



## CIRCULAR 6/2017



*Please note: juries marked as "asap" with a deadline ("at the latest") might be finalized before the deadline if a sufficient number of suitable candidates has been found.*

**Palm Springs** (USA, January 2-16, 2018). 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 (2017)." Contenders for this special prize are the films submitted to the Non-English language section of the Academy Awards, and it does not matter if a film has previously won our regular prize at another festival. Foreign filmmakers and film companies use the festival to promote their films, before continuing to the Golden Globes and Oscars. This prize has therefore a special role and significance. As the number of submissions exceeds all manageable possibilities of a festival jury, we agreed with the festival organizers to downsize the number of eligible candidates for our prize to approximately 25 titles. Even then, it will still be necessary and unavoidable that the members of our jury have already seen many of the selected films, for example at the major festivals of Cannes, Berlin, Venice or Toronto. The remaining films will then be divided up between the jurors, who will then pick their favorites to be seen by all. For the complete list of nominated films, please see <http://www.oscars.org/news/92-countries-competition-2017-foreign-language-film-oscarr>.

Palm Springs is a two-hour car drive southeast of Los Angeles, to the Coachella Valley which has originally been a desert (warm temperatures, even in January). A one hour drive gets you to the Joshua Tree National Park (you've got the chance to see coyotes and learn something about the country's early days). From the 40s, Palm Springs has served as a residential haven for Hollywood stars. The Festival's glamorous centerpiece, the Awards Gala, scheduled for January 2, 2017, brings the world's biggest stars to Palm Springs as it honors the year's best performances both in front of and behind the camera. Additional condition for our jurors: fluent knowledge of the English language. The festival provides flights and accommodation (for three jurors from Europe and the Americas, for a jury period from 11 to 15 of January). Colleagues wishing to participate are kindly asked to contact the General Secretary (via their national sections). They are also asked to add to their request a list of nominated films they have already seen. Additionally to a 'best film' award, the jury has to decide on prizes for 'best actor' and 'best actress'. The jury needs to be completed as quickly as possible, please apply as soon as possible. PSIFF will immediately start to send out screeners. Website: [www.psfilmfest.org](http://www.psfilmfest.org)

**Dhaka** (Bangladesh, January 12–20, 2018). The Dhaka International Film Festival, now in its 16th 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." Organizers expect to screen approximately 170

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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, preferably from Asia (because we will also organize the "1st Asian Film Critics Assembly", a meeting on Asian film criticism in association with the International Film Critics Association of Bangladesh – IFCA). The festival will provide flight and accommodation. Language: English. National sections (preferably Asia) wishing to participate are kindly asked to propose their candidates as soon as possible. An affinity for Asian cinema would be useful. Deadline: as soon as possible. Website: <http://www.dhakafilmfestival.org>

**Tromsø**. Our jury at the Tromsø International Film Festival (Norway) had already been announced in the previous circular. The jury has been finalized.

**Rotterdam** (The Netherlands, January 24 – February 4, 2018). 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 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 (world premieres of first and second films). The invitation to three European colleagues and one juror coming from another continent includes an air ticket and b&b accommodation. Language: fluent English. National sections are asked to inform us as by December 8, 2017. The festival again organizes a "Trainee Project" for young critics (who will be welcome to follow the discussions of our jury). Website: <https://iffr.com/>

**Gothenburg** (Sweden, January 26 – February 5, 2018). 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

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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). Participation in our jury (three members, preferably from Europe and representing dailies or trade papers) 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 a film in the "Nordic Competition" (eight titles). As in previous years, the invitation includes an air ticket and b&b accommodation. Jury dates are January 29 to February 2, with at least one juror staying until February 4 to hand out the award. Language: fluent English. Please make your candidates known by December 8, 2017. Website: [www.giff.se](http://www.giff.se)

**Berlin** (Germany, February 15-25, 2018). 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 probably 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. 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. Deadline: December 8, 2017.

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

Websites: [www.berlinale.de](http://www.berlinale.de) (Competition, Panorama) and [www.arsenal-berlin.de/en/forum](http://www.arsenal-berlin.de/en/forum) (Forum).

**Zagreb** (Croatia, February 25 – March 4, 2018). The Zagreb International Documentary Festival (ZagrebDox) has been around since 2005 and has proven itself to be an excellent showcase for non-fiction films. Our first jury will be established this year, with three members from Europe (one from Croatia) being invited for the entire duration, to select a winner from the regional competition. Zagreb is the capital and also biggest city in Croatia, with beautiful architecture and many opportunities to delve into Croatian culture and filmmaking. It offers a unique focus on documentaries from all around the world and should be especially interesting for young critics. Colleagues being particularly attracted by documentary films

should apply, via their national sections, by December 8, 2017. Website: <http://zagrebdox.net/en/2018/home>.

**Cartagena** (Colombia, Festival Internacional de Cine de Cartagena de Indias (FICCI), February 28 – March 5, 2018). The 58th 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. The metropolitan area has a population of 1,240,000, and the city proper 1,090,000, making it the fifth largest urban area in Colombia and 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, the others from a Latin American country. Deadline: as soon as possible. Website [www.ficcifestival.com](http://www.ficcifestival.com)

**Thessaloniki** (Greece, Documentary Film Festival, March 2–11, 2018). 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, probably restricted to colleagues coming from European countries. Documentary film specialists should apply, via their national sections, by December 22, 2017. They will receive further information. Language: English. Website: [www.filmfestival.gr](http://www.filmfestival.gr)

**Sofia** (Bulgaria, March 8–18, 2018). 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. For the last two years, we have established a special award ("FIPRESCI 90") which went to Bela Tarr and Goran Paskaljevich, respectively, who both also held masterclasses. We will continue with this tradition in 2018 and are currently discussing worthy candidates for the award. 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,

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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). Deadline: December 22, 2017. Website: [www.siff.bg](http://www.siff.bg)

**Guadalajara** (Mexico, March 9–16, 2018). 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 Institute, in a Talent Press workshop for young critics from northern Latin American countries. Deadline: December 22, 2017. Website: <https://www.ficg.mx>

**Saguenay** (Canada, "Saguenay International Short Film Festival – Regard 21e", March 14–18, 2018). The festival wants again to host our jury (the jurors coming from Europe and the Americas). Saguenay was created in 2002, as "the result of the merger of four towns (Chicoutimi, Jonquière, 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". Our jury will focus on the national competition (while a jury of Canadian colleagues will focus on the international competition). Interested colleagues (with a special interest in short films) are asked to make themselves known (via their national section). Latin American colleagues are especially invited to reply. Deadline: December 22, 2017. Festival: <http://festivalregard.com/>

**Vilnius Film Festival** (Lithuania, March 15–29, 2018). Our colleague Alin Tasciyan has attended the last-year edition of the "Vilnius Film Festival – Kino Pavasaris" as our observer. She wrote: "Now in its 23rd year, it is the largest cinematic event in the country, known and loved for its high quality film program and rich accompanying package of cinema-related events, workshops, and special initiatives... Critics may catch many films they missed in major festivals. One could also make some discoveries among the films from the Baltic region... There is also an opportunity to see some works in progress from the region and be informed about many new

projects... The festival takes place in five different cities. The ambiance in Vilnius is very warm. There are hundreds of volunteers and every one of them I came across were not only young cinephiles but they were also responsible, well informed and capable of helping guests about everything... There is a modern multiplex in the new part of the city and a traditional arthouse right at the old town... Almost everything is in walking distance." We're discussing with the festival on which films our jury should focus (options: young European cinema or regional films), and how long the jury members should attend. Interested colleagues (Europe, including the Nordic countries) should make themselves known (via their national sections) by December 22, 2017. They will receive further information, Festival: <http://kinopavasaris.lt/en>

**Toulouse** (France, "Rencontres Cinémas d'Amérique Latine", March 16–25, 2018). A prestigious showcase of recent Latin American films, now in its 30th edition, screening long features that have not yet been released in France, 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 or fluent Spanish will be obligatory. Our jury will probably focus on the "Coup de Coeur" section again (first and second long feature films). Also, a jury period of around six days will be introduced. In particular young colleagues are requested to make themselves known (via their national sections), if they are open to be introduced to the cinematographies of Latin America. The invitation covers an air ticket within Europe and b&b accommodation. Deadline: December 22, 2017. Website: [www.cinelatino.com.fr](http://www.cinelatino.com.fr)

**Hong Kong** (March 19 – April 5, 2018). This major Asian film event, now in its 42nd 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: December 22, 2017. Interested colleagues are invited to make themselves known via their national sections; they'll receive further information. Website: [www.hkiff.org.hk](http://www.hkiff.org.hk)

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**Lecce** (Italy, Festival del Cinema Europeo – Festival of European Cinema, April 9–14, 2018). This festival in the South of Italy, in the province of Apulia (this year in its 19th edition), is dedicated to the presentation and discussion of European cinema, in particular with the point of view of a cultural exchange between different countries and cinematographies. The competition is composed of only eight films, most of them not necessarily known from the festival circuit. Homages to personalities of European cinema will also be offered. Our jury will have three members (language: English). The invitation covers air tickets within Europe and hotel accommodation. Participation in our jury should be attractive to colleagues who have a special interest in European cinema and in the discussion of its aesthetic problems and qualities. Especially young colleagues are welcome. Deadline: January 26, 2018. Website: [www.festivaldelcinemaeuropeo.com](http://www.festivaldelcinemaeuropeo.com)

**Istanbul** (Turkey, International Istanbul Film Festival, April 6–17, 2018). This major Turkish film festival, now headed by Kerem Ayan, wishes "to encourage the development of cinema in Turkey and to promote films of quality in the Turkish market". The international competition presents current world cinema, with a focus on the relationship between cinema and art. Sidebars are dedicated to outstanding directors of world cinema. The "Turkish Panorama", which presents an overview of recent Turkish films, is always one of the most attractive parts of the festival, especially for foreigners but also for the local public. The festival takes place in the center of the city, in Beyoglu. It is known for its hospitality and its familiar atmosphere. It should be noted, though, that acts of terrorism in Turkey, especially in areas frequented by international guests, have steadily risen in the past three years (source: German Federal Foreign Office). A bit of caution and foresight is therefore recommended. The jury will probably be expected to be in Istanbul for a jury period (to be announced later). Our jury will give an award in the short film competition, in addition to the national and international competitions. A special interest in and knowledge of Turkish cinema is useful. The invitation covers an air ticket, preferably within Europe, and hotel accommodation. National sections should make their candidates known by January 26, 2018. Please state whether your candidate prefers to focus on the international competition or on the Turkish Panorama. Language: fluent English. Website: <http://film.iksv.org/en>

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