

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-50

FEBRUARY 2025

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

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

FIPRESCI-INDIA AWARD IN 2ND EIFF MANIPUR

2nd Eikhoigi Imphal International Film Festival (6-9 Feb 2025) was inaugurated by



lighting the ceremonial lamp by the eminent filmmaker Aribam Syam Sharma, Minister of Information & Public Relations, Govt. of Manipur Dr Sapam Ranjan Singh, Chief Secretary of the Govt. of Manipur P K Singh IAS, and Commissioner of Information M Joy Singh IAS on

6 Feb 2025 at City Convention Centre, Imphal (pic. above). The festival was organised by the Manipur State Film Development Society in collaboration with Manipur State Film & Television Institute with the support of Govt. of Manipur, NFDC, and I&B Ministry Govt. of India. FIPRESCI-India Award for the Best International Documentary was given to the film *Where We Used to Sleep* (Germany, 2024, 83 mins) by Matthäus Wörle. The jury composed of Ashok Rane, Meghachandra Kongbam and Manoj Barpujari (pic. right) in their motivation said, “*Where We Used to Sleep* is a disturbing socio-ecological chronology that revolves around an elderly lady, the last habitant of the land in Romamia devastated completely by copper mines, captured with stunning powerful images in true documentary style.” FIPRESCI-India jury followed the Documentaries in the International Competition Section. Best Fiction Feature Award with a cash of ₹500,000/- went to *MA - Cry of Silence* (Myanmar, 2024, 74 mins) by The Maw Naing for the film’s poignant and powerful portrayal of the exploitation of young female textile workers in Myanmar post 2021 coup d’état which left an indelible impact.



FIPRESCI-INDIA SATYAJIT RAY AWARD 2024

Master director Girish Kasaravalli will hand over the Satyajit Ray Memorial Award of FIPRESCI-India for Outstanding Contribution to Writing on Cinema 2024 to Maithili Rao on 7 Mar 2025 at 4:00 PM at the main venue of the 16th Bengaluru International Film Festival (1-8 March 2025) followed by a seminar on Film Criticism - Challenges, Opportunities, Emerging Platforms, and Points of Review organized by FIPRESCI-India in collaboration with the School of Film, Media and Creative Arts, RV University, Bangalore. Maithili Rao will deliver the keynote address in the seminar while Prof. N. Manu Chakravarthy, Dr Pranjal Bora, Dr Piyush Roy, and Vedant P. will take part as the panellists. N. Vidyashankar will moderate the program, chaired by V.K. Joseph.



1ST ARUNA VASUDEV NETPAC AWARD FOR BEST FILM AND BOOK

1st Aruna Vasudev NETPAC Award for the Best Asia Pacific Film 2024 given to Payal Kapadia's *All You Imagine as Light* (France, India, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy, 2024, 115 mins). The award, named after Aruna Vasudev (1 Nov 1936 – 5 Sept 2024), a founding member and President Emeritus of NETPAC, and former President of FIPRESCI-India. Divya Prabha, one of the lead actors of the film received the award from Jia Jhanzgke on the closing night of the 31st Vesoul International Film Festival of Asian Cinema (11-18 Feb 2025). The Award consisted of an artwork by Keivan Berinvand and a certificate. The 1st Aruna Vasudev NETPAC Award for the Best Book on Asian Cinema went to *The Routledge Companion to Asian Cinemas* edited by Zhen Zhang, Sangjoon Lee, Debashree Mukherjee, and Intan Paramaditha. NETPAC informed this on 18th February 2025. (PC: NETPAC, Photo by Jean-François Maillot at the closing ceremony of the 31st Vesoul IFF).



3RD INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FILM FESTIVAL CONCLUDED

3rd International Sports Film Festival, organised by the Federation of Film Societies of India in collaboration with the Social Sports Foundation, first of its kind, showcasing films on sports and adventure from different countries of the world opened on 10 Feb 2025 concluded at Nandan, the film centre in Kolkata on 15 Feb. A cash award for the Best Non-Fiction Film was given to *Sayad Capello* (Iran, 2022, 28 min) by Rostam Nazari. Jury Mention went to *Rae Rae* (USA, 2024, 48 min) by Nick Mills. Special Mention for a film on LGBTQ Sports went to *Forward Drive* (Sri Lanka, 2021, 21 min) by Anomaa Rajakaruna. Sourabh Kanti Dutta, Satarupa Santra and Farha Khatun, directors of the national award-winning film *I am Bonnie* (India, 2016, 45 min) were felicitated on this occasion (*in pic*).



FIPRESCI CRITICS WEEK IN BANGALORE

CRITICS WEEK will be presented in 16th Bengaluru International Film Festival (1-8 March 2025) with a bouquet of seven FIPRESCI Award winning films: 1. *My Favourite Cake* (Iran, France, Sweden, Germany, 2024, 97 min) by Maryam Moghaddam, Behtash Sanaechea, 2. *Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed* (Argentina, Spain, Portugal, 2024, 89 min) by Hernán Rosselli, 3. *The New Year That Never Came* (Romania, Serbia, 2024, 138 min) by Bogdan Mureşanu, 4. *The Story of Souleymane* (France, 2024, 92 min) by Boris Lojkine, 5. *Việt and Nam* (Philippines, Singapore, France, Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Vietnam, 2024, 129 min) by Trương Minh Quý, 6. *When the Light Breaks* (Iceland, The Netherlands, Croatia, France, 2024, 82 min) by Rúnar Rúnarsson, and 7. *Who Do I Belong To* (France, Canada, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, 2024, 120 min) by Meryam Joobeur.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO KLAUS EDER AT BERLINALE



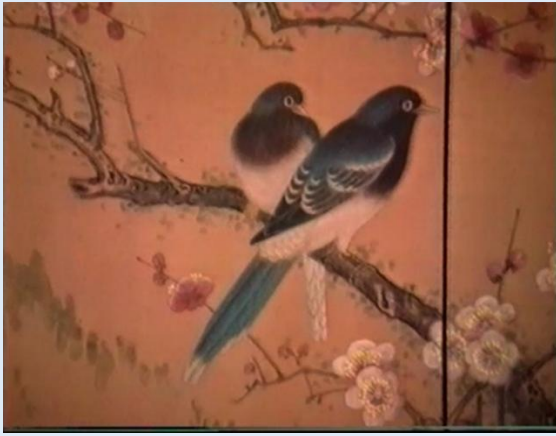
German Film Critics Association conferred the Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award to Klaus Eder, the retiring General Secretary of FIPRESCI, for his unforgettable service to the international film criticism. The award was given to Klaus Eder on 16 Feb Sunday 2025 at the Akademie der Künste during Berlinale (*in pic*). The German Film Critics Association said in a statement that Klaus Eder, born in 1939, began as an editor of the monthly magazine *Film* in the 1960s and from 1968 became a film critic on the radio programme of Bayerischer Rundfunk, the Bavarian public broadcaster in Munich. In the politically turbulent times after 1968, he curated German film festivals, and

from 1986 to 2007 he programmed the Munich International Film Festival, which is known as Filmfest München in Germany. He also championed German film beyond national borders and acted as an advisor to many international festivals. As an author, he has written books on Andrzej Wajda, Luis Bunuel, Im Kwon-taek and Nagisa Ōshima, among others. His life's work, however, was FIPRESCI, which he headed for 38 years, from 1987 to 2024, when he shaped it into what it is today – an umbrella federation of international film critics associations with 50 national sections worldwide and 36 additional countries represented individually. The German Film Critics Association also marked this honorary award for Klaus Eder as a tribute to FIPRESCI, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. FIPRESCI (Fédération Internationale de la Presse Cinématographique) goes back to an initiative of film critics in Paris and Brussels in 1925, who envisioned a federation of international film critics in Europe for professional cooperation and an essential exchange of information. In parallel, they also started out to organise themselves into national associations. At the first Cannes Film Festival in 1946, a FIPRESCI Prize was awarded for the first time for the best film of the festival from a film critics' point of view. Today, FIPRESCI Prizes are awarded at more than 80 international film festivals and film critics from all over the world have the opportunity to participate in FIPRESCI juries at these festivals. Klaus Eder's tireless efforts over a period of almost 40 years as General Secretary of FIPRESCI made this possible.

BERLIN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in 75th Berlinale - Berlin International Film Festival (Germany, 13-23 Feb 2025) awarded to the films *Dreams (Sex Love)* by Dag Johan Haugerud (Norway, 2025, 110 min), *Little Trouble Girls* by Urška Djukić (Slovenia, Italy, Croatia, Serbia, 2025, 89 min), *Under the Flags, the Sun* by Juanjo Pereira (Paraguay, Argentina, USA, France, Germany, 2025, 90 min), and *The Memory of Butterflies* by Tatiana Fuentes Sadowski (Peru, Portugal, 2025, 77 min) in different sections. The jury was composed of Ahmed Shawky (Egypt), Maja Korbecka (Poland), Ivonete Pinto (Brazil), Timmy Chih-Ting Chen (Hong Kong), Sofia Alvarez Salas (Peru), David Katz (UK), Sara D'Ascenzo (Italy), Bianca Jasmina Rauch (Germany), Olivia Popp (USA), Cerise Howard (Australia), Ariel Schweitzer (France), and Bidhan Rebeiro (Bangladesh).





ISMAILIA FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in 26th Ismailia International Film Festival (Egypt, 5-11 Feb 2025) awarded to the film *And There Was Evening, And There Was Morning–The First Day* by Youhanna Nagy (Egypt, 2025, 120 min). FIPRESCI jury composed of Ola Salwa (Poland), Roberto Baldassarre (Italy), and Ahmed Zakaria Badawi (Egypt) in their motivation said, “The director uses his personal memories and photos to craft a meaningful and cerebral reflection on how the images shape our identity and how we understand the world”.

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ROTTERDAM

FIPRESCI Prize in 54th International Film Festival Rotterdam (Netherlands, 30 Jan to 9 Feb 2025) awarded to *Fiume o Morte!* (Croatia, Italy, Slovenia, 2025, 112 min) by Igor Bezinović. The jury composed of Ossama Rezk (Egypt), Piotr Czerkawski (Poland), Hossein Eidizadeh (Iran), Tim Lindemann (Germany), and Garance Hayat (France) in their motivation said: “We were impressed by the film’s playful use of archival footage and reenactment to throw light on a too-little-known episode of European history. Whilst full of dry, self-reflexive humour, the film manages to use its creative exploration of history to provide in-depth commentary on worrying contemporary political developments, specifically the rise of the global far-right. We applaud the film’s effortless combination of experimentation and accessibility – not least due to its excellent editing – which serves to convey a timely warning against the formation of authoritarianism.”



UPCOMING FESTIVALS WITH FIPRESCI INTERNATIONAL JURY

Bengaluru Intl. Film Festival, India, March 1-8. *Jury: Pranjal Borah (India), Nino Kovačić (Croatia), Pierre Simon Gutman (France).* **Luxembourg** City Film Festival, March 6-15. *Jury: Jelle Schot (The Netherlands), Sonya Aleksandrova (Bulgaria), Mike Winter (Luxembourg).* **Thessaloniki** Intl. Documentary Festival, Greece, March 6-16. *Jury: Aspasia Likourgioti (Greece), Marina Kostova (North Macedonia), Dieter Wiczorek (France).* **Sofia** Intl. Film Festival, Bulgaria, March 13-31. *Jury: Katerina Lambrinova (Bulgaria), Hamed Soleimanzadeh (Iran), Tommaso Tocci (Italy).* **Regard–Saguenay** Intl. Short Film Festival, Canada, March 19-23. *Jury: Laura Pertuy (France), Rachel Laine West (Canada), Pélagie Ng'onana, (Cameroon).* **Toulouse–CinéLatino**, France, March 21-30. *Jury: Belit Lago (Spain), Luis Vélez (Peru), Georgios Papadimitriou (Greece).* **Zagreb**, Intl. Documentary Film Festival – ZagrebDox, Croatia, March 30-April 6. *Jury: Dimitra Bouras (Belgium), Armando Russi (Colombia), Sara Simić (Croatia).* **Visions du Réel**, Switzerland, April 4-13. *Jury: Štěpánka Zapata (Czech Republic), Sanjin Pejkovic (Sweden), Anne-Sophie Scholl (Switzerland).* **Hong Kong** Intl. Film Festival, April 10-21. *Jury: Amarsanaa Battulga (Mongolia), Artur Zaborski (Poland), Yam Lau (Hong Kong).*

Edited & Published by the General Secretary, FIPRESCI-India (Reg No TVM/TC/7/2021) from Chirakkulam Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India, PIN-695001. Ph: +91-98301-40517. E-Mail: indiafipresci@gmail.com