



## CIRCULAR 1/2016



Dear colleagues,

A busy year draws to a close. It was marked by a major event: The celebration of the 90th anniversary of our federation. The Festival of Bari (Bif&st) in April has been the center of all festivities, with filmmakers being with us who appreciate our work, Jean-Jacques Annaud, Costa-Gavras, Nanni Moretti, Alan Parker, Edgar Reitz, Ettore Scola, Margarethe von Trotta, Andrzej Wajda.

In Bari, we also launched our new website ([www.fipresci.org](http://www.fipresci.org)). Layout and technics have been offered by the Istanbul-based Mingus company. In the months since a big part of the previous site and of our awards (since 1946) have been uploaded.

On the site we established again an area which is reserved only for members. You access it from the homepage, the username is 'fipresci' and the password is 'godard'. This area allows us to inform quickly about our current work and about urgent business, such as festivals, juries, change of dates, vacant jury places and so on – while this “printed” version (in the format of pdf) is published only four to five times a year. We will continue to publish this version. Only, our members (and in particular our national sections) should be aware that a quick and reliable and permanently updated information will be available rather on our site.

Thanks to the national section which have used and distributed the information about next festivals and juries of 2016, as published already earlier on our site. Members of national sections who wish to serve on a jury should contact their section (not us). The sections in Argentina, Greece, Portugal, and one of our Serbian sections (Srpska Sekcija FIPRESCI-ja) are considerably behindhand in the payment of membership fees, their members can therefore apply only for juries in their own countries (decision of our general assembly).

General Assembly 2016. After some months of uncertainty, the 2016 edition of »Bif&st – The Bari International Film Festival« has been confirmed by the new government of the Italian region of Apulia. The date: April 2-9, 2016. Festival Director Felice Laudadio invites us to again host our annual general assembly. Our national sections will receive a further notice beginning of January.

Best seasonal wishes,  
Merry Christmas, All the Best for 2016

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### Next Juries January, February, March 2016

The juries at the festivals of Palm Springs, Tromsø and Gothenburg had been announced on the members' area of our website and could be finalized.

Our colleague Ahmed Musztaba Zamal want to re-establish our jury at the **Dhaka** International Film Festival in Bangladesh. The date: January 14-22, 2016. The festival (taking place every other year) introduces recent world cinema to an enthusiastic and young local public. It also offers a chance to get acquainted with the cinema of the region (including the national film-production), the competition being dedicated to Asian cinema. To attend this event in one of the poorest countries of the world (according to official statistics), often hit by natural disaster, should give a memorable experience for all colleagues interested in the role of cinema in the Third World. The festival offers a contribution to the travel costs – 500 € for colleagues coming from Europe, 500 USD for Asian colleagues, plus hotel accommodation. Interested colleagues in European and Asian countries are invited to contact the general secretary *directly* as soon as possible. Web: [www.dhakafilmfestival.org](http://www.dhakafilmfestival.org)

**Rotterdam** (The Netherlands, January 27 – February 7, 2016). 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.) For 2016, the program will be grouped in four new 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”). The change will not affect our jury, which has in the last years focused on the “Bright Future” section (first and second films). The invitation to three European colleagues and one juror coming from another continent includes probably 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: [www.filmfestivalrotterdam.com](http://www.filmfestivalrotterdam.com)

**Berlin** (Germany, February 11-21, 2016). 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 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, maybe two invitations (b&b accommodation) are hopefully available.

C – the Forum should be of special interest for young critics. For this sub-jury, up to two invitations (b&b accommodation) are 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 jury focuses. Air tickets will not be offered. Language: English. Deadline: as soon as possible. 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](http://www.berlinale.de) (Competition, Panorama) and [www.arsenal-berlin.de/en/forum](http://www.arsenal-berlin.de/en/forum) (Forum).

**Cartagena** (Colombia, Festival Internacional de Cine de Cartagena de Indias (FICCI), March 2-7, 2016). The 55th 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 as 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: as soon as possible. Website: [www.festicinecartagena.org](http://www.festicinecartagena.org)

**Guadalajara** (Mexico, March 4–13, 2016). 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). Two prizes will be presented: to an Ibero-American film, and to a Mexican film. 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, in a Talent Press workshop for young critics from northern Latin American countries. Deadline: January 8, 2016.

Website: <https://www.ficg.mx>

**Sofia** (Bulgaria, March 10-20, 2016). 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 8, 2016. Website: [www.siff.bg](http://www.siff.bg)

**Thessaloniki** (Greece, Documentary Film Festival, March 11-20, 2016). Dimitri Eipides founded the Documentary Film Festival »Images of the 21st Century« in 1999. "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 8, 2016. They will receive further information. Language: English.

Website: [www.filmfestival.gr](http://www.filmfestival.gr)

**Fribourg** (Switzerland, March 11-19, 2016). The Fribourg Festival, run by festival director Thierry Jobin, is one of the most important European showcases of Third World cinema, with an interesting selection of films from Africa, Asia and Latin America. Our jury members should therefore have a special interest in and knowledge of Third World cinematographies – and also have the space to cover the event accordingly in their media outlets. The jury (three members) is also open to young critics, as well as to colleagues who would wish to deepen their knowledge of Third World cinema. Languages: English and/or French. Air tickets (hopefully worldwide again) are available. Our colleagues from Africa, Asia and Latin America are particularly invited to apply. National sections should make their candidates known by January 8, 2016.

Website: [www.fiff.ch](http://www.fiff.ch)

**Toulouse** (France, »Rencontres Cinémas d'Amérique Latine«, March 11-20, 2016). A prestigious showcase of recent Latin American films, in 2016 running in its 28th 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 (!), 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 8, 2016. Website: [www.cinelatino.com.fr](http://www.cinelatino.com.fr)

**Hong Kong** (March 21 – April 4, 2016). This major Asian film event, now in its 40th 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). Programmed by our colleagues Li Cheuk-to and Jacob Wong, 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 8, 2016. 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](http://www.hkiff.org.hk)

Edited by Karsten Kastelan

