



CIRCULAR 1/2015



Dhaka (Bangladesh). The next edition of the Dhaka International Film Festival (a biennial event) will take place in January of 2016. At the 2014 edition, we couldn't participate with a jury, because of severe budget cuts. We hope however to be back for the next festival.

Palm Springs (USA, January 2–12, 2015). At the Palm Springs International Film Festival (PSIFF), we present the "International Critics' Prize (FIPRESCI Prize) for the Best Foreign Language Film of the Year (2014)." 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 extends all manageable possibilities of a festival jury, we agreed with the festival organizers (Darryl McDonald, PSIFF's executive director, and Helen du Toit, director of programming) 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. For the complete list of nominated films, please see <http://www.oscars.org/news/83-countries-competition-2014-foreign-language-film-oscar>

Palm Springs is a two-hour car drive southeast of Los Angeles, to the Coachella Valley which has originally been a desert (hot temperatures 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.

Additional condition: fluent knowledge of the English language. The festival provides flights and accommodation (for three jurors from Europe and the Americas). Because of a certain time pressure, we had to begin the composition of the jury (PSIFF will immediately start to send out screeners). Colleagues wishing to participate are therefore asked to urgently contact the General Secretary (via their national sections). They are asked to add to their request a list of nominated films they have already seen.

Additionally to a 'best film', the jury has to award prizes for 'best actor' and 'best actress'.

Website: www.psfilmfest.org

Tromsø (Norway, International Film Festival, January 12–18, 2015). From organizational reason, the festival already needed our jury composition at the beginning of November. We could therefore not announce it in a circular. We did finalize the jury, considering colleagues who had applied in earlier years but had not yet been invited. Website: www.tiff.no

Next Juries January, February, March 2015

Rotterdam (The Netherlands, January 21 – February 1, 2015). 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 2015, the festival has added a new section called "Limelight", which focuses on contemporary films with Dutch distribution already in place. The change will most likely not affect our jury, which has traditionally focused on the "Bright Future" section (first and second films), which – the festival writes "will remain largely unchanged." After taking a short leave last year, Rutger Wolfson is back as artistic director. 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 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

Gothenburg (Sweden, January 23 – February 2, 2015). The Göteborg (European spelling) festival offers a showcase of young international world cinema (sharing prints 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 Japan. 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. They will be asked to present a film selected from the festival program. Website: www.giff.se

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Berlin (Germany, February 5–15, 2015). 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. Languages: 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 (Competition, Panorama) and www.arsenal-berlin.de/en/forum (Forum).

Sofia (Bulgaria, March 5–15, 2015). 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 9, 2015. Website: www.sofiaiff.com

Guadalajara (Mexico, March 6–15, 2015). 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 by January 5, 2015, with some evidence of their knowledge of and special interest in Mexican and Ibero-American cinemas. We will also participate, along with the Berlinale Talents, in a Talent Press workshop for young critics from northern Latin American countries. Deadline: January 5, 2015 Website: <https://www.ficg.mx>

Cartagena (Colombia, Festival Internacional de Cine de Cartagena de Indias (FICCI), March 11–17, 2015). 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 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

Thessaloniki (Greece, Documentary Film Festival, March 13–22, 2015). 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 9, 2015. They will receive further information. Language: English. Website: www.filmfestival.gr

Toulouse (France, "Rencontres Cinémas d'Amérique Latine", March 19–29, 2015). A prestigious showcase of recent Latin American films, in 2015 running in its 27th 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 9, 2015.

Website: www.cinelatino.com.fr

Fribourg (Switzerland, March 21–28, 2015). The Fribourg Festival, headed by 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 16, 2015. Website: www.fiff.ch

Hong Kong (March 23 – April 6, 2015). This major Asian film event, now in its 39th 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 5, 2015. 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

Edited by Karsten Kastelan

The juries of April, May and June will be announced in a later circular. For any changes, please visit regularly the members' area of our website www.fipresci.org.

Jury requests should be addressed to our national sections. They are asked and authorized to propose one national candidate per jury.

All correspondence concerning juries should be directed to jury@fipresci.org.

"All colleagues wishing to participate in a jury or conference, are kindly asked to inform, with their request, on their complete address (including email), as well as on the publication/s and/or media where they are going to cover the concerned event (in particular if this differs from the information given earlier in the registrations). They are as well asked to supply evidence that they contributed as film journalists or critics at least three times to a regular publication or media over a period of the last twelve months." (Jury Regulations)

Deadlines

As soon as possible: Palm Springs, Rotterdam, Gothenburg, Berlin, Cartagena

January 5: Guadalajara, Hong Kong

January 9: Sofia, Thessaloniko Doc, Toulouse

January 16: Fribourg

