

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER

February 2021

India Chapter of the International Federation of Film Critics
Fédération Internationale de la Presse Cinématographique

FIPRESCI SEMINAR IN IFFK



After a long break of one year due to pandemic, Fipresci-India organized its seminar physically on 13 Feb 2021 at the 25th International Film Festival of Kerala. The seminar was held at Tagore Theatre Trivandrum on 'Politics of the Government: Intervention in OTT Platforms'. Namrata Joshi, Rwita Dutta, Lalit Rao and Suparna Sharma were in the panel of speakers. Festival Director Bina Paul Venugopal moderated the same. The Seminar was organised in collaboration with FFSI-Keralam and Kerala State Chalachitra Academy.

FIPRESCI AWARD IN 50th IFFR



FIPRESCI Award in 50th International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) went to "The Edge of Daybreak" by Taiki Sakpisit (Thailand, 2021). The Jury composed of Veronika Zakonjšek (Slovenia), Jihane Bougrine (Morocco), Salvatore Marfella (Italy), Paula Arantzazu Ruiz (Spain) and Ronald Rovers (Netherlands) focused on the Tiger Competition.

TIGER AWARD TO TAMIL FILM



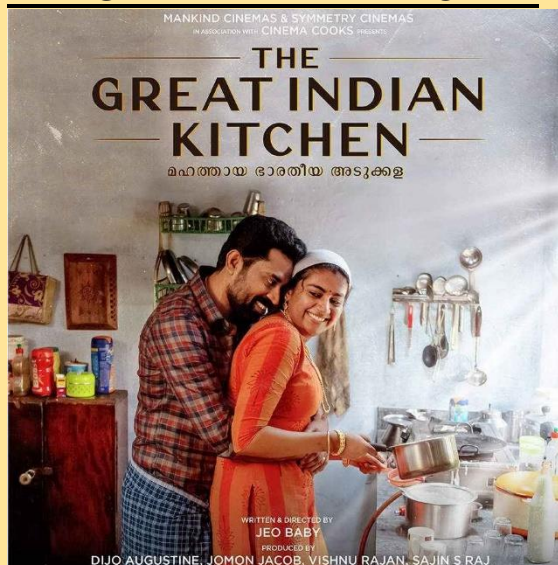
Tamil film "Pebbles" (Koozhangal) won the coveted Hivos Tiger Award 2021 at the 50th International Film Festival Rotterdam. The directorial debut of Vinothraj PS is the second Indian film which won this highest honour of this prestigious film festival. Sanal Kumar Sasidharan's Malayalam film "S Durga" won this Award in 2017.

JOYFUL MYSTERY



"Joyful Mystery" (Santhoshathinte Onnam Rahasyam, Malayalam, Feature, 85M) directed by Don Palathara premiered on 14 Feb 2021 in 25th International Film Festival Kerala. Incredible performance of Rima Kallingal and Jitin Puthanchery, astounding narrative, and directorial mastery of this well-made single-shot film mesmerized the critics as well as the audience. Must watch!

THE GREAT INDIAN KITCHEN



“The Great Indian Kitchen” (Malayalam, Feature, 100M) directed by Jeo Baby released in OTT platform ‘NeeStream’ on 15 Jan 2021. Except one outdoor scene the entire film was shot in a house at Kozhikkode. Performance of the lead actors Nimisha Sajayan and Suraj Venjaramoodu highly commendable. A strong statement through a well-presented narrative widely appreciated by the critics and accepted by the audience. Must watch.

DRISHYAM 2



“Drishyam 2” (Malayalam, Feature, 153M) written and directed by Jeethu Joseph released on 19 Feb 2021 in OTT platform ‘Amazon Prime Video’. Brilliantly narrated family drama full of suspense, tension, thrill, and excitement starring Mohanlal, Meena, Ansiba Hassan, and Esther Anil is a super successful sequel to 2013 Malayalam film “Drishyam” with the same team. Must watch!

THE WHITE TIGER



Newcomer Adarsh Gaurav’s extraordinary performance in “The White Tiger” (Hindi & English, Feature, 125M) directed by Ramin Bahrani got high appreciation. The Indo-US film starring Priyanka Chopra and Rajkummar Rao is an adaptation of Aravind Adiga’s 2008 novel. Released in OTT platform ‘Netflix’ on 22 Jan 2021 received wide positive reviews in press & media and liked by the audience in general. Good watch.

KAAGAZ



“Kaagaz” (Paper, Hindi, 109M) written and directed by Satish Kaushik premiered on 7 Jan 2021 in OTT platform ‘ZEE5’. Based on the true story of the life of a farmer Lal Bihari from the Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh who was officially declared dead and fought a long legal battle for 19 years to prove himself alive. Meanwhile, he adapted the surname ‘Mritak’ (deceased) and founded ‘Mritak Sangh’ (Association of the Dead People) proving the fallacy of Indian bureaucracy and legal system. Pankaj Tripathi’s excellent portrayal of the lead character is trustworthy while his co-actors Satish Kaushik, Monal Gajjar, Mita Vashisht and Amar Upadhyay’s performance also impressive. Good watch.

IFFI GOA HELD HYBRID



51st International Film Festival of India scheduled in Nov 2020 was held from 16 to 24 Jan 2021 in Goa. More than 200 films were showcased physically, out of which about 50 were shown virtually also. Bangladesh was the country of focus. Tribute was paid to Satyajit Ray to commemorate his birth centenary by showing some of his classics. Danish World War II epic “Into the Darkness” (De forbandede år, 2020) directed by Anders Refn won the top Award ‘Golden Peacock’. Pablo César (Argentina) was the Chairman of the International Jury. John Matthew Matthan and Haobam Paban Kumar headed the National Feature and Non-Feature Jury boards, respectively.

KOLKATA IFF CONCLUDED



26th Kolkata International Film Festival scheduled in Nov 2020 was held from 8 to 15 Jan 2021. The festival, held physically in eight venues, showcased 82 feature films and 50 short & documentaries and paid tribute to Soumitra Chatterjee, Kim Ki-Duk and Fernando Solanas. The ‘Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award’ for the Best Film was given to the Iranian film “Bandar Band” (2020) by Manijeh Hekmat.

25th IFFK GOING ON



25th International Film Festival of Kerala scheduled in Dec 2020 opened on 10 Feb 2021 physically in Trivandrum and still continuing successfully. Organized by the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy, the festival first time in its history being held in four different regions of the state like, Thiruvananthapuram (10 to 14 Feb), Ernakulam (17 to 21 Feb), Thalassery (23 to 27 Feb) and Palakkad (1 to 5 Mar). 80 feature films from more than 30 countries are being screened in the festival. The festival conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award to Jean-Luc Godard. FIPRESCI (International) Jury will decide two Awards: Best Film in Competition Section and Best Malayalam Film of a Debut Director. Awards will be declared after all the four rounds of the festival are over.

BANGALORE IFF PREPONED



13th Bengaluru International Film Festival which was scheduled in April this year is now preponed. The festival, organized by the Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy, will be held physically in the silicon city from 24 to 31 Mar 2021. As usual, there will be FIPRESCI (International) Jury.

CHENNAI IFF OVER



18th Chennai International Film Festival scheduled in Dec 2020 held from 18 to 25 Feb 2021. The festival organised by the Indo Cine Appreciation Foundation showcased 91 films from 53 countries.

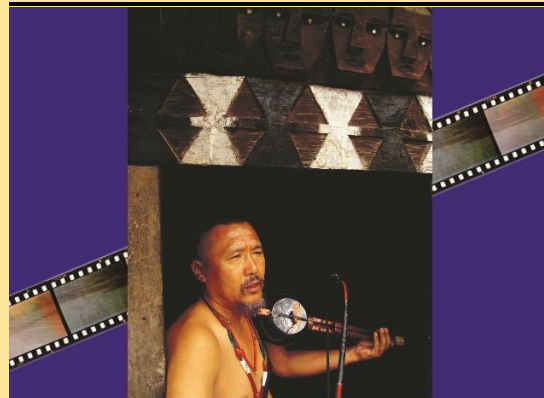
FIPRESCI-INDIA 2019 TOP-20



Top-20 Indian Films of 2019 nominated for Fipresci-India Grand-Prix is in IMDb @ www.imdb.com/list/ls089529399/

01. Aamis: Bhaskar Hazarika
 02. Aanandi Gopal: Sameer S Vidwans
 03. Aani Maani: Fahim Irshaad
 04. Aise Hee: Kislay Gonzalvez
 05. Article 15: Anubhav Sinha
 06. Binisutoy: Atanu Ghosh
 07. Biriyaani: Sajin Baabu
 08. Bombay Rose: Gitanjali Rao
 09. Chola: Sanal Kumar Sasidharan
 10. Eeb Allay Ooo: Prateek Vats
 11. Gamak Ghar: Achal Mishra
 12. Ghawre Bairey Aaj: Aparna Sen
 13. Hellaro: Abhishek Shah*
 14. Iewduh: Pradip Kurbah
 15. Jallikattu: Lijo Jose Pellissery
 16. KumbalangiNights:MadhuNarayan
 17. Maadathy: Leena Manimekalai
 18. Run Kalyani: Geetha J
 19. SuperDeluxe:ThiagarajanKumaraja
 20. Veyilmarangal:Biju K Damodaran
- *(HELLARO Won the Grand-Prix-2019)

CINEMA OF THE NORTH-EAST



Glimpses of Cinemas from India's Northeast



Edited by **Manoj Barpujari • Jayanta Madhab Dutta**

“Glimpses of Cinemas from India's Northeast” edited by Manoj Barpujari and Jayanta Madhab Dutta published on 30 Jan 2021 at Guwahati. The 440 pages hard bound book with thirty well-written articles (several by Fipresci Members) covered the entire cine-scenario of the region comprising of the states Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim where there are many ethnic groups speaking different languages. With a remarkable history, cinema of this region is now getting worldwide attention for its talented new gen filmmakers. The book priced 1000/-INR got published by the Jorhat based Publisher ‘Bedakantha Books & Publications’. Must read.

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