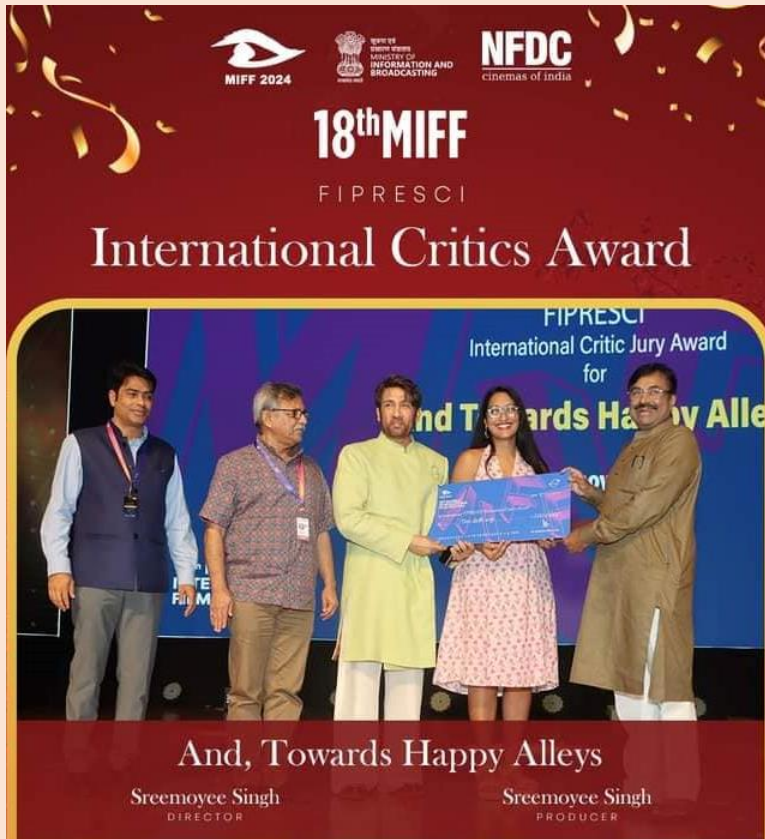


# FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-42

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

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



## **SREEMOYEE SINGH WON FIPRESCI AWARD IN MIFF**

18th Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short Fiction and Animation Films (MIFF), organized by the NFDC, and I&B Ministry, Govt. of India, opened on 15 June 2024, concluded on 21 June with a colorful award ceremony where the very first prize – the FIPRESCI International Critics Award was given to Sreemoyee Singh for her debut documentary *And, Towards Happy Alleys* (India, English, Persian, 2023, 75 min). Recognizing the significance of FIPRESCI, the I&B Ministry not only re-introduced this award in MIFF after ten years, but also paid Rs.100,000/- cash with a trophy and citation to the winner. Sudhir Mungantiwar, Minister of Cultural Affairs, Govt. of Maharashtra handed over the award to Sreemoyee Singh in presence of Prithul Kumar MD-NFDC,

actor Shekhar Suman, and General Secretary of FIPRESCI-India (*pic above*). Sreemoyee also bagged the Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagari Award for Best Debut Director with a cash amount of Rs.100,000 for her film. This is the only documentary nominated in FIPRESCI-India's Top-10 list of the year, now contesting for Grand Prix 2023. The FIPRESCI jury composed of Meghachandra Kongbam (India), Axel Timo Purr (Germany), and Alexandra Porshneva (Kazakhstan) in the citation said: "This is a unique film by a young filmmaker who has crossed not only cultural, linguistic but also political boundaries to show, without anger but with passion, how to survive as an artist in a country ruled by harsh regulations. It shows an Iran usually hidden from Western eyes, the complex daily lives of filmmakers and women, and how they maneuver through the existing depths of darkness. She transforms the film into exactly what the Iranian poet Forough Farrokhzad wrote: 'Bring me a lamp and a window through which I can see the crowd in the happy alley.'" FIPRESCI jury judged the Best Indian Documentary from the National Competition section. Nishta Jain won the 'Golden Conch' award for Best International Documentary for her film *The Golden Thread* (India, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Netherlands, Norway, UK, 2022, 91 min). Both opening and closing ceremonies were held at the 1109-seater Jamshed Bhabha Theatre of the National Centre for Performing Arts at Nariman Point in Mumbai. The festival was inaugurated by Dr. L. Murugan, Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, Govt. of India by conferring V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award with a cash amount of Rs. 10 lakhs to Subbiah Nallamuthu. This year the festival showcased 314 films from 59 countries in 61 languages. In addition to the festival's main venue at the Films Division-NFDC Complex at Peddar Road in Mumbai, for the first time ever, this edition of MIFF spread its wings to Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, and Pune with parallel screenings.

### **FIPRESCI FAC IN IMPHAL**

FIPRESCI-India successfully conducted a One Month Film Appreciation Course (FAC) in Imphal in collaboration with the Manipur State Film and Television Institute (MSFTI) from 3 June to 29 June 2024. Despite heavy rain, declaration of the results of the general election, tense law and order situation, imposition of night curfew et al, the course was conducted without any interruption. FIPRESCI members MK Raghavendra, Meghachandra Kongbam, Dr Rita Dutta, Dr Minakshi Dutta, Dr Pranjal Borah, the MSFTI Officials, and local resource persons conducted the sessions physically. Total 24 participants got the certificates in the valedictory session. Overall feedback received from the participants was highly impressive. In 2023, FIPRESCI-India also conducted this course with MSFTI in Imphal for two weeks.



### **TRANSILVANIA INTL FILM FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI prize in Transilvania International Film Festival (Romania, 14 – 24 June 2024) awarded to the film *Alice On & Off* by Isabela Von Tent (Romania, 2024, 85 min). The jury composed of Nil Kural (Turkey), Wanda Bendjelloul (Sweden), and Natalia Serebriakova (Ukraine) in their motivations said: “The filmmaker has taken it upon herself to portray the

different layers of female trauma. The film follows its subject for many years in a way that we rarely get to see. Her dedication to her subject, a young girl struggling to navigate in life, impressed us.” Shot over ten years, the documentary revolves around 16-year-old Alice, who becomes a mother to a child named Aristo, conceived out of her deep affection for Dorian, despite their 35-year age difference.

### **GUADALAJARA INTL FILM FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI prize in 39th Guadalajara International Film Festival (Mexico, 7 – 15 June 2024) was awarded to the film *Invisibility Treaty* by Luciana Kaplan (Mexico, 2024, 85 min). The jury was composed of Cédric Lépine (France), Enoe Lopes Pontes (Brazil), and Luciana Ximena Rodriguez Diaz (Uruguay). The documentary tells the story of the life and experience of women who clean public spaces in Mexico City.



### **KRAKOW INTL FILM FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI prize in 64th Krakow Film Festival (Docs and Shorts) Poland, May 26 - June 2 2024 awarded to *Intercepted* by Oksana Karpovych (Canada, France, Ukraine, 2024, 95 min). The jury composed of Živa Emeršič (Slovenia), Hannes Wesselkämper (Germany), and Rafal Marszalek (Poland) in their motivation said: “For its skillful and innovative fusion of audio material and visual presentation of the complexity of the war. The



story about people who found themselves in the downward spiral of war horrors and the damage of war propaganda accomplishes to bring a genuine message of humanity across.”

## MOHAMMAD RASOULOF SENTENCED TO PRISON

Iranian director Mohammad Rasoulof, who was expected at Cannes Film festival 2024, has been sentenced to eight years in prison. According to unconfirmed reports, he has been able to leave the country. (Written before Rasoulof managed to attend the Cannes Festival.)

Convicted of “collusion against national security”, signing petitions and making films and documentaries, he received an eight-year sentence (five years immediately applicable and three more suspended), including flogging, a fine and the confiscation of his property. Rasoulof’s lawyer Babak Paknia said that the sentence received by his 52-year-old client had already been confirmed on appeal. The lawyer claims that the authorities summoned crew members of *The Seed of The Sacred Fig* for questioning and pressured them to withdraw the film from international competitions. This decision, which comes a few days before the opening of the 77th Cannes Film Festival, where he is due to present his new film, recalls attacks on the freedom of other filmmakers including Jafar Panahi.

In December 2010, Rasoulof was arrested with Panahi, with whom he co-directed a film on huge protests against rigged presidential elections of 2009, for “acts and propaganda hostile to the Islamic Republic of Iran”. Rasoulof was sentenced to one year and Panahi to six years in prison. Panahi went on a hunger strike and remained empty at his chair he was invited as one of the main jury members.



In 2011, Rasoulof’s exceptional film, *Goodbye*, was screened out of competition at the Cannes Film Festival. Exceptional because of the situation of its director who was subject to legal proceedings in his homeland. The film was made clandestinely. Its director, like Panahi, was subject to a 20-year filming ban. He was unable to come to Cannes to present his film. His links with the Cannes Film festival go back to 2005, when he presented his second film, *Iron Island*, in the parallel section of the festival, the Directors’ Fortnight. This film, which concluded the 2005 edition of the section, contained elements of socio-political denunciation of the corruption and the power abuse which recur in his later films. Another unknown amazing fiction, *The White Meadows* (2009), which followed a documentary named *The Parable* (2008), should also be remembered. It participated at the San Sebastian Festival but was never shown in Iran.

In 2013, *Manuscripts Don’t Burn* was presented at the Cannes Film Festival in the Un Certain Regard section. The film, which won the FIPRESCI prize, caused many problems for its filmmaker after his return to Iran.

Rasoulof received the Golden Bear at the Berlinale in 2020 for *There Is No Evil*, a reflection on free will, the death penalty and the duty of disobedience. Banned from leaving Iranian territory, he could not be present to receive his award.

Last year, Rasoulof was invited as Un Certain Regard’s jury member but missed the occasion because of the travel ban. Rasoulof had won this section’s best film award in 2017 for *A Man of Integrity*, which tells the story of a man with a simple life who tries to fight against the dishonest maneuvers of a private company and widespread corruption.

By last August, Rasoulof and Panahi had been jailed again for having signed a petition in favor of more than 40 victims of a commercial tower collapse.

*The Seed of The Sacred Fig* is scheduled to show at the end of the 77th Cannes Film Festival, but there is no hope of seeing its director at the screening.

**Shahla Nahid**

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## TRIBUTE TO CHELAVOOR VENU

Kerala State Chalachitra Academy, Kerala Region of the Federation of Film Societies of India, and other organizations paid tribute on 10 June 2024 in Thiruvananthapuram to CHELAVOOR VENU, former vice president of Federation of Film Societies of India, and a pioneer leader of the film society movement in India, who passed



away on 3 June 2024. FIPRESCI-India President VK Joseph, eminent filmmaker Adoor Gopalakrishnan, T.V. Chandran, EM Radha, KG Mohankumar, KG Jayan, KB Venu, Pramod Payyannur, NP Sajesh, and others discussed on Venu's life and works, and his contributions to film society movement in Kerala.

## FIPRESCI FAC IN MANGALORE

FIPRESCI-India in collaboration with the Manipal Institute of Communication (MIC), Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), will be organizing a comprehensive Monsoon Film Appreciation Course from 12 to 18 August 2024 in Mangalore. The course is designed to meet the necessities of the students, teachers, scholars, and film enthusiasts from different disciplines of Manipal University and outside institutions as well. Besides day scholars, residential participants are also welcome with accommodation facilities at a subsidized rate. Intending candidates may mail to [indiafipresci@gmail.com](mailto:indiafipresci@gmail.com) for details.

## MONSOON FILM APPRECIATION

12th to 18th August 2024



FIPRESCI  
INDIA

MANIPAL INSTITUTE OF COMMUNICATION  
MAHE

## 4TH FIPRESCI ONLINE FAC

FIPRESCI-India will organize the 4th Online Film Appreciation Course for eight days from 22 to 29 September 2024 with 12 sessions. 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, and understanding filmmaking and other related activities. Detailed schedule with course curriculum and faculty list will be communicated to the participants well in advance. Intending participants may register themselves for the course @ <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1y8EfBsxhjGrF9RHo1UwNib79Dsow8VN1XsxEgmsJg/>

## UPCOMING FESTIVALS

**Brussels**, Belgium, June 25 – July 3, 2024. **Karlovy Vary**, Czech Republic, June 28 – July 6, 2024. **Munich**, Germany, Filmfest München, June 28 – July 7, 2024. **Amman**, Jordan, Amman International Film Festival (Awal Film), July 3–10, 2024. **Yerevan**, Armenia, Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival, July 7–14, 2024. **Colombo**, Sri Lanka, new date July 8–14, 2024. **Odessa**, Ukraine, July 12–20, 2024. **Palic**, Serbia, July 20–26, 2024. **Motovun – Gorski Kotar**, Croatia, July 24–28, 2024. **Locarno**, Switzerland, August 7–17, 2024. **Kastellorizo** (Greece), “Beyond Borders” International Documentary Film Festival, 9th edition, August 25 – September 1, 2024. **Venice**, Italy, August 28 – September 7, 2024. **Drama**, Greece, International Short Film Festival, September 2–8, 2024. **Toronto**, Canada, September 5–15, 2024. **Miskolc**, Hungary, Cinefest – International Film Festival Miskolc, September 6–14, 2024.

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