

# FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-64

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## **PAYAL KAPADIA CHAIRS THE CRITICS' WEEK JURY IN CANNES**



Payal Kapadia, the joint winner of the FIPRESCI-India Grand-Prix-2024 for her film *All We Imagine as Light*, will preside over the prestigious Critics' Week Jury of the 65th Semaine de la Critique in Cannes this year. The 79th edition of Cannes Film Festival will open on 12 May 2026, and continue till 23 May. Payal Kapadia was also invited to serve the Jury of the Main Competition at the 78th Cannes Film Festival in 2025. She won the Grand Prix at the 77th Cannes Film Festival in 2024 for her multilingual fiction feature debut *All We Imagine as Light* (India, France, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy, 2024, Malayalam, Hindi, Marathi, 115 mins). It was the first Indian film in Cannes' Competition in last 30 years. The British film magazine *Sight & Sound* ranked it the Best Film of 2024 in its poll of over 100 critics worldwide. The film also earned Golden Globes' nominations for the Best Director and Best Foreign Language Film in 2025. She won the L'Oeil d'Or (Golden Eye) Award for Best Documentary at the 74th Cannes Film Festival in 2021 for her film *A Night of Knowing Nothing*. Her short film *Afternoon Clouds* was the only Indian film selected for the 70th Cannes Film Festival in 2017.

## **ARANYA SAHAY IN FIPRESCI-INDIA'S 'FILMMAKERS OF THE FUTURE'**

FIPRESCI-India will present a series of video podcasts titled "Filmmakers of the Future" to introduce the young and talented filmmakers from different parts of India making films in different languages. The podcast will be presented by the India chapter of FIPRESCI in collaboration with the renowned acting teacher, actor, film maker, presenter, and film educationist Oorvazi Irani. The 105 mins premiere episode of the podcast series featuring Aranya Sahay, joint winner of the FIPRESCI-India Grand-Prix 2024 will be launched on 2



May 2026 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the great master Satyajit Ray. Aranya Sahay jointly won the FIPRESCI-India Grand-Prix 2024 for his debut feature fiction *Humans in the Loop* (India, Hindi, Kurukh, 2024, 72 mins). The film earned broad praise from critics, who were captivated by its deep, visual narrative. Reviewers specifically lauded its sophisticated take on AI bias and how technology intersects with gender.

### **HONG KONG FILM FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI Prize in 50th Hong Kong International Film Festival, 1 – 12 April 2026 awarded to the film *Linka Linka* by Kangdrun (Tibet, China, 2025, 100 min). The jury composed of Timmy Chih-Ting Chen (Hong Kong), Panagiotis Kotzathanasis (Greece), and Sara Simić (Croatia) in their motivation said, “For its original depiction of urban Lhasa, capturing the unique spirit of the Linka way of life, a narrative that gradually reveals its full coherence in a smartly conceived ending, ultimately reflecting on the instability of memory and the elusiveness of objective truth. This year’s FIPRESCI prize goes to the film *Linka Linka* (2025).”



unfolds into an extraordinary journey into the past, revisiting a town that once thrived before losing its community spirit”.

### **MALMO ARAB FILM FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI Prize in 16th Malmo Arab Film Festival, Sweden, 10 – 16 April 2026 awarded to the film *My Father's Scent* by Mohamed Siam (Egypt, Norway, France, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Qatar, 2025, 96 mins). The jury composed of Petra Meterc (Slovenia), Schayan Riaz (Germany), and Marwa Abu Eish Elmahassen (Egypt) in their motivation said,

“For a film that portrays a parent and child relationship in all its complexity, with tender and deeply human moments, and remarkable honesty and compassion for all its



fractured characters”.

### **VISIONS DU RÉEL**

FIPRESCI Prize in 57th Visions du Réel, Switzerland, 17 – 26 April 2026 awarded to the film *Saudades Eternas* by Emma Boccanfuso (Switzerland, France, 2026, 94 mins). The jury composed of Sabrina Schwob (Switzerland), Nil Kural (Turkey), and Jerry Chiemeke (UK) in their motivations said, “We as the FIPRESCI jury were impressed by this film for finding



hope in disadvantaged communities without turning a blind eye to institutionalised violence, and stating the political undertones. Also, the film portrays its larger-than-life main character and the community where she lives in a very intimate way by having its director become part of their lives, and reflecting this approach in the brilliant camera work done skilfully in restricted spaces. For these reasons, the FIPRESCI award goes to *Saudades Eternas* directed by Emma Boccanfuso”.

### **GUADALAJARA FILM FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI Prize in 41st Guadalajara International Film Festival, Mexico, 17 – 25 April 2026 awarded to the film *Oca* by Karla Badillo (Mexico, Argentina, 2025, 109 mins). The jury composed of Salome Kikaleishvili (Georgia), Alfredo Naime Padua (Mexico), and Azadeh Jafari (Iran) in their motivation said, “For being an ambitious film, with evident merits, in which certainties and doubts about faith, vocation and the purpose of life come into play. It all begins with a journey and becomes an exhausting and confusing odyssey that questions religion, superstition, and hypocrisy, ultimately leading to the symbolic fall of the patriarchy”.



### **JULIEN DUBUQUE FILM FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI Prize in 15th Julien Dubuque International Film Festival, Iowa, USA, 18 – 25 April 2026 awarded to the film *Made in EU* by Stephan Komandarev (Bulgaria, Germany, Czech Republic, 2025, 109 mins). The jury composed of Elijah Baron (Canada), Beat Glur (Switzerland), and Andrew Kendall (Guyana) in their motivations said, “For its rich, well-structured storytelling, encompassing the legacy of communism in Bulgaria, the tragedy of the



first COVID outbreaks and daily economic struggles within the contemporary European Union, as well as the moving performance of lead actress Gergana Pletnyova, we are presenting the FIPRESCI Award to *Made in EU*”.

### **ZAGREBDOX FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI Prize in 22nd ZagrebDox International Documentary Film Festival, Croatia, 19 – 26 April 2026 awarded to the film *Slet 1988* by Marta Popivoda (Germany, France, Serbia, 2025, 25 mins). The jury composed of Ana Stanić (Germany), Isabel Jacobs (Czech Republic), and Petra Belc (Croatia) in their motivations said, “Marta Popivoda brings multiple layers into dialogue by spanning an arc between the past and the present, mediated by a dancer’s body. In its condensed form between an experimental film and a documentary, *Slet 1988* shows how powerful cinema can be in rearticulating complex, unresolved political issues. It sparked an intense discussion among us, which shows the full explosive potential of the medium when used with a strong artistic vision.”



### **GOEAST FILM FESTIVAL**

FIPRESCI Prize in 26th goEast Film Festival, Germany, 21 – 27 April 2026 awarded to the films *Outliving Shakespeare* by Ruben Ghazaryan Inna Sahakyan (Armenia, Netherlands, 2025, 94 mins) for the Best Documentary, and to *Cat on My Mind* by Laila Pakalnina (Latvia, 2025, 85 mins) for the Best Short Fiction. The jury composed of Silvia Bahl (Germany), Mariola Wiktor (Poland), and



Stojan Sinadinov (North Macedonia) in their motivation for the Best Documentary said, “*Outliving Shakespeare* by Inna Sahakyan and Ruben Ghazaryan is more than an ordinary portrait of elderly residents in a post-soviet era Armenian retirement home. It depicts with subtle humor and sensitivity how art therapy transforms loneliness and losses in their lives. Protagonists in this movie still resist the uncertainty of a world full of brutal political conflicts and tensions”.

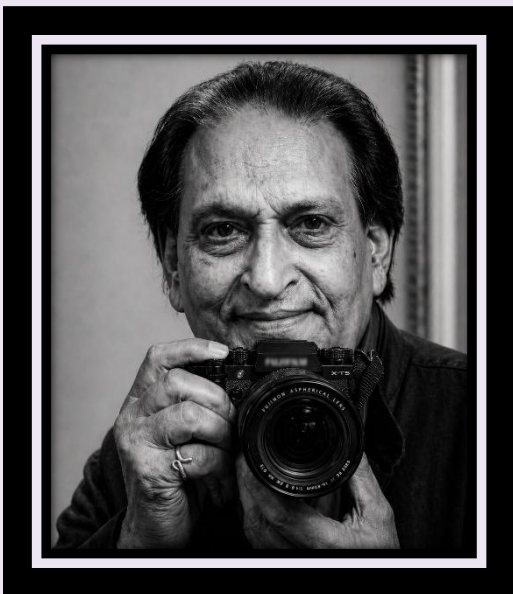
### **ASHA BHOSLE PASSED AWAY**

Legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle passed away on 12 April 2026, at the age of 92 in Mumbai, marking the end of a remarkable eight-decade musical era. She was born on 8 September 1933 at Goar in Sangli, in Maharashtra, into the musical family of Pandit Deenanath Mangeshkar and his wife Shevanti. Renowned for her unparalleled versatility, Asha Bhosle recorded thousands of songs across more than 20 languages, including Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Gujarati, Tamil, and English. Her voice, capable of conveying a dazzling range of emotions, from playful exuberance to profound melancholy, became an integral part of Indian cinema's evolving soundscape. She began her career at a young age, navigating early struggles to establish her identity in an industry where her elder sister, Lata Mangeshkar, had already achieved iconic status. Her collaboration with the legendary composer R. D. Burman stands as one of the most celebrated partnerships in Indian film music. Together, they created a string of unforgettable songs that revolutionized the industry with their boldness and innovation. Over the course of her illustrious career, she received numerous accolades, including the Padma Vibhushan and several National Film Awards, along with international recognition for her contribution to global music. Her voice, timeless and unmistakable, bridged generations and cultures, leaving an indelible imprint on listeners worldwide. With her passing, India mourns the loss of not just a legendary singer, but a cultural icon whose legacy will endure through her vast and unforgettable body of work.



### **RAGHU RAI PASSED AWAY**

Legendary photographer and photojournalist Raghu Rai (B. 18 December 1942) passed away on 26 April 2026, in New Delhi at the age of 83, bringing to a close a luminous chapter in the visual and cultural history of India. Revered as one of the foremost chroniclers of the nation's journey through the latter half of the twentieth century and beyond, Rai's demise marks an irreplaceable loss to the world of photography and journalism. Widely hailed as the "father of Indian photojournalism," Raghu Rai elevated the medium beyond reportage, imbuing it with an artistic and philosophical depth that rendered his images timeless. Over a distinguished career spanning more than six decades, he bore witness to India's evolving political, social, and cultural landscapes, capturing moments of profound historical significance as



well as the quiet poetry of everyday life. Rai's oeuvre is remarkable not merely for its historical scope but for its humanism. His photographs, whether of bustling cityscapes, rural hinterlands, spiritual congregations, or solitary figures, are suffused with empathy, dignity, and an acute sensitivity to the rhythms of life. In each frame, he sought not only to record but to interpret, to reveal the unseen within the visible. The recipient of numerous national and international honours, including the Padma Shri, Raghu Rai's contributions have left an indelible imprint on the practice of photography in India and beyond. With his passing, India mourns the loss of a master image-maker, a visual historian of rare acuity, and a tireless witness to the unfolding narrative of a nation.

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