Bangladesh), Chih-Yuan Liang (France), Laura Pertuy (France), and Han Tien (Taiwan).



Best Prize in the Un Certain Regard went to *Black Dog* (China, 2024, 110 mins) by Guan Hu. Honorary Palme d'Or conferred to Meryl Streep and George Lucas.

## **SATYAJIT RAY MEMORIAL AWARD TO MAITHILI RAO**

To commemorate Satyajit Ray Birth Centenary (2 May 1921-2021), FIPRESCI-India installed SATYAJIT RAY MEMORIAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO WRITING ON CINEMA in 2021. The award is announced every year on Satyajit Ray's birthday conferring it to an author to acknowledge her/his outstanding contributions to writing on cinema in any Indian language including English, for propagation of film culture which was Ray's primary area of concern. Ray started his journey in the field of cinema as a writer and performed his role as an author very seriously throughout his life by writing on cinema in English and Bengali. and recipients of this award are Aruna Vasudev (2021), I. Shanmughadas(2022), and Ashok Rane (2023). On 2nd May 2024 FIPRESCI-India declared the veteran author and film critic Maithili Rao as the recipient of this coveted award for the year 2024 named after the great master.



Maithili Rao, now living in Mysore, was born in Secunderabad in 1943. Spent decades together in Mumbai working as a lecturer of English literature, as a critic of foreign films for the *Sunday Observer* and as a columnist writing on the images of women in Hindi cinema for *Eves Weekly*. Wrote for Indian and international publications: *The Hindu*, *Frontline*, *Man's World*, NFDC's *Cinema in India* and London-based *South Asian Cinema*, *Film Comment*, *International Film Guide*, and BFI website. After a brief stint as a lecturer, she drifted into subtitling along with writing on cinema. From a hobby to a passion for writing on films was a natural progression. Her recent book, *The Millennial Woman in Bollywood: A New Brand?* for Oxford University Press was released in 2023. *Smita Patil A Brief Incandescence* published by Harper Collins came out in 2015. She co-edited *The Oldest Love Story*, *A Motherhood Anthology* and *Films Through Women's Eyes* in 2022. Rao contributed chapters to many books on cinema like: *Stardom in Contemporary Hindi Cinema* (Springler), *Encyclopedia of Hindi Cinema*, *Bollywood* (Dakini, London), *Icons* (Rupa, edited by Anil Dharker), *Frames of Mind* (edited by Aruna Vasudev), *Rasa* (edited by Chidananda Dasgupta), *The Man Who Spoke in Pictures* (Penguin), *Madhumati* (Rupa) and others. Her works speak of her belief that besides aesthetics, films must have relevance to social and political reality. She served on many national and international juries in film festivals and film awards. The Bimal Roy Memorial Committee honored her with an award 'for her perception and in-depth analysis of Indian cinema in general and the role of women as actors and creators in particular'. She is a former member of FIPRESCI-India.

## **FIPRESCI-INDIA DECLARED TOP-TEN FILMS FOR GRAND-PRIX 2023**

FIPRESCI-India published the following list of TOP-TEN Indian films (in alphabetical order) after the 1st round voting on the basis of the maximum number of nominations received from the 32 voting members: 1. *Aattam* (Malayalam, 138 mins) Dir. Anand Ekarshi; 2. *Agra* (Hindi, 128 mins) Dir. Kanu Behl; 3. *And Towards Happy Alleys* (English, Persian, 75 mins) Dir. Sreemoyee Singh; 4. *Family* (Malayalam, 110 mins) Dir. Don Palathara; 5. *Joram* (Hindi, Jharkhandi, 138 mins) Dir. Devashish Makhija; 6. *Laapataa Ladies* (Hindi, 125 mins) Dir. Kiran Rao; 7. *Mithya* (Kannada, 98 mins) Dir. Sumanth Bhat; 8. *Paradise* (Malayalam, English, Hindi, Tamil, Sinhala, 93 mins) Dir. Prasanna Vithanage; 9. *Rapture* (Garo, 127 mins) Dir. Dominic Sangma; 10. *Sthal* (Marathi, 104 mins) Dir. Jayant Digambar Somalkar. The list has also been published on IMDB @ <https://www.imdb.com/list/ls545903100/> . The winner of the Grand-Prix 2023 will be announced after the 2nd round voting very soon.

### **ANKARA FLYING BROOM**

FIPRESCI prize in Ankara Flying Broom International Women's Film Festival, Turkey 9-16 May 2024 awarded to *Gloria!* by Margherita Vicario (Italy, Switzerland, 2024, 106 mins). The jury composed of Britt Sørensen (Norway), Katharina Dockhorn (Germany), and Necla Algan (Turkey) in their motivation said "Untold stories come to the screen in this playful, well directed and universal film, held up also by strong performances from the leading actresses. Beautifully shot and narrated, the film balances perfectly between anger, melodrama, humor and some well-done contrafact pieces that also incorporate historical facts. And it shows women's solidarity and cooperation. This is a homage to all the female composers who fell into the void of history."



the process of mourning, with tight editing and an extraordinary visual talent".

### **SCHWERIN FILMKUNSTFEST**

FIPRESCI prize in 33rd Schwerin Filmkunstfest, Germany, 30 April 30 - 5 May 2024 awarded to *Scorched Earth* by Thomas Arslan (Germany, 2023, 101 mins). The jury composed of Kira Tazsman (Germany), Geri Krebs (Switzerland), and Wilfried Hippen (Germany) in their motivation said ".....In its images, which are always kept in the half-shadow, the night rules, and when this is not the case, even the daylight seems to hide, like the enigmatic protagonist. A handful of outstanding actors and actresses also contribute to making this thriller a worthwhile experience. It also integrates elements of a heist movie and depicts a society changing from analogue to digital, even in the world of crime."



portrayal of the issues of the Polish countryside, with which viewers worldwide can identify, for skillful genre blending in film, and finally, for the excellent multi-dimensional role of Artur Paczesny, which should serve as a gateway to a great cinematic career."

### **OBERHAUSEN**

FIPRESCI prize on 70th Oberhausen International Short Film Festival, Germany, 1-6 May 2024 awarded to *Spring 23* by Wang Zhiyi (China, 2023, 13 mins). The jury composed of Yun-hua Chen (Germany), Davide Magnisi (Italy), Leo Geisler (Germany) in their motivation said the award is given to the director "For his sensitivity and irony in

### **OFF CAMERA KRAKÓW**

FIPRESCI prize in 17th OFF Camera International Festival of Independent Cinema, Kraków, Poland, 26 April - 5 May 2024 awarded to the film *Next to Nothing* by Grzegorz Dębowski (Poland, 2023, 93 mins). The jury composed of Ladislav Volko (Slovakia), Malik Berkati (Germany), and Lukasz Muszyński (Poland) in their motivation said the award is given to the film

"For its universal message and empathetic

## FIPRESCI-INDIA ONLINE FILM APPRECIATION COURSE

FIPRESCI-India will organize the 4th Online Film Appreciation Course for eight days from 22 to 29 September with 12 sessions of 90-120 mins each (Mon-Fri: 3PM to 5PM, Sat & Sun: 1PM to 5PM). The FAC is designed to meet the necessities of the students, teachers, scholars, film enthusiasts, media practitioners, film society activists, professionals, public and private sector employees in studying cinema as a text. The curriculum includes theoretical study of the art and history of cinema, development of cinema as a medium of art and industry, role of cinema in communication, conceptual areas of cinema like time, space, mise-en-scène, different genres of cinema, different film movement, and other aspects of cinema. Intending participants may enroll @

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1y8EfBsxhjGrF9RHo1UwNib79Dsow8VN1XsxGEgmSJg/>

## FIPRESCI-INDIA ONE MONTH FILM APPRECIATION COURSE IN IMPHAL

FIPRESCI-India will organize the 2nd Film Appreciation Course for one month from 1 to 30 June 2024 in Imphal with Manipur State Film and Television Institute (MSFTI). Out of total 72 sessions, the resource persons from FIPRESCI will conduct 57 sessions on different theoretical aspects of understanding cinema while the local experts from MSFTI will conduct 15 sessions on the practical aspects of filmmaking.

## RITWIK MEMEORIAL LIBRARY

FIPRESCI-India's publications will now be available at 'Ritwik Ghatak Memorial Library and Sales Counter', opened on 2 May 2024 at the office of

the Federation of Film Societies of India (FFSI) at Bharat Bhaban 2nd Floor, 3 Chittaranjan Avenue, Esplanade, Kolkata to celebrate the birth anniversary of Satyajit Ray, the founder president of FFSI.

Books and journals published by FFSI, different film societies and other publishers on cinema will also be available here for purchasing directly and online. The library and sales counter will be opened on every Mon, Tue, Thu & Friday between 4.30 and 6.30PM.

## BENGAL INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

9th Bengal International Short Film Festival organized by Bengal Film and Television Chamber of Commerce (BFTCC) from 20 to 23 May 2024 at Nandan, the film center in Kolkata, concluded successfully. The jury comprised of Sekhar Das, Rita Dutta, and Pradip Kenchanuru awarded *Termite* (Bengali) by Tathagata Bhowmik as the Best Short Fiction and *Ladakh 470* (Hindi) by Shivam Singh Rajpoot as the Best Documentary. *Path* (Hindi) by Pradip Kurbah and *In Between Us* (Hindi) by Rajkumari Prajapati and Ruchika Negi got the 2nd Best Awards in both categories

respectively. The awards with cash and trophy will be conferred in the annual ceremony on 8 June in Kolkata where the BFTCC Lifetime Achievement Awards will also be given.