

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER

July 2021

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

Website: www.fipresci-india.online

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF INDIA WILL OPEN ON 20 NOV 2021

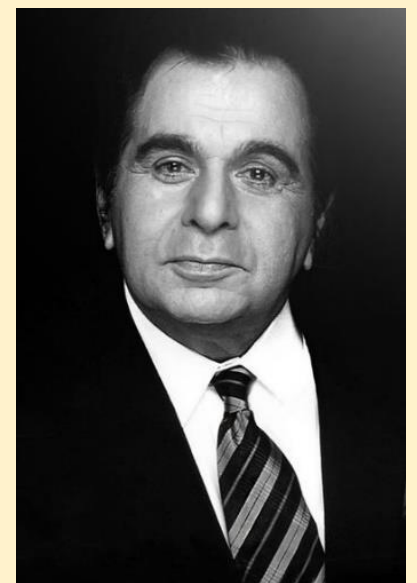


52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held at Goa from 20 to 28 Nov 2021. Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting announced the decision of the Government on 5 July while releasing the regulations and poster of the festival. Entries for participation in the competitive section will be remained open till 31 Aug. IFFI is reckoned as one of Asia's oldest and India's biggest international film festivals. 52nd edition of IFFI will be held in a hybrid format considering the success of the 51st edition in Jan 2021 (deferred for pandemic). IFFI is being organized by the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India in collaboration with the State Government of Goa. IFFI is recognized by the International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF). To celebrate the birth centenary of Satyajit Ray, 52nd IFFI will pay tribute through a Special Retrospective of the

Master. Also, in recognition of the auteur's legacy, the "Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema" has been instituted which will be given every year during IFFI.

LEGENDARY ACTOR DILIP KUMAR PASSED AWAY

Legendary film actor Dilip Kumar passed away on 7 July morning in Mumbai. Born as Mohammed Yusuf Khan on 11 December 1922 at Peshawar, he debuted in the Bombay Talkies' production "Jwar Bhata" (1944) as Dilip Kumar – the name given by Devika Rani. He ruled the Hindi film industry for over six decades with over 60 films, many of which like "Andaz" (1949), "Aan" (1952), "Devdas" (1955), "Naya Daur" (1957), "Madhumati" (1958), "Azaad" (1955), "Mughal-e-Azam" (1960), "Ganga Jamuna" (1961), "Leader" (1964), "Ram Aur Shyam" (1967), "Sagina Mahato" (1970), "Sagina" (1974) will be ever remembered. He took a break in 1976 and after five years returned with a character role in "Kranti" (1981) and continued playing leading roles in films like "Shakti" (1982), "Karma" (1986), "Saudagar" (1991) and others. His last film was "Qila" (1998). The Government of India honoured him with the Padma Bhushan in 1991, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1994 and India's second highest civilian award, the Padma Vibhushan in 2015 for his unforgettable contributions towards Indian cinema. He was nominated as a Member of the Upper House (Rajya Sabha) of the Indian Parliament from 2000 to 2006. The Government of Pakistan conferred its highest civilian honour, the Nishan-e-Imtiaz to Dilip Kumar in 1997. Maestro Satyajit Ray described him as "the ultimate method actor". He was buried at Juhu Muslim Cemetery Mumbai with the State Honour by Government of Maharashtra. Dilip Kumar was survived by his wife Saira Banu, who is also a famous actor.



DON PALATHARA'S "EVERYTHING IS CINEMA" PREMIERED IN ROTTERDAM

Don Palathara's "Everything is Cinema" (English, Malayalam, Urdu, 2021, 71 mins) premiered in the 'Cinema Regained' section of the prestigious International Film Festival Rotterdam in its 50th edition held from 2 to 6 June in the Netherlands. This first-person narrative is a brilliant experimental work alternating between the color for the outdoors in a documentary format and black & white in the indoors in a fiction format narrating the story of a Malayalee filmmaker Chris who comes to Kolkata to shoot a documentary to recreate Louis Malle's "Calcutta" (1969) showcased in Cannes in the same year. Due to sudden hit of the pandemic Chris is forced into quarantine with his wife Anita who is an actress. To overcome the frustrations, Chris decides to make a film about his own marriage and thus addresses the fundamental questions about relationship, reality, politics and cinema. There is only one actor, Sherin Catherine, who appears on screen while the camera itself acts as the protagonist. The film is directed, edited and produced by Don Palathara, and written by Don and Sherin jointly.



REEMA BORAH'S ASSAMESE FEATURE FILM "NOI"

After the highly acclaimed "Bokul" (2015), Reema Borah has completed her second Assamese feature film "Noi" (2021). The narrative of the film is inspired by the director's personal experiences in her homeland which has been afflicted by conflict, militancy and natural hazards for the last few decades. The film represents the journey of an old fisherman, who out of his naïve innocence tries to find the address of a dead man, and does not deter from his goal despite the several obstacles that come on his way. Through the eyes of the fisherman, the director depicts the state of affairs in the land of Assam, where each village has a missing person irrespective of the cause, and how the story of each of them resonates with the same pathos. "Noi" is a brilliant political statement narrated through a beautiful humane story in an engrossing cinematic language.



SUMMER SPECIAL OF BERLINALE

FIPRESCI Awards in the 71st Berlinale were presented to the winners by Ricardo Brunn, the Berlin-based coordinator of this year's Berlinale Jury during the Summer Special of Berlin International Film Festival (9-20 June). Award for the 'Encounters' section was presented to Ramon and Silvan Zürcher, directors of "The Girl and the Spider" (Das Mädchen und die Spinne, Switzerland), for the 'Forum' section to the Argentinean filmmaker Manque la Banca for "Ski" (Esquí), for the 'Panorama' section to the Turkish filmmaker Ferit Karahan for "Brother's Keeper" (Okul Tirasi) and for the 'International Competition' to the Georgian filmmaker Alexandre Koberidze for "What Do We See When We Look at the Sky?".



REGARD INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Award in the 25th Regard - Festival international du court métrage au Saguenay (Canada, 9 -13 June) was given to "Ain't No Time for Women" (Y'a pas d'heure pour les femmes, Canada, 2020, 19 min) by Sarra El Abed. The Jury was composed of Inge Coolsaet (Belgium), Jihane Bougrine (Morocco) and Pat Mullen (Canada). The Jury watched the films in competition online.



KOLKATA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCED

27th edition of the Kolkata International Film Festival will be held from 7 to 14 January 2022 in physical format. Main sections of this festival include International Competition, National Competition, Asian Select, Cinema International (Non-Competition - Contemporary World Cinema), Special Screening, Bengali Panorama, Tribute to the Great Masters, Retrospective and others. Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award for the Best Feature Film in the International Competition Section comprises of the highest cash amount (51,00,000 INR) amongst all Government run festivals in the country. Call for entries is open till the end of September.



FLYING BROOM INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Award in the 24th Flying Broom International Women's Film Festival (Ankara Turkey, 3-10 June) was given to the film "As I Want" (Egypt, Norway, France, Palestine, Germany, 2021, 115 min) by Samaher Alqadi. The Jury composed of Boyd van Hoeij (Luxembourg), Rüdiger Suchsland (Germany) and Esin Küçüktepepinar (Turkey) said in their motivation: "For the original way in which it combines different forms of filmmaking and it investigates the power of the camera to paint a portrait of the women of the Arab Spring in Egypt and their ongoing fight for equality and human rights".



INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL MÜNCHEN

FIPRESCI Award in the 38th International Filmfest München (1-10 July) went to "Monday at Ten" (Montag um Zehn) by Mareille Klein (Germany, Switzerland, 2021). The Jury composed of Marco Lombardi (Italy), Anders Larsson (Sweden) and Anne-Christine Loranger (Canada) watched a series of 14 new German films mostly made by the young filmmakers showcased in the festival held in hybrid format in open air venues and cinemas.



ISTANBUL FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Awards at the 40th Istanbul Film Festival (1 Apr - 29 June) were given for two films in International and National competitions. For the International competition the Award was given to "Death of a Virgin, and the Sin of Not Living" by George Peter Barbari (Lebanon, 2021) and for the National competition to "Fractured" (Çatlak) by Fikret Reyhan (Turkey, 2020). Citation for "Fractured" says "for the impressive naturalistic study on the conflicts of a patriarchal working-class family and the struggle of women in contemporary Turkey". The Jury composed of Massimo Lechi (Italy), Hsin Wang (Taiwan), Viktor Apalaci (Turkey), Nikos Aletras (Greece), Marcelo Ikeda (Brazil) and Hasan Nadir Derin (Turkey).



ISTANBUL DOCUMENTARY DAYS

FIPRESCI Award in 14th Istanbul Documentary Days: DOCUMENTARIST (6-11 July) was given to "Nothing But The Sun" (Apenas el sol) by Arami Ullón (Switzerland, Paraguay, 2020). Nadia Meflah (France), Maricke Nieuwdorp (The Netherlands) and Ahmet Gurata (Turkey) were there in the Jury.



AWARDS IN CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Jury at the 74th Cannes Film Festival (6-17 July) was composed of Ron Fogel (Israel), Rolf-Ruediger Hamacher (Germany), Carlo Gentile (Italy), Hugo Emmerzael (The Netherlands), Pamela Jahn (UK), Valérie Ganne (France), Esteve Soler Miralles (Spain), Hamed Soleimanzadeh (Iran) and Barbara Lorey (France). Isabelle Danel (France) was the Jury Coordinator.

FIPRESCI Award in the Official Selection: Competition was given to "Drive My Car" by Ryūsuke Hamaguchi (Japan, 179 min, 2021) with the citation: "This film is extremely subtle, and yet it is a tremendous work of cinema about the lasting power of art, in which intimate gestures compose an epic story of life and love lost. It's made with care and precision by one of the most promising directors working right now."



FIPRESCI Award in the Official Selection: Un Certain Regard was given to "Playground" by Laura Wandel (Belgium, 73 min, 2021) with the citation: "This film explores the fine line between love and violence in the relationship amongst children, captured by the eye of the camera in a raw, realistic and uncompromising way. Building up and shifting tension subtly and seamlessly from beginning to end, Laura Wandel's exciting debut feature is both deeply compassionate and unsettling in equal measures."

FIPRESCI Award in the Parallel Section: Critic's Week was given to "Feathers" by Omar El Zohairy (France, Egypt, Netherlands, Greece; 112 min, 2021) with the citation: "For its singular mix of comedy and tragedy, grotesque atmosphere and surreal representation of poverty."



Following Awards were given by the Jury other than FIPRESCI:

- Palme d'Or: Julia Ducournau for "Titane" (France).
- Grand Prix: Shared jointly by Ashgar Farhadi for "A Hero" (Iran) and Juho Kuosmanen for "Compartiment No.6" (Finland).
- Best Director: Leos Carax for "Annette" (France).
- Best Actress: Renate Reinsve for "Worst Person in the World" (Norway).
- Best Actor: Caleb Landry Jones for "Nitram" (US).
- Best Screenplay: Hamaguchi Ryusuke and Takamasa Oe for "Drive My Car" (Japan).
- Jury Prize: Shared by Nadav Lapid for "Ahed's Knee" (Israel) and Apichatpong Weerasethakul for "Memoria" (Thailand).
- Camera d'Or: Antoneta Kusijanovic for "Murina" (Croatia).
- Palme d'Or for Best Short Film: "All The Crows In The World" Tang Yi (Hong Kong).
- Un Certain Regard Award: "Unclenching the Fists" by Kira Kovalenko (Russia).
- Un Certain Regard Jury Prize: "Great Freedom" by Sebastian Meise (Austria, Germany).

PAYAL KAPADIA WON THE GOLDEN EYS IN CANNES

"A Night of Knowing Nothing" directed by Payal Kapadia won the prestigious Award L'Œil d'or, le prix du documentaire - The Golden Eye for the Best Documentary at the 74th Cannes Film Festival ended on 17 July. The film was screened in the Directors' Fortnight section. American producer Ezra Edelman, French filmmaker Julie Bertuccelli, French actor Deborah Francois, Franco-American film critic Iris Brey and the artistic director of the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) Orwa Nyrabia were there in the Jury. Payal Kapadia is an alumna of the Film & Television Institute of India Pune.

