

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER

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

Website: www.fipresci-india.online

FIPRESCI-INDIA INTRODUCES ONLINE FILM APPRECIATION COURSE

As a part of its academic activities, Fipresci-India introduces an Online Film Appreciation Course with 18 weekend sessions on every Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning during June and July 2021. Total 70 participants from different parts of India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka got themselves registered online for the Course. Many intending candidates could not be enrolled as the target of admission (only 40) crossed the limit. The Academic Council with Prof. N. Manu Chakravarty, Mr. Meghachandra Kongbam and Dr. Meenakshi Datta as Members and Mr. N. Vidyashankar as the Course Coordinator finalized the following schedule for the Course:

- Session-01:** 5 Jun Sat 3-4.30: Mr. N. Vidyashankar and Prof. N. Manu Chakravarty (Members of FIPRESCI). Introduction: What, Why and How of Film Appreciation.
- Session-02:** 6 Jun Sun 11-12.30: Prof. Amrit Gangar (Film Theorist, Curator and Historian; Former Consultant Curator of the National Museum of Indian Cinema Mumbai; Adjunct Faculty IDC-IIT Bombay). Topic: Motion Picture, the Oldest Art – from Caves to Cocoons: Arguments and Stories.
- Session-03:** 12 Jun Sat 3-5: Prof. Anil Zankar (Visiting Faculty, Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune). Topic: Language of Film and Understanding the Elements of Camera, Sound and Editing as Decisive Parameters.
- Session-04:** 13 Jun Sun 11-12.30: Prof. Milind Damle (HOD, TV Direction, Film and Television Institute of India, Pune). Topic: Mindscape of a Filmmaker – Idea to Screen.
- Session-05:** 19 Jun Sat 3-4.30: Dr. Nandana Bose (Film Scholar, Author and Educator; Former Associate Professor of Film Studies at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, USA). Topic: Early American Cinema – Recognizing the Potential of Cinema as Mass Media. Institutionalization of Film Production, Economic Capital Formations in American Cinema and its Global Influence.
- Session-06:** 20 Jun Sun 11-12.30: Prof. Amit Tyagi (Associate Director, MIT School of Film and Television, MIT-ADT University, Pune). Topic: 'Alam Ara' and the Coming of Sound to Indian Cinema.
- Session-07:** 26 Jun Sat 3-4.30: Dr. Debjani Halder (Film Research Officer, Film and Television Institute, Pune; Former European Excellence Research Fellow at Central European University). Topic: History of Indian Film Society Movement, Film Festivals, Emergence of Indian New-Wave.
- Session-08:** 27 Jun Sun 11-1: Mr. M. K. Raghavendra (Film Critic, Author and Scholar, Member FIPRESCI). Topic: Genres in World Cinema and Indian Cinema – Categories.
- Session-09:** 3 Jul Sat 3-4.30: Dr. Pranjal Borah (Associate Professor, Dikhowmukh College Sivsagar; Guest Faculty in Film Studies Dibrugarh University, North Lakhimpur College, and Jagannath Barooah College Jorhat). Topic: The Psychology of Film Appreciation in Today's Digital Age – A Neurocinematic Approach.
- Session-10:** 4 Jul Sun 11-12.30: Interactive Session with the Eminent Filmmaker Dr. GIRISH KASARAVALLI. Moderator: Mr. N. Vidyashankar (Course Coordinator).
- Session-11:** 10 Jul Sat 3-4.30: Dr. Monia Acciari (Associate Professor in Film and Television History, De Montfort University, Leicester, UK). Topic: Parameters to Evaluate Cinematic Texts – Exploring the Notion of Curatorship between Film Festivals and Archives in India and Europe.
- Session-12:** 11 Jul Sun 11-12.30: Prof. N. Manu Chakravarty (Professor, Film Critic and Scholar, Member FIPRESCI). Topic: Evolution of Film Art – An Attempt to Understand European Cinema through Certain Conceptual Categories.
- Session-13:** 17 Jul Sat 3-4.30: Prof. Pankaj Saxena (Media Professional and Film Educationist; Professor Film & Television Institute of India Pune; Former Vice President, Discovery Channel and Animal Planet; Former Head of Programming at BBC Worldwide Channels and Lok Sabha Television). Topic:

Cinema as a Tool of Documentation of its Times – Early Pioneers.

Session-14: 18 Jul Sun 11-12.30: Prof. Fowzia Fathima (HOD Cinematography, KR Narayanan National Institute of Visual Science and Arts, Govt. of Kerala). Topic: Digital Revolution of the New Millennium and the Paradigmatic Changes in Filmmaking, Sharing, Viewing, Perceiving and Articulation of Experiences.

Session-15: 24 Jul Sat 3-4.30: Dr. Indranil Bhattacharya (Professor of Screen Studies and Research, Film and Television Institute of India, Pune). Topic: A Case Study in Contemporary Asian Cinema – Korean New Wave.

Session-16: 25 Jul Sun 11-12.30: Dr. Someswar Bhowmik (Media Scholar, Teacher and Writer; Specialized on Sociology of Media, undertaken Doctoral and Post-doctoral Dissertations on Film Censorship in India). Topic: Film and Literature, Specifically the Effect Film had on Literature – the Indian Context.

Session-17: 31 Jul Sat 3-4.30: Dr. P. K. Pokker (Professor of Philosophy, Visiting Professor Vaikom Muhammed Basheer Chair, Calicut University). Topic: Hermeneutics of Film Aesthetics.

Session-18: 31 Jul Sun 4.30-5.30: Valediction: Mr. V. K Joseph, President FIPRESCI-India. (There may be last minute changes in the schedule on any unavoidable circumstances).

OBERHAUSEN INTL. FILM FESTIVAL



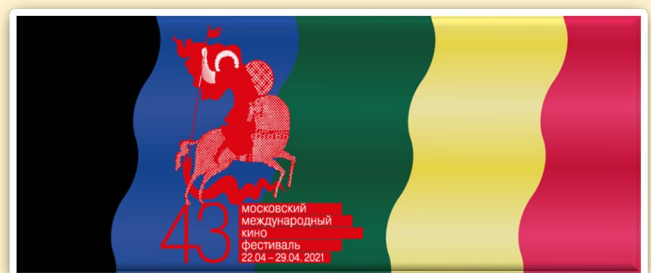
FIPRESCI Award in the 67th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen (1-10 May) went to: "{if your bait can sing the wild one will come} Like Shadows Through Leaves" by Lucy Davis (Singapore, Finland, 2021). Jury composed of Fritz De Jong (The Netherlands), Valentina Giraldo Sánchez (Colombia) and Elina Reitere (Latvia). Citation says the film "allows us to think of cinema as an aesthetic tool that questions, resists, and reimagines the relationships between culture and climate change".

BANGLADESH CELEBRATES FIFTY YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE



To celebrate the 50 Years of Independence of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (26 March 1971-2021), the Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies has curated a package of films for presenting to different Festivals worldwide. The package includes the acclaimed Feature Films "Shankhonaad" (2004) by Abu Sayeed, "Swopnodanay" (On the Wings of Dreams, 2007, 88 mins) by Golam Rabbany Biplob, "Aha" (2007, 128 mins) by Enamul Karim Nirjhor, "Television" (2012, 106 mins) by Mostafa Sarwar Farooki, "Jalal's Story" (2014, 121 mins) by Abu Shahed Emon, "Halda" (2017, 150 mins) by Tauquir Ahmed, "Komola Rocket" (2018, 95 mins) by Noor Imran Mithu, "Made in Bangladesh" (2019, 95 mins) by Rubaiyat Hossain, and many others along with some selected documentaries.

MOSCOW INTL. FILM FESTIVAL



FIPRESCI Award in the 43rd Moscow International Film Festival Russia (22-29 Apr) was given to the film "The Time of Indifference" by Leonardo Guerra Seràgnoli (Italy, 2020, 86 mins). FIPRESCI International Critics Jury was composed of Alexandra Porshneva (Kazakhstan), Darya Amialkovich (Belarus), Vasileios Kechagias (Greece), Karen Avetisyan (Armenia) and Nina Romodanovskaya (Russia). Jury Members and the international guests were physically invited to Moscow to experience the festival and the city.

NEPAL INTL. FILM FESTIVAL

The 4th Nepal International Film Festival (6-10 May) ended with declaration of prestigious Gautam Buddha Award for the Best International Feature Film, Mount Everest Award for the Best International Documentary and many other Awards given by the several International Jury. The Festival which was scheduled in Feb 2021 in Kathmandu could not be held due to pandemic. After rescheduling twice in anticipation of organizing the Festival physically, finally it had to opt for going online due to resurgence of pandemic in Nepal. The Gautam Buddha Award which includes a trophy and a cash for 1500 USD went to the Indian Bengali feature film 'Dictionary' directed by Bratya Basu.



In their citation the Jury declared that the Award was given 'For the delicate depiction of a slice of the contemporary Indian society portrayed with warm humour and critique of the substitution of the cultural values'. Mt. Everest Award with a cash of 1000 USD went to the documentary "Return to the Lost Eden" (Switzerland) directed by Adriano Zecca. Don Quixote Award given by the International Federation of Film Societies went to the feature film "In My Dream" (Turkey) directed by Murat Çeri. Award for the Best National Feature Film (cash 100,000 NPR) went to "Ama Khando" (Nepal) directed by Dhondup Tsering and for the Best National Short Film (cash 50,000 NPR) went to "A Scarecrow" (Nepal) directed by Rajesh Prasad Khatri.

ASOKA HANDAGAMA'S NEXT FILM



Ace filmmaker Asoka Handagama of Sri Lanka coming up with another masterpiece titled "The Dawning of the Day" (Alborada). Work-in-progress of the film reveals it as an intoxicating visual poetry exposed rhythmically signifying the magic realism of Latin America blended with the Indo-Ceylonese cultural reality. Shooting of the film was completed during the pandemic. The film is a fictionalized account of the famous Chilean poet and activist Pablo Neruda's time in Sri Lanka from 1929 to 1931 under the British Raj as an Ambassador – His memoirs from his time in Ceylon include a harrowing confession to raping a low-caste untouchable Tamil woman, tasked with cleaning his outhouse each dawn. Intense narrative, incredible cinematography, astounding sound, proficient editing and outstanding performance mounted it as a brilliant film to keep continuation with Handagama's earlier works like "Asandhimitta" (2019), "Let Her Cry" (2016), "A Letter of Fire" (2005), "Flying With One Wing" (2002) and others.

SOUTH ASIAN SHORT FILM FESTIVAL



Call for Entries for the 4th South Asian Short Film Festival ends on 30 June. Short Fiction (max 40 mins) and Documentary (max 60 mins) made after 1 Jan 2018 are eligible. It's a competitive Festival with several cash awards like Satyajit Ray Golden Award for the Best Documentary, Ritwik Ghatak Golden Award for the Best Short Fiction and others. The Festival will be held at 'Nandan', the film centre in Kolkata, from 5 to 12 Sep 2021. Intending filmmakers may apply online at <http://www.sasff.online/>

BIRTH CENTENARY OF SATYAJIT RAY AND VIJAYA MULAY



and Vijaya Mulay (B. 16 May 1921) on the occasion of their Birth Centenary. Both of them have huge contributions to the propagation of film culture in India through their writings. To commemorate the occasion, Fipresci-India already declared the Annual Satyajit Ray Memorial Award for the outstanding contributions to writing on cinema which was Ray's primary area of concern. First recipient of this Award is Ms. Aruna Vasudev who also received the 1st Vijaya Mulay Life Time Achievement Award in the 16th International Film Festival of Thrissur last year.



Fipresci-India paid tribute to Satyajit Ray (B. 2 May 1921)

FILM FESTIVALS VALIDATED BY FFSI

Mushrooming of fake and fraudulent Film Festivals is now a big issue. To address this problem, Central Office of Federation of Film Societies of India (FFSI) recently published the following list of Festivals validated by them. The list includes the Festivals organized by the Film Societies affiliated with FFSI and by other Govt. and Non-Govt. organizations holding the Festivals in strict adherence with the laws of the land. FFSI is updating the list on the basis of the information collected from the authentic sources to take up the issue with the concerned departments of the I&B Ministry soon.

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| 1. International Film Festival of India Goa- IFFI | 23. IAWRT Asian Women's Film Festival Delhi |
| 2. International Film Festival of Kerala- IFFK | 24. Habitat International Film Festival Delhi |
| 3. Kolkata International Film Festival- KIFF | 25. South Asian Short Film Festival Kolkata |
| 4. Bengaluru International Film Festival- BIFFES | 26. Mumbai International Film Festival for Short Documentary and Animation-MIFF |
| 5. Third Eye Asian Film Festival Mumbai | 27. SiGNS Short & Docu Film Festival Kerala |
| 6. Chennai International Film Festival- CIFF | 28. International Documentary & Short Film Festival Kerala- IDSFFK |
| 7. Pune International Film Festival- PIFF | 29. Siliguri Intl. Short & Docu Film Festival |
| 8. Jio MAMI Film Festival Mumbai- MAMI | 30. ViBGYOR International (Short & Documentary) Film Festival Thrissur |
| 9. Aurangabad International Film Festival- AIFF | 31. Filmingo International Short Film Festival |
| 10. International Film Festival Thrissur- IFFT | 32. Smile International Film Festival for Children & Youth New Delhi |
| 11. International Guwahati Film Festival | 33. Nagaon International Short and Documentary Film Festival |
| 12. Guwahati International Film Festival | 34. Dharamshala International Film Festival |
| 13. Siliguri International Film Festival | 35. Global Cinema Festival of the Film Federation of India |
| 14. Baharampur International Film Festival | 36. Rajasthan International Film Festival |
| 15. Kalinga Global Film Festival Bhubaneswar | 37. National Children's Film Festival |
| 16. Bardhaman Chalachitra Utsav | 38. Asian Film Festival Pune (contd...) |
| 17. Bidhannagar International Film Festival | |
| 18. Auroville Film Festival Pondicherry | |
| 19. Kashmir World Film Festival Srinagar | |
| 20. Kolhapur International Film Festival | |
| 21. Jamshedpur International Film Festival | |
| 22. Assam International Film Festival Jorhat | |

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