

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-51

MARCH 2025

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

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

FIPRESCI-INDIA CONFERRED SATYAJIT RAY AWARD TO MAITHILI RAO



FIPRESCI-India conferred the 4th Satyajit Ray Memorial Award for the Outstanding Contribution to Writing on Cinema 2024 to Maithili Rao. The award, announced earlier on Ray's birth anniversary (2 May), handed over to Maithili Rao by the master director Girish Kasaravalli on 7 March 2025 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. Girish Kasaravalli introduced the seminar by mentioning Satyajit Ray's contributions in propagation of film culture. He also focused on Maithili Rao's contributions to writing on cinema. Maithili Rao delivered the keynote address while Prof. N. Manu Chakravarthy, Dr Pranjali Bora, Dr Piyush Roy, and Vedant P took part as the panellists. N. Vidyashankar moderated the program, chaired by V.K. Joseph.

FIPRESCI AWARD IN BENGALURU INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in 16th Bengaluru International Film Festival (1-8 March 2025) awarded to *Humans in the Loop* (India, Hindi, 2024, 72 min) directed by Aranya Sahay. FIPRESCI International Jury composed of Pranjali Borah (India), Pierre-Simon Gutman (France) and Nino Kovacic (Croatia) in their motivation said: 'The film manages to question both the traditions and the new technologies, putting in perspective, through the use of AI, identity issues in a new technological age that pretends to be neutral. It's a very local story, and a very global one at the same time,



a testament to the fact that a highly personal and grounded vision will always be, in some way, universal.' The film also won the Best Film Award in the Indian Cinema Competition section Chitra Bharati. Best Kannada Film Award won by Prithvi Gopal Konanur for his film *Mikka Bannada Hakki*. Chief Minister of Karnataka Siddaramaiah conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award to Shabana Azmi for her outstanding contributions to cinema. The Award consists of a certificate, and a cash amount of Rs.10 lakhs.

NOMINATIONS FOR FIPRESCI-INDIA GRAND-PRIX-2024

Following films have been nominated for the Grand-Prix 2024 of FIPRESCI-India. Voting will be in two rounds. In the 1st round members will nominate 10 films each. List of Top-TEN of 2024 will be published on the basis of maximum number of nominations received.



In the final round, members will cast preferential votes for maximum three films each, only from the Top-10 list, and accordingly the winner will be declared on the basis of maximum number of preferential votes scored by a particular film. Primary nominations (in alphabetical order): 1. *Aapish* (Bengali) Sudeshna Roy and Abhijit Guha, 2. *Adim* (Bengali) Amitabha Chatterji, 3. *Ahana* (Bengali) Promita Bhowmik, 4. *Ajayante Randam Moshanam* (Malayalam) Jithin Laal, 5. *Alaav* (Hindi) Prabhash Chandra, 6. *All We Imagine As Light* (Malayalam, Hindi) Payal Kapadia, 7. *Angammal* (Tamil) Vipin Radhakrishnan, 8. *Appuram* (Malayalam) Indu

Lakshmi, 9. *Baghjan* (Assamese, Moran) Jaicheng Xai Dohutia, 10. *Beline* (Bengali) Samik Roy Choudhury, 11. *Body* (Hindi, English, Marathi) Abhijit Mazumdar, 12. *Boong* (Manipuri) Lakshmipriya Devi, 13. *Burkha* (Assamese) Hiren Bora, 14. *Chalchitro* (Bengali) Pratim D. Gupta, 15. *Cineman* (Marathi) Umesh Bagade, 16. *Dancing Shadows* (Hindi, Magahi, Bhojpuri) Navin Chandra Ganesh, 17. *Dispatch* (Hindi) Kanu Behl, 18. *Extra Decent* (Malayalam) Aamir Pallikka, 19. *Feminichi Fathima* (Malayalam) Fasil Muhammed, 20. *Girls Will Be Girls* (English, Hindi) Shuchi Talati, 21. *Gulaabi* (Marathi) Abhyangh Kuvalekar, 22. *Hubba* (Bengali) Bratya Basu, 23. *Humans in the Loop* (Hindi) Aranya Sahay, 24. *In Retreat* (Ladakhi, Tibetan) Maisam Ali, 25. *In The Belly of A Tiger* (Hindi) Jatla Siddhartha, 26. *In The Name of Fire* (Magahi) Abhilash Sharma, 27. *Irani Chai* (Persian, Hindi) Manoj Srivastava, 28. *Jagan* (Hindi) Sanjib Dey, 29. *Jhaad* (Marathi) Sachin Bansidhar Doiphode, 30. *Kalponik* (Bengali) Arka Mukhopadhyay, 31. *Kamthaan* (Gujarati) Dhrunad, 32. *Khalid Ka Shivaji* (Marathi, Hindi) Raj Pritam More, 33. *Kishkindha Kaandam* (Malayalam) Dinjith Ayyathan, 34. *Kraken* (Galo) Nending Loder, 35. *Lachhi* (Kannada) Krishne Gowda, 36. *Lahari* (Odia) Amartya Bhattacharyya, 37. *Level Cross* (Malayalam) Arfaz Ayub, 38. *Love Beyond Realms* (Hindi) Srinivas Abrol, 39. *My Three Sisters* (Boro) Kenny Deori Basumatary, 40. *Our Ramleela* (Hindi) Rinku Sharma, 41. *Poem of the Wind* (Tamil) Ramakaushalyan Ramakrishnan, 42. *Poovu* (Malayalam) Anish Babu and Binoy George, 43. *Quiet Flows the Dead* (Malayalam) Sanjeev Sivan, 44. *Rador Pakhi* (Assamese) Bobby Sarma Baruah, 45. *Rhythm of Dammam* (Konkani, Kannada) Jayan, 46. *Second Chance* (Hindi, English) Subhadra Mahajan, 47. *Silence of the Womb* (Bengali) Soumodeep Ghosh Chowdhury, 48. *Sunday Special* (Kannada) Abhilash Shetty, 49. *Taarikh* (Assamese) Himjyoti Talukdar, 50. *Terav* (Marathi) Harish Ethape, 51. *The Broken Mirror* (Bengali) Soumendu Bhattacherya, 52. *The Looking Glass* (Malayalam) Satish Babusenana and Santosh Babusenana, 53. *The Tiger* (Marathi) Nikhil Mahajan, 54. *The Umesh Chronicles* (Hindi, English, Kashmiri) Pooja Kaul, 55. *The Terrace* (Bengali) Indrani Chakrabarti, 56. *This is Not Breaking News* (Bengali) Kumar Chowdhury, 57. *Undercurrent* (Malayalam) Christo Tomy, 58. *Venkya* (Kannada) Sagar Puranik, 59. *Victoria* (Malayalam) Sivaranjini, 60. *Village Rockstars 2* (Assamese) Rima Das, 61. *Vishesham* (Malayalam) Sooraj Tom, and 62. *Wild Flower Garland* (Tulu) Uday Raj. This will be relevant to mention that the following films won the Grand-Prix in previous years: 2023- *Aattam* (Malayalam) Anand Ekarshi, 2022- *All That Breathes* (Hindi) Shaunak Sen, 2021- *Barah by Barah* (Hindi) Gaurav Madan, 2020- *Nasir* (Tamil) Arun Karthick, and 2019- *Hellaro* (Gujrati) Abhishek Shah.

FIPRESCI SEMINAR AT ASSAM WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY



FIPRESCI-India organised a seminar at Assam Women's University (AWU) in collaboration with the Department of Cultural Studies at the Community Hall of AWU, Jorhat on 17 March 2025. Tapan Kr. Gohain, ACS, Registrar and Dr Nayan Kamal Bhattacharya, COE of AWU, and Ashok Rane, Manoj Barpujari, Dr Minakshi Dutta, and Premendra Mazumder of FIPRESCI spoke in the seminar on the topic 'Cinema and Society'. About fifty students participated the program. The seminar was held in accordance with the MOU signed between FIPRESCI-India and AWU Jorhat for dissemination of film culture.

THESSALONIKI DOCU FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in 27th Thessaloniki International Documentary Festival Greece, 6-16 March 2025 awarded to the films *Free Leonard Peltier* by David France & Jesse Short Bull (USA, 2025, 120 min), and *Sculpted Souls* by Stavros Psillakis (Greece, 2025, 89 min). The jury composed of Marina Kostova (North Macedonia), Aspasia Likourgioty (Greece), and Dieter Wieczorek (France) in their motivation for *Free Leonard Peltier* in the International Competition said: 'For highlighting the imperative of sustained resistance against a judicial system that is not only unjust but also corrupt, particularly in its neglect of marginalized lives and minority communities'.



The jury composed of Marina Kostova (North Macedonia), Aspasia Likourgioty (Greece), and Dieter Wieczorek (France) in their motivation for *Free Leonard Peltier* in the International Competition said: 'For highlighting the imperative of sustained resistance against a judicial system that is not only unjust but also corrupt, particularly in its neglect of marginalized lives and minority communities'.

LUXEMBOURG CITY FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in Luxembourg City Film Festival, 6-15 March 2025 awarded to the film *The New Year That Never Came* by Bogdan Mureşanu (Romania, Serbia, 2024, 138 min). The jury was composed of Jelle Schot (The Netherlands), Sonya Aleksandrova (Bulgaria), and Mike Winter (Luxembourg). The film already won the best film award Golden Pyramid in Cairo International Film Festival 2024, Best Director Award in IFFI Goa 2024, Orizzonti Award for Best Film and FIPRESCI Prize in Venice Film Festival 2024, Grand Prix and FIPRESCI Prize in Luxembourg City Film Festival 2025.



The film already won the best film award Golden Pyramid in Cairo International Film Festival 2024, Best Director Award in IFFI Goa 2024, Orizzonti Award for Best Film and FIPRESCI Prize in Venice Film Festival 2024, Grand Prix and FIPRESCI Prize in Luxembourg City Film Festival 2025.

RENCONTRES DE TOULOUSE

FIPRESCI Prize in 37th Rencontres de Toulouse – CinéLatino, France, 21-30 March 2025 awarded to the film *A House with Two Dogs* by Matías Ferreyra (Argentina, 2025, 98 min). The jury was composed of Belit Lago (Spain), Georgios Papadimitriou (Greece), and Luis Vélez (Peru). The film is a distrustful portrait of a family in crisis from a child's point of view.





SOFIA INTL FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in 29th Sofia International Film Festival Bulgaria, 13-31 March 2025 awarded to the film *Windless* by Pavel G. Vesnakov (Bulgaria, Italy, 2024, 93 min). The jury composed of Hamed Soleimanzadeh (Iran), Tommaso Tocci (Italy), and Katerina Lambrinova (Bulgaria) in their motivation said: 'For its captivating cinematography that

masterfully conveys the complexity of human isolation and emotional turbulence into a striking cinematic achievement. Through metaphorically crafted visual language, *Windless* explores themes of absence, longing, and the weight of unspoken emotions. Its stillness – and emphasis on what goes unsaid – transforms it into an evocative reflection of internal and external stasis that is well deserving of the FIPRESCI Prize.'

SAGUENAY INTL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in Saguenay International Short Film Festival Canada, 19-23 March 2025 awarded to *Orbites* by Sarah Seené (Canada, 2025, 23 min). The jury composed of Laura Pertuy (France), Pélagie Ng'onana (Cameroon), and Rachel West (Canada) in their motivation said: 'Struck by its originality, authenticity, and aesthetic, we chose to award the



FIPRESCI prize to Sarah Seené's *Orbites*. The narrative and cinematic approach by the director results in a creative and moving work reflecting on new ways of seeing in the face of adversity — both literally and figuratively. The visual cinematic techniques employed are authentic, refined, and unique, inviting viewers into personal moments of memory and the chance to discover an entire new universe of vision.'

UPCOMING FESTIVALS WITH FIPRESCI INTERNATIONAL JURY

Visions du Réel, Switzerland, April 4-13 (Jury: Štěpánka Zapata, Czech Republic, Sanjin Pejkovic, Sweden, Anne-Sophie Scholl, Switzerland); **Hong Kong International Film Festival**, April 10-21 (Jury: Amarsanaa Battulga, Mongolia, Artur Zaborski, Poland, Yam Lau, Hong Kong); **Istanbul Film Festival**, Turkey, 11-22 April (Jury: Dmytro Desiateryk, Ukraine, Simon Popek, Slovenia, Ayla Kanbur, Turkey); **Julien Dubuque International Film Festival**, USA, April 23-27 (Jury: Alfredo Naime, Mexico, Adreina Di Sanzo, Italy, Carlos Aguilar, USA); **Festival of Central and Eastern European Film - goEast**, Germany, April 23-29 (Jury: Jenny Zylka, Germany, Marko Stojiljković, Slovenia, Hugo Emmerzael, Netherlands); **Mastercard OFF CAMERA International Festival of Independent Cinema**, Poland, April 25 - May 4 (Jury: Salome Kikaleishvili, Georgia, Daniel Oliveira, Brazil, Hanna Margolis, Poland); **International Short Film Festival Oberhausen**, Germany, April 29 - May 4 (Jury: Giuseppe Di Salvatore, Switzerland, Nini Shvelidze, Georgia, Kathrin Haeger, Germany); **Schwerin Filmkunstfest**, Germany, May 6-11 (Jury: Hadwiga Fertsch-Röver, Germany, Roman Scheiber, Austria, Sarah Stutte, Switzerland); **Flying Broom International Women's Film Festival**, Turkey, May 27 - June 4 (Jury: Senem Erdine, Turkey, Adriana Fernández, Mexico, Bettina Hirsch, Germany).

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