



CIRCULAR 2/2015

fIPRES CI

Dear colleagues,

Our Italian friend Felice Laudadio has hosted our general assemblies for more than 25 years. We have taken a journey through Italy with him, following the festivals he organized: from Saint Vincent in the north to Viareggio by the sea, then to Taormina in Sicily, from there to Rome and, a few years ago, to Bari, in the wonderful southern province of Apulia. There, he created the "Bari International Film Festival – BIFEST" (www.bifest.it/en), which became an enthusiastically welcomed family celebration of cinema, and, particularly, Italian cinema. Incidentally, the famous filmmaker Ettore Scola is the festival president and our colleagues Marco Spagnoli and Enrico Magrelli take part in the artistic management of the event.

Once again, Felice has invited us to join him at the 2015 edition of BIFEST. The festival begins on Saturday, March 21, and ends on Saturday, March 28. We are invited to hold our annual assembly within the framework of the festival. And we're invited to a particular celebration of ourselves: the 90th anniversary of FIPRESCI. In 1925, French and Belgium film critics took the first steps to found an international representation of colleagues writing on cinema. (Unfortunately, a conclusive and complete history of FIPRESCI has never been written.)

Two specific programs will mark the Bari Festival's homage to FIPRESCI.

One of the retrospectives will be dedicated to Italian films which have won our prize, predominantly at festivals. This comprises the period from 1946 (the first FIPRESCI jury was established at the 1946 Cannes Film Festival) until today. The selection of films (40) has been finalized from a list of all our prize winners (although the list still has some blank spaces, where previous winners are unknown).

The other FIPRESCI focus in Bari will be daily master-classes. Highly renowned filmmakers will talk about their work and their idea of cinema in conversations moderated by some of our colleagues. This will take place every morning in the wonderful Petruzzelli theater. This theater can accommodate more than one thousand spectators – mostly a young, open-minded and curious public. Negotiations with filmmakers, whose work has been appreciated by FIPRESCI and who will be able to join us in March, are ongoing.

Come to Bari!

FIPRESCI has never had such comprehensive, widespread and affectionate attention from and contribution to a festival as Felice is offering. We owe him so much. It should be self-evident that the representatives of our national sections

Bari 2015 **FIPRESCI celebrates its 90th anniversary** **The General Assembly**

and the members of our board should not attend the event for the time of the assembly only, but will stay for the whole week. An homage to FIPRESCI cannot be done without FIPRESCI. Take this as an appeal to send a delegate of your section to Bari who can stay for the whole time – to celebrate 90 years of FIPRESCI. At the same time, it is a great opportunity to catch up with recent Italian cinema (feature-length films produced in 2014 and 2015), and to meet the filmmakers in a calm atmosphere.

To stay at the festival, and to cover it in your regular publications, will be our sign of gratefulness, for all the wonderful hospitality Felice has offered us over the years and, even, decades.

Welcome to Bari!

Arrival in Bari: Saturday, March 21, 2015. Please book a flight which allows you to arrive in time for the opening and the opening reception. Departure: Sunday, March 29, 2015.

The festival offers all FIPRESCI delegates its warm-hearted hospitality (for the whole period, including the pick-up service at the Bari-Palese international airport, the hotel will probably be the Palace). As always, all our participants are in charge of their transportation (air tickets).

General Assembly 2015

Our General Assembly of 2015 will take place on Sunday, March 22, 14:00–18:00 h (local time, CET), to be continued on Monday March 23, 14:00–18:00 h.

All national sections are kindly invited to appoint their delegate to the assembly. Each national section can nominate one delegate. In countries where two associations form the national section, both associations are requested to agree on one common delegate (two delegates may be admitted only in the event of available invitations). This concerns our colleagues in Australia, Canada, France, Serbia and Spain. All delegates must be made known, in writing (email, fax or letter), to the General Secretary by Friday, February 20, 2015. (Please note that due to statutory reasons requests arriving after this date cannot be considered.)

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Individual members (in principle in countries where a national section doesn't exist) who wish to attend the assembly are kindly asked to contact the General Secretary.

For all communication concerning Bari and the assembly, please use the email address jury@fipresci.org, or the fax number +49 (89) 18 47 66. Address letters to Klaus Eder, FIPRESCI, Schleissheimer Str. 83, D 80797 Munich, Germany.

Agenda

Aside from the usual reports on our activities in 2014 (given by the members of the board and the General Secretary) and the discussion of future juries and projects, the agenda is open for proposals. National sections wishing to add any other item to the agenda should send their proposal, in writing, to the General Secretary by Friday, February 6, 2015.

The final agenda will be published at the end of February on our website www.fipresci.org (members' area). All national sections and all delegates will receive a further detailed information at a later date.

Deadlines

Proposals for the agenda of the assembly:

Friday, February 6, 2015

Appointment of delegates:

Friday, February 20, 2015

For all correspondence regarding the Bari event, please use the address jury@fipresci.org only.

Again: Welcome to Bari!

Please help us ensure that Bari in March will not only be the place of our annual assembly, but also the place to celebrate the 90th anniversary of FIPRESCI. If you have any idea how to design this event, be so kind as to let us know.

We intend that Bari in March will kick-off to a series of events dedicated to our anniversary. We're negotiating with festivals to organize series of FIPRESCI-awarded films, from 1946 to today – collecting the winners from the concerned country in which a festival takes place.

Website

Our website www.fipresci.org was constructed years ago – which in internet terminology means centuries. It is high time for a relaunch. A redesign has been completed by the Istanbul-based web company Mingus (www.mingus.co/). The company and its head Berk Özler have done tremendous work for us, we owe them infinite thanks. The new site is almost ready and will be online in January (we'll keep you informed). Until then, the 'old site' will be accessible. The members' area will still be updated regularly. The reports from the final festivals of the year will, however, been uploaded to the new site only. We apologize for any inconvenience which this transition may cause.

Computer Crashes

Recently, we suffered from two major computer crashes. In summer, the computer of our secretary Anne Brishoual was hacked and needed to be reconfigured. Fortunately, the data was recovered. Just before Christmas, our main computer was also hacked. We have to admit: it was an intelligent hacker. All data had been sent to other servers, lots of hardware was destroyed (the motherboard, the hard disks, the DVD drive...) According to a technician, this brutal destruction can happen to bankers and other VIPs. But to FIPRESCI? Anyway, as most of the FIPRESCI data was regularly backed up to a cloud, we hope that no data has been lost.

See you in Bari !

We're sending this circular to all national sections and all individual members. To do so, we are using a recovered database of addresses. In the event that any names and email addresses have changed, please be so kind as to forward this circular to the correct addresses, and inform us, so we can update the data.

Best seasonal greetings,

Best wishes for a healthy and happy and successful New Year
KLAUS EDER



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