

# FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER

August 2021

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

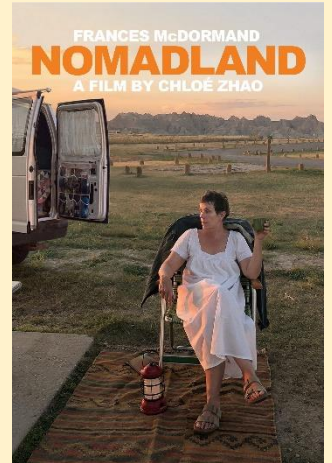
Website: [www.fipresci-india.online](http://www.fipresci-india.online)

## CHLOÉ ZHAO'S 'NOMADLAND' WON FIPRESCI GRAND PRIX 2021

Chloé Zhao's third feature film 'Nomadland', premiered in the 77<sup>th</sup> Venice International Film Festival (2-12 Sept 2020) where it won the 'Golden Lion Award', won the coveted FIPRESCI (International)



Grand Prix 2021. Total 593 film critics from all over the world, members of the International Federation of Film Critics FIPRESCI, participated in the voting process to select the best film released after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020. 'Nomadland' is an American drama film based on the nonfiction book 'Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century' written by Jessica Bruder published in 2017. Chloé Zhao, born in China in 1982, debuted with the independent American film 'Songs My Brothers Taught Me' in 2015. It



was premiered in Sundance Film Festival. Her second feature 'The Rider' (2017) was premiered in Cannes. 'Nomadland' already won many awards and honours including the 78<sup>th</sup> Golden Globe and 93<sup>rd</sup> Academy Awards for the Best Picture, Best Director and several others. Frances McDormand who produced the film with Chloé Zhao and others also won the Academy Award for Best Actress for 'Nomadland'. The FIPRESCI Grand Prix 2021 will be presented to Chloé Zhao during the gala opening ceremony of the 69<sup>th</sup> San Sebastian Festival (17-25 Sept 2021).

## CHIDANANDA DASGUPTA MEMORIAL AWARD FOR BEST FILM CRITICISM

To commemorate the birth centenary of the founder president Chidananda Dasgupta (b: 20 Nov 1921), FIPRESCI-India announced the call for submission for the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the competition for Best Film Criticism 2021. This year the cash value for the best criticism is 6,000 INR while for the 2<sup>nd</sup> best it is 4,000 INR. There is no entry fee. Besides the award-winning entries, 'Certificate of Merit' will be given to five outstanding entries as per jury evaluation. Entries winning the awards and certificates of merit will be published in the quarterly film journal 'E-CineIndia' (ISSN: 2582-2500) published by FIPRESCI-India with due credit. Any citizen of India (except the members of FIPRESCI) can take part in the contest. One contestant can submit only one entry. A critical analysis of any Indian feature film made in any language (preferably highly acclaimed and/or very popular with its full technical details like: title, year, language, director etc.) written in English within 2000 words with a self-declaration confirming the article is written by the contestant her/himself, it is an original one, free from plagiarism and never published anywhere along with the full name, gender, age, address, e-mail ID and mobile no. of the contestant should be sent through a PDF file by e-mail to the Secretary, FIPRESCI-India at <indiafipresci@gmail.com> before 30 Sept 2021.



## CALL FROM AN AFGHAN FILMMAKER

**FIPRESCI (International) shared this CALL on 17 Aug 2021 to draw attention of all the Film Communities in the World**



My name is Sahraa Karimi, a film director and the current general director of Afghan Film, the only state-owned film company established in 1968.

I write to you with a broken heart and a deep hope that you can join me in protecting my beautiful people, especially filmmakers from the Taliban. In the last few weeks, the Taliban have gained control of so many provinces. They have massacred our people, they kidnapped many children, they sold girls as child brides to their men, they murdered a woman for her attire, they gouged the eyes of a woman, they tortured and murdered one of our beloved comedians, they murdered one of our historian poets, they murdered the head of culture and media for the government, they have been assassinating people affiliated with the government, they hung some of our men publicly, they have displaced hundreds of thousands of families. The families are in camps in Kabul after fleeing these provinces, and they are in unsanitary condition. There is looting in the camps and babies dying because they don't have milk. It is a humanitarian crisis, and yet the world is silent. We have grown accustomed to this silence, yet we know it is not fair. We know that this decision to abandon our people is wrong, that this hasty troop withdrawal is a betrayal of our people and all that we did when Afghans won the Cold War for the west. Our people were forgotten then, leading up to the Taliban's dark rule, and now, after twenty years of immense gains for our country and especially our younger generations, all could be lost again in this abandonment.

We need your voice. The media, governments, and the world humanitarian organizations are conveniently silent as if this "Peace deal" with the Taliban was ever legitimate. It was never legitimate. Recognizing them gave them the confidence to come back to power. The Taliban have been brutalizing our people throughout the entire process of the talks. Everything that I have worked so hard to build as a filmmaker in my country is at risk of falling. If the Taliban take over, they will ban all art. I and other filmmakers could be next on their hit list. They will strip women's rights, we will be pushed into the shadows of our homes and our voices, our expression will be stifled into silence. When the Taliban were in power, zero girls were in school. Since then, there are over 9 million Afghan girls in school. This is incredible. Herat, the third-largest city which just fell to the Taliban had nearly 50% women in its university. These are incredible gains that the world hardly knows about. Just in these few weeks, the Taliban have destroyed many schools and two million girls are forced now out of school again.

I do not understand this world. I do not understand this silence. I will stay and fight for my country, but I cannot do it alone. I need allies like you. Please help us get this world to care about what is happening to us.

Please help us by informing your countries' most important media what is going on here in Afghanistan. Be our voices outside Afghanistan. If the Taliban take over Kabul, we may not have access to the internet or any communication tool at all. Please engage your filmmakers, artists to support us to be our voice. This war is not a civil war, this is a proxy war, this is an imposed war and it is the result of the US deal with the Taliban. Please as much as you can share this fact with your media and write about us on your social media. The world should not turn its back on us.

We need your support and your voice on behalf of Afghan women, children, artists, and filmmakers. This support would be the greatest help we need right now. Please help us get this world to not abandon Afghanistan.

Please help us before the Taliban take over Kabul. We have such little time, maybe days.

Thank you so much. I appreciate your pure true heart so dearly.

With regard,

Sahraa Karimi,

Film director and script writer



## **FIPRESCI WARSAW CRITICS PROJECT**

16<sup>th</sup> FIPRESCI Warsaw Critics Project will be held during 37<sup>th</sup> edition of the Warsaw Film Festival (8-17 Oct 2021). This is a programme for the young critics from Central and Eastern Europe intending

FIPRESCI Warsaw  
Critics Project  
Call for entries



to take up film criticism as their professional career. The project is coordinated by the Warsaw Film Foundation and FIPRESCI. Selected participants will be invited to interact with the filmmakers and industry representatives from all over the world. Participants could also take part in the deliberations of the FIPRESCI Jury evaluating the best Eastern European debut film at Warsaw Film Festival. They will also form a Young FIPRESCI Jury to give award to a film.

## **FIPRESCI AWARD IN LOCARNO FILM FESTIVAL**

'After Blue' (France, 2021) by Bertrand Mandico won the FIPRESCI Award at the 74<sup>th</sup> Locarno Film Festival (4-14 Aug 2021). The Jury composed of Leo Soesanto (France), Selina Hangartner (Switzerland) and José Luis Losa Garcia (Spain) followed the films in the international competition. According to the Jury, the film won the award "for its wild imagination, artistic mastery and absolute belief in all the possibilities of cinema. Bertrand Mandico created a colorful phantasmagoria, a bold cosmogony, an organic handmade western and a whole new frontier for our dreams from scratch. It's a love letter to a large scope of past cinema (from John Ford to Sixties sci-fi) and a glimpse to the future, a utopia which is not confined to the limits of narrative cinema, genres and genders".



## **FIPRESCI AWARD IN TRANSILVANIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

'Unidentified' (Romania, Latvia, Czech Republic, 2020, 123 min) by Bogdan George Apetri won the FIPRESCI Award in the 20<sup>th</sup> Transilvania International Film Festival, Cluj-Napoca, Romania (23 Jul to 1 Aug 2021). The Jury composed of Jean-Max Méjean (France), Marina Kostova (Macedonia) and Jenni Zylka (Germany) awarded the film "Because this film is using and abusing a genre for telling a bitter, realistic and relevant story about love, hate, structural racism and toxic masculinity, and because this story is written, crafted and played so well." The Jury focused on the national Romanian competition of feature-length fiction films and documentaries.

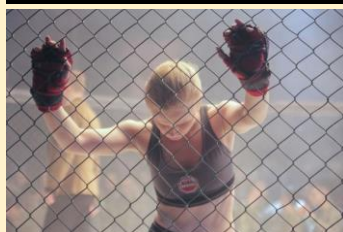


## **FIPRESCI AWARD IN EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL PALIĆ**

'The Worst Person in the World' (Norway, France, Sweden, Denmark, USA, 2021) by Joachim Trier won the FIPRESCI Award at the 28<sup>th</sup> European Film Festival in Palić, Serbia (17-23 July 2021). The Jury composed of Barbara Gasser (Austria), Andoni Iturbe Tolosa (Spain) and Dinu-Ioan Nicula (Romania) awarded it "for a bitter and refreshing study of characters, which puts under focus the condition of the contemporary woman as an insecure, but empowered subject, into the frame of a visionary post-romantic film".



## **FIPRESCI AWARD IN ODESA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**



'Blindfold' (Ukraine, 2020, 100 min) by Taras Dron won the FIPRESCI Award in the 12<sup>th</sup> Odesa International Film Festival, Ukraine (14-21 Aug 2021). The Jury composed of Bojidar Manov (Bulgaria), Diana Martirosyan (Armenia) and Natalia Moussienko (Ukraine). The film also won an award in the 26<sup>th</sup> Kolkata International Film Festival (8-15 Jan 2021).

## 26<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF KERALA ANNOUNCED



Kerala State Chalachitra Academy, an autonomous body under the Dept. of Cultural Affairs, Govt. of Kerala, has announced that the 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) will be held in the capital city Trivandrum from 10 to 17 Dec 2021. Feature length fiction films made between 1 Sept 2020 and 31 Aug 2021 are eligible to participate. Intending filmmakers may apply before 10 Sept 2021. IFFK is the most important film festival in India with different competitive and non-competitive sections duly affiliated by the FIAPF and having FIPRESCI (International) Jury. IFFK is acclaimed worldwide for its high quality of selections, well organized events and huge participation of film enthusiasts from all over the country. The festival also hosts many foreign guests on different assignments. Besides screening of films, the festival organizes discussions, lectures, master classes, open forum and FIPRESCI-India seminar.

## 20<sup>th</sup> PUNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL CALLS FOR ENTRIES

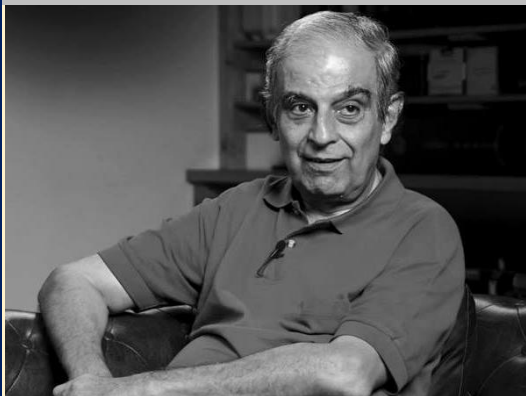
20<sup>th</sup> Pune International Film Festival will be held from 13 to 20 Jan 2022. The festival organized by the Pune Film Foundation in collaboration with the Govt. of Maharashtra. This is a competitive festival with several categories like World Competition, Marathi Competition, Global Cinema, Country Focus and Retrospective.



Feature length fiction films produced between 1 Jan 2021 and 15 Nov 2021 are eligible to apply.

## VETERAN FILM CRITIC RASHID IRANI PASSED AWAY

Eminent film critic Rashid Irani was found dead on 2 Aug Monday at his South Mumbai residence.



He was 74. He was living alone with multiple health issues. In a recent interview he had expressed the difficulties he was facing because of the social isolation due to the pandemic. He was one of the country's foremost film critics who had contributed many articles in different national dailies and periodicals regularly. He was the pioneer of the Mumbai Press Club Film Society. He used to visit Mumbai Press Club almost every day. When he didn't turn up there for the third day in a row, his friends became anxious and informed the police. They accompanied the police to his residence in South Mumbai

where he was found dead. Probably he breathed his last on 30 July.