

# FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-43

JULY 2024

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

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

## **ANAND EKARSHI WON FIPRESCI-INDIA GRAND-PRIX 2023**

FIPRESCI-India declared the film *Aattam* (The Play, Malayalam, 138 mins) directed by Anand Ekarshi as the winner of the Grand-Prix 2023 (Best Film of the Year) along with

the Top-10 films in preferential order as per evaluations made by the members through secret voting: 1. *Aattam* (Malayalam, 138 mins) Dir. Anand Ekarshi (Winner), 2. *Sthal* (Marathi, 104 mins) Dir. Jayant Digambar Somalkar (1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up), 3. *Rapture* (Garo, 127 mins) Dir. Dominic Sangma (2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up), 4. *Joram* (Hindi, Jharkhandi, 138 mins) Dir. Devashish Makhija, 5. *Family* (Malayalam, 110 mins) Dir. Don Palathara, 6. *Mithya* (Kannada, 98 mins) Dir. Sumanth Bhat, 7. *Agra* (Hindi, 128 mins) Dir. Kanu Behl, 8. *Paradise* (Malayalam, English, Hindi, Tamil, Sinhala, 93 mins) Dir. Prasanna Vithanage, 9. *And, Towards Happy Alleys* (English, Persian, 75 mins) Dir. Sreemoyee Singh, and 10. *Laapataa Ladies*

(Hindi, 125 mins) Dir. Kiran Rao. Top-10 films for FIPRESCI-India Grand-Prix are selected through the first round of secret voting by the members on the basis of maximum number of nominations, while the winner of the Grand-Prix and runners-up are decided by the second round of secret voting by them on the basis of preferential voting. The award will be conferred to the winner in an occasion to be announced soon.

The list is available on IMDB @ <https://www.imdb.com/user/ur129345257/>

## **ANAND PATWARDHAN DONATED AWARD MONEY TO CM RELIEF FUND**

Anand Patwardhan's *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (The World is Family, Marathi, English, Hindi, 96 mins), a personal family history interwoven with the history of the nation, won the Best Long Documentary Award at the 16th International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala organised by the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy from 26 to 31 July 2024 in Trivandrum. Anand Patwardhan donated the entire cash amount of the award ₹2 lakh to the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund for the victims of the Wayanad landslides.



Ritam Chakraborty's *Salvation Dream* won the Best Short Documentary Award. Ranajit Ray's *Putulnama* won the 2nd-Best Long Documentary Award. *Waterman* by Vishwas K won the Best Short Fiction Award while Shivam Shankar's *Gore Goat Ghost* won the 2nd-Best Short Fiction Award. The awards were conferred to the winners on 31 July without any official ceremony to comply with the state mourning for the Wayanad landslides victims. Rakesh Sharma, Jury Chairman of Non-Fiction section and Urmi Juvekar, Jury Chairperson of Fiction section (*in pic*) handed over the awards to the winners.



## INDIA WILL HOST WAVES

Union I&B Minister Ashwani Vaishnaw announced that India will host the First World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) – a landmark event for the Media and Entertainment (M&E) industry world over, in Goa, from 20 to 24 November 2024. Addressing the audience at the occasion Shri Vaishnaw said that, “the media and entertainment

world is undergoing a structural change and has seen immense technology infusion.” He added that the Govt. is committed to supporting the entire ecosystem of M&E in coping with this change. WAVES aims to be a premier forum, fostering dialogue, trade collaboration and innovation within the evolving M&E industry landscape. The Summit will convene industry leaders, stakeholders, and innovators to explore opportunities, tackle challenges, attract trade to India, and shape the sector’s future. Meghachandra Kongbam attended the program as the representative of FIPRESCI-India where he met the Union Minister I&B and handed over a copy of the project proposal of FIPRESCI-India pending with the Ministry.

## SIGNS FESTIVAL POSTPONED

Several districts of Kerala have been devastated by heavy rains, floods and deadly landslides since 30 July causing a huge loss of more than 200 human lives. For this Govt. of Kerala declared a state mourning for two days, and the Kerala Region of the Federation of Film Societies of India postponed the 17th SiGNS FESTIVAL which was scheduled to be held at the Malayalam University Tirur from 1 to 5 August 2024. The event for conferring the FIPRESCI-India Grand-Prix-2023 to Anand Ekarsh in the award ceremony of this festival on 5 August has also been postponed. Rescheduled dates of the festival and award function will be announced shortly.



In the wake of rains and natural calamities, the SiGNS Film Festival, which was scheduled to be held from August 1 to 5, at Malayalam University, Tirur, Malappuram, Kerala has been

**postponed.**

The revised date of the festival will be announced later



Federation of Film Societies of India-Kerala

## BRUSSELS FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in Brussels International Film Festival (25 June to 3 July 2024) awarded to the film *The Permanent Picture* by Laura Ferrés (Spain, France, 2023, 94 min). The jury (*in pic. PC: FIPRESCI*) composed of Josef Nagel (Germany), Kathy Vanhout (Belgium), and Shiva Fouladi (France) in their motivation said, “In her impressive and surprising feature film debut, young Catalan Laura Ferrés creates sensitive images. She pays much attention to each frame, beautifully adorned with minimal dialogue and sound. She succeeds in giving a powerful voice to three generations of women trying to understand each other whilst looking for their



own place. The film concentrates on the individual, but also tells a usually untold (his)story of an ever-changing society. With this prize we hope to encourage the director to continue her artistic endeavour.”



## **KARLOVY VARY FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI Prize in 58th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival (Czech Republic, 28 June to 6 July 2024) awarded to the film *Loveable* by Lilja Ingolfsdottir (Norway, 2024, 101 min) in Crystal Globe competition, and to *Night Has Come* by Paolo Tizón (Peru, Spain, Mexico, 2024, 95 min) in Proxima competition. The jury was composed of



Louise Dumas (France), Mariam Schaghaghi (Germany), Thor Aaberg (Norway), Mihai Fulger (Romania), Sonya Vseliubska (Ukraine), and Štěpánka Zapata (Czech Republic). In Crystal Globe competition the jury in their motivation said: “We experience human drama on the smallest scale possible, in the smallest cell of society. It’s a sparkling film – not only a star but a firework. We witness the birth of a grand filmmaker, with a first long feature that has already gone under the skin of everybody here, with its painfully accurate writing, its intensity, rawness, universality, “lovableness”, ugliness, and immense cinematic energy. It was our festival darling, our “elskling”: *Loveable*”. The jury in their motivation in Proxima competition said: “The prize goes to a powerful debut feature that boldly reveals the fragility hidden in all human endeavours. This outstanding documentary is not afraid to let the light and darkness fight not only on the thematic level but also on the formal one. It depicts a battle with an invisible enemy thousands of miles from Karlovy Vary, but it also recalls the wars around us”. (*In Pic: FIPRESCI Jury Sonya Vseliubska, Štěpánka Zapata, Mihai Fulger, Thor Aaberg, Louise Dumas, Mariam Schaghaghi with the prize winners Paolo Tizon, Lilja Ingolfsdottir, and producer Thomas Robsahm Karlovy. PC: FIPRESCI*)



the most. But this civilian, this young boy decided to be in charge of his own destiny. The director empowers him by showing his unrelenting spirit and unwavering dream. We were impressed by her empathy, patient eye and her endurance”.

## **EUROPEAN FILM FEST PALIĆ**

FIPRESCI Prize in 31st European Film Festival Palić (Serbia, 20 – 26 July 2024) awarded to the film *The Girl with the Needle* by Magnus von Horn (Denmark, Sweden, Poland, 2024, 115 min). The jury (*in pic. PC: FIPRESCI*) composed of Bettina Hirsch (Germany), Stojan Sinadinov (North Macedonia), and Pierre-Yves Roger (France) in their motivation said: “*The Girl with the*



*Needle* tells the story of a working-class woman who tries to survive in a pitiless post-World War I Copenhagen. Magnus von Horn depicts in a very aesthetic black-and-white the darkness of a society where women were not allowed to make decisions about their bodies. The film provokes revealing questions about our humanity even nowadays”.

## **AMMAN FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI Prize in 5th Amman International Film Festival (Jordan, 3 – 11 July 2024) was awarded to *My Sweet Land* by Sareen Hairabedian (USA, France, Ireland, Jordan, 2024, 86 min). The jury composed of Ola Salwa (Poland), Ronald Glasbergen (The Netherlands), and Ahmed Alayyad (Saudi Arabia) in their motivation said: “When the war breaks out, it’s the civilians that suffer





with great directing as well as subtly created tragic atmosphere, layered by the character of the intriguing protagonist who faces a tragedy that she should not openly talk about, and a strong message that a sudden blow of fate can change the lives of people forever who believe that they are protected by love and friendship.”

### **GOLDEN APRICOT**

FIPRESCI Prize in the Golden Apricot - Yerevan International Film Festival (Armenia, 7 – 14 July 2024) awarded to the film *There Was, There Was Not* by Emily Mkrtichian (USA, Armenia, 2024, 90 min). The jury was composed of Paulo Portugal (Portugal), Barbara Gasser (Austria), Raffi Movsisyan (Armenia). The film explores the inner lives of four women living in Nagorno-Karabakh, a disputed conflict zone between Armenia and Azerbaijan.



Vidyashankar (₹10,000) 11. G P Ramachandran (₹5,000) 12. N Manu Chakravarthy (₹2,500) 13. Meena Karnik (₹5,000) 14. Meenakshi Shedde (₹10,000) and 15. Minakshi Dutta (₹1,000). If anyone is willing to donate, s/he may transfer the amount directly to: FEDERATION OF FILM SOCIETIES OF INDIA. SB A/C No. 0667010140270. IFSC: PUNB0009100. Punjab National Bank, Chittaranjan Avenue Branch, Kolkata-700072. (Pic: Ashok Rane interviewing I Shanmughadas for the documentary)

**Published by the General Secretary, FIPRESCI-India (Reg No TVM/TC/7/2021) from Chirakkulam Rd. Trivandrum 695001. Mob/WP: +91-98301-40517. E-Mail: [indiafipresci@gmail.com](mailto:indiafipresci@gmail.com)**

### **CINEHILL FILM FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI Prize in the 27th Cinehill Film Festival (Croatia, 24 – 28 July 2024) awarded to the film *When the Light Breaks* by Rúnar Rúnarsson (Iceland, The Netherlands, Croatia, France, 2024, 82 min). The jury composed of Mike Naafs (The Netherlands), Jan Storø (Norway), and Josip Grozdanic (Croatia) in their motivation said: “This very emotional and touching movie won us

### **DOCUMENTARY ON THE FILM SOCIETY MOVEMENT IN INDIA**

FIPRESCI-India acknowledges sincere thanks to the following members for contributing to the Federation of Film Societies of India responding to their appeal for making a documentary on the Film Society Movement in India directed by FIPRESI member Ashok Rane: 1. HN Narahari Rao (₹5,000) 2. Premendra Mazumder (₹5,000) 3. VK Joseph (₹5,000) 4. Meghachandra Kongbam (₹3,000) 5. MK Raghavendra (₹2,500) 6. Abhijit Deshpande (₹10,000) 7. Latika Padgaonkar (₹5,000) 8. Aparajita Pujari (₹2,000) 9. Pranjal Borah (₹5,000) 10. N