



CIRCULAR 1/2017



Palm Springs (USA, January 2–16, 2017). At the 28th Palm Springs International Film Festival (PSIFF), we present the “International Critics' Prize (FIPRESCI Prize) for the Best Foreign Language Film of the Year (2016).” The jury had already in October been announced on our website (members area) and could in the meantime be finalized.

Dhaka (Bangladesh, January 12–20, 2017). The Dhaka International Film Festival, now in its 15th edition, is committed to “the promotion of a healthy cine culture in Bangladesh and in celebrating the global mainstream in film and its social relevance.” Placing an emphasis on social issues, next year’s festival will focus on women in film, with a special event entitled “Third International Conference on Women Cinema” being one of the cornerstones. “Organizers expect to screen approximately 170 films, with participation from approximately 60 countries. The festival will have a competition section for Asian and Australian cinema and segment categories for: Retrospective, Cinema of the World, Nordic Film Session, Children’s Film, Women Filmmakers, Short and Independent Films Section and Spiritual Films Section.” Our jury, consisting of three members, will focus on feature length films from Asia and Australia. The festival will provide flight and accommodation. Language: English. National sections (Europe and Asia) wishing to participate are kindly asked to propose their candidates as soon as possible. An affinity for Asian cinema would be preferable.

Website: www.dhakafilmfestival.org

Tromso (Norway, January 16–22, 2017). This Norwegian International Film Festival takes place when the sun returns to the horizon and it’s still possible to experience the Northern Lights in Tromso, the gateway to the Arctic. It was established in 1991 and specializes in quality films without Norwegian distribution. It’s probably the world’s northernmost film event and presents a cutting edge international program, all films shown as Scandinavian premieres. The festival also offers an overview of new Norwegian productions. Our Norwegian colleagues organize a “Critics' Week” of films not available in Norwegian cinemas. We establish a jury of three members (preferably Europe). Travel expenses cannot exceed € 400 for foreign candidates (with the Norwegian candidate, the festival covers the most reasonable travel alternative). General conditions are: accommodation, one meal per day, no per diem (pocket money). Language: English. Attention: cold. National sections (Europe) wishing to participate are kindly asked to propose their candidates as soon as possible. The jurors can look forward to adventurous activities (dog-sledding, for example). Website: www.tiff.no

Rotterdam (The Netherlands, January 25 – February 5, 2017). One of the outstanding festivals for independent world cinema and a place for discoveries, taking place in the Dutch port city of Rotterdam. (Please be prepared for the cold weather.) The

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program will be grouped in four sections: Bright Future (“Films by makers who enrich the film landscape with highly individual, innovative work”), Voices (Films distinguished by mature quality and powerful, relevant content), Deep Focus (“an in-depth look at the work of [film]makers who have an extensive oeuvre” and Perspectives (the festival examining “itself and the conventions of film in terms of content, criticism, geography, portal or form, seen from different perspectives”).) Our jury will focus on the “Bright Future” section (first and second films, world premieres). The invitation to European colleagues and to one colleague from outside Europe (maximum two) includes an air ticket and b&b accommodation. Language: fluent English. National sections are asked to inform us as soon as possible. The festival again organizes a “Trainee Project” for young critics. We are talking to the festival about a continuation of this initiative and respective terms. Website: <https://iff.com/>

Gothenburg (Sweden, January 27 – February 6, 2017). The Göteborg (European spelling) festival offers a showcase of young international world cinema (sharing titles and guests with Rotterdam, which it overlaps) and has become *the* center of cinema produced in the Nordic countries. Films will be presented in the “Nordic Competition” and at the “Nordic Film Market” (taking place on four days and offering a marketplace for new Nordic films from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Iceland, all with English subtitles). This year’s edition will focus on films from Italy. Participation in our jury (three members, preferably from Europe or from the American East Coast) should be attractive for colleagues with a special interest in (and knowledge of) Nordic films. The jury will be invited for four to five days and will focus on the “Nordic Competition” (eight films). As in previous years, the invitation includes an air ticket and b&b accommodation. Language: fluent English. Please make your candidates known as soon as possible and by December 9, 2016, latest delay. They will be asked to present a film selected from the festival program. Website: www.giff.se

Berlin (Germany, February 9–19, 2017). Our jury at this major event has the difficult task of presenting three awards: for a film in the international competition, for a film in the Panorama section and for a film in the International Forum of New Cinema. Our jury will therefore be divided into three ‘sub-juries’:

A — experienced colleagues should focus on the international competition. No invitations are available for this sub-jury. Colleagues being already invited by the festival are

kindly asked to make themselves known; their hotel invitations may be extended to the whole period.

B — colleagues wishing to focus on the Panorama section are asked to mention this in their application. One invitation (b&b accommodation) is hopefully available.

C — the Forum should be of special interest for young critics. For this sub-jury, one invitation (b&b accommodation) is also available.

All participation requests should arrive via national sections. Please take into consideration that it is physically impossible to follow more than one complete section. The jurors are asked to cover in their publications the sections on which their sub-jury focuses. Air tickets will not be offered. Language: fluent English. Deadline: as soon as possible and by December 9, 2016, latest delay. Please note that it's essential to apply for one of the sub-juries (applications without this information cannot be processed). If your candidate has already received an invitation from the festival, please let us know. Websites: www.berlinale.de (Competition, Panorama) and www.arsenal-berlin.de/en/forum (Forum).

At the festival, we will again co-organize the “Talent Press” workshop for young critics, together with Berlinale Talents and Goethe-Institut.

Cartagena (Colombia, Festival Internacional de Cine de Cartagena de Indias (FICCI), March 1-6, 2017). The 57th edition of the Cartagena Film Festival promises to give the Colombian audience a chance to enjoy new cinematic trends in the international industry, whilst maintaining its special focus on Ibero-American cinema. The festival promotes cultural diversity and carries out the exhibition of works by Latin American and Caribbean countries. Cartagena de Indias is a city on the northern coast of Colombia and capital of Bolívar Department. It is a center of economic activity in the Caribbean region, as well a popular tourist destination. In 1984, Cartagena's colonial walled city and fortress were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Since our jury will focus on Latin American films, only specialists in Latin American cinema should apply (via their national sections). One jury member should be coming from Europe, another one from a Latin American country. Deadline: December 16, 2017. Website: www.ficcifestival.com/

Thessaloniki (Greece, Documentary Film Festival, March 3–12, 2017). Dimitri Eipides founded the Documentary Film Festival “Images of the 21st Century” in 1999. It's now headed by Orestis Andreadakis (artistic director). “The main program,” writes the festival, “is focusing on documentaries that explore the social and cultural developments in the world, introducing at the same time a number of new side sections and events based on important works by new documentarists.” Festival and jury should be of particular interest to colleagues writing about the documentary film genre (also in film magazines). The jurors are asked to attend for the whole period, and to select two winners, from the international competition and from the Greek Panorama. The festival offers air tickets and b&b accommodation, restricted however to colleagues coming from European countries. Documentary film specialists should apply, via their national sections, by January 12, 2017. They will receive further information. Language: English. Website: www.filmfestival.gr

Sofia (Bulgaria, March 9–19, 2017). The festival started in 1997 and has become a major event in Bulgaria and the Balkans. Its aim is “to promote significant and innovative works in contemporary world cinema for local audiences and regional (Bulgarian and the Balkans) cinema to international audiences.” A good opportunity therefore to get acquainted with the recent Bulgarian and Balkan productions. Our prize is dedicated to young cinema (first and second features), with a special eye on films from the region. Our jury consists of three members. Air tickets are available within Europe; b&b accommodation is offered as well. As the festival takes ten days, a jury period of around one week will be introduced (four to five working days, to be announced later). Language: English. Colleagues with a special interest in films from the Balkans are kindly requested to apply (via their national sections) by January 12, 2017. Website: www.siff.bg

Guadalajara (Mexico, March 10–17, 2017). This festival in the Mexican State of Jalisco (a one-hour-flight from Mexico City) started as a showcase for new Mexican films (Muestra de Cine Mexicano). It later added an overview of new films from other Latin American countries to its program, as well as from Spain and Portugal, and focuses nowadays, as “Festival Internacional de Cine en Guadalajara” (Guadalajara International Film Festival), on a feature, short and documentary Ibero-American competition. Our jurors (three to five members) must have a special knowledge of and experience with Latin American cinematographies (in particular Mexican cinema). One prize will be presented: to a Mexican feature film in the “Mezcal Award” competition. Language: English, some knowledge of Spanish is necessary (not all films are expected to have English subtitles). Our Latin-American colleagues are particularly asked to apply. Air tickets will be available from Europe and from the Americas, as well as b&b accommodation. National sections are asked to make their candidates known, with some evidence of their knowledge of and special interest in Mexican and Ibero-American cinemas. We will also participate, along with the Berlinale and the Goethe-Institut, in a Talent Press workshop for young critics from northern Latin American countries. Deadline: January 12, 2017. Website: <https://www.ficg.mx>

Saguenay (Canada, “Saguenay International Short Film Festival – Regard 21e”, March 15–19, 2017). The festival wants to host our jury (the jurors possibly coming from Europe and the Americas). Conversations and negotiations are still going on. Saguenay was created in 2002, as “the result of the merger of four towns (Chicoutimi, Jonquièrre, La Baie and Laterrière) and three municipalities (Canton Tremblay, Lac-Kénogami and Shipshaw). As a result, Saguenay has become an important urban area.” (Festival information) The Festival offers in a variety of sections an overview of international short films and understands itself as “a gateway of the Americas for the short film and an international launching pad for the Canadian cinema”. Interested colleagues (with a special interest in short films) are asked to make themselves known (via their national section). They will get a further information on the state and result of our talks with the festival. Deadline: January 12, 2017. Festival: <http://festivalregard.com/>

Toulouse (France, “Rencontres Cinémas d'Amérique Latine”, March 17–26, 2017). A prestigious showcase of recent Latin American films, in 2017 running in its 29th edition. Long features that have not yet been released in France will be screened; as well as feature debuts and documentaries. The festival cooperates with San Sebastian to support the post-production of Latin-American films (“Cinéma en Construction”). Meetings and conferences are also planned. Our jury has three members (from Europe), language: French (obligatory, fluent Spanish will do at well), and will probably again focus on the “Coup de Coeur” section (first and second long feature films). Also, a jury period of around six days will be introduced. In particular (but not only) young colleagues are requested to make themselves known (via their national sections) who are open to make acquaintance with the cinematographies of Latin America. The invitation covers an air ticket within Europe and b&b accommodation. Deadline: January 12, 2017.

Website: www.cinelatino.com.fr

Fribourg (Switzerland, March 31 – April 8, 2017). The Fribourg Festival (headed by Thierry Jobin) is one of the most important European showcases of Third World cinema. It can however no longer host our jury: “We won't be able to take in charge the accommodation of the members for budget reasons”, informs the festival. “We can still take in charge the food and beverage during their stay, but no longer travel and hotel. We are forced to reduce some expenses.” We will stay in contact with the festival and hope to be back with a jury one of the next years. Website: www.fiff.ch

Hong Kong (April 11 — 25, 2017). This major Asian film event, now in its 41st edition, has been detached from earlier governmental influence and has, after a period of transition, found an own and independent organizational structure: “The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society is a non-profit, non-government organization which develops, promotes and encourages creativity in the art and culture of film through the presentation of the annual Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF)” (Festival information). The festival offers a marvelous overview on recent world cinema, and, in particular, one of the best selections of new Asian films – and especially recent Hong Kong movies. Our jury will select a film from the section “Young Asian Cinema”. The jurors must have a special experience with and knowledge of Asian cinema. Priority will be given to colleagues who can produce some evidence of this special knowledge. The jury has three members (one Asian juror, one from any non-Asian country, one from Hong Kong) and will probably be invited with a contribution to the costs of an air ticket and with b&b accommodation for a jury period (of around five working days, the exact period and conditions to be announced later). Language: fluent English. Deadline: January 12, 2017. Interested colleagues are invited to make themselves known via their national sections; they'll receive further information on the state of affairs. Website: www.hkiff.org.hk

The juries of April, May and June will be announced in a later circular.

For any changes, please visit regularly the member's area of our website www.fipresci.org.

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Circular 1/2017, published by FIPRESCI – The International Federation of Film Critics, Schleissheimer Str. 83, D 80797 Munich, Germany, T +49 (89) 18 23 03, info@fipresci.org, November 2016.

