



CIRCULAR 5/2018



Palm Springs (USA, January 3 – 14, 2019). At the 30th Palm Springs International Film Festival (PSIFF), we present the *"International Critics' Prize (FIPRESCI Prize) for the Best Foreign Language Film of the Year (2018)"*. 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. Also screenings via streaming in the days before the festival might be necessary. The remaining films will then be divided up between the jurors, who will pick their favorites to be seen by all. For the complete list of nominated films, please see

<https://www.oscars.org/news/87-countries-competition-2018-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 (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 California'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 3, 2019, 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 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, definite date to be confirmed). 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. In addition 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 a.s.a.p. and before November 30, 2018. As soon as enough candidates will have applied, the jury will be finalized, and PSIFF will immediately start to send out screeners. Website: www.psfilmfest.org

Dhaka (Bangladesh, January 10 – 18, 2019). The Dhaka International Film Festival, now in its 17th edition, is committed to "the promotion of a healthy cine culture in Bangladesh and in celebrating the global mainstream in film and its social

Next Juries January, February, March 2019

relevance." This year its general theme is *"Better Film, Better Audience, Better Society"*. The Organizers expect to screen approximately 200 films, coming from approximately 60 countries. The festival will have a competitive section "Asian Cinema", as well as a retrospective, and the sections "Bangladesh Panorama", "Cinema of the World", "Children Films", "Women Filmmakers", "Short and Independent Films" and "Spiritual Films". Our jury consists of three members who should preferably come from Asia, to participate also in the "2nd Asian Film Critics Assembly", a meeting on Asian film criticism which we organize in cooperation with the International Film Critics Association of Bangladesh (IFCA) and the Festival. We will also participate in the "Dhaka International Conference on Women in Cinema 2019", organized for the fifth time. For our jury members, the festival will provide flight (remember: preferably for Asian colleagues) and accommodation. Language: English. National sections (preferably Asia) wishing to participate are kindly asked to propose their candidates as soon as possible and before November 30, 2018 (as soon as enough colleagues will have requested participation, we will finalize the jury). An affinity for Asian cinema would be useful. Website: <http://www.dhakafilmmfestival.org>

Tromsø (Norway, January 14–20, 2019). 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 Tromsø, 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 on 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 (six hotel nights), 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 (consider the 400 € limit for travel expenses). Ideally, the members should arrive in Tromsø on Monday January 14th, and depart on Sunday January 20th, as the awards ceremony takes place on Saturday evening, January 19th. The jurors can look forward to adventurous activities (dog-sledding, for example). Deadline: a.s.a.p. Website: www.tiff.no

Continued from page 1

Rotterdam (The Netherlands, January 23 – February 3, 2019). 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 (plus one Dutch juror of course) includes an air ticket and b&b accommodation. Language: fluent English. National sections are asked to inform us as by December 7, 2018. The festival again organizes a "Trainee Project" for young critics (who will be welcome to follow the discussions of our jury). Website: <https://iffir.com/>

Gothenburg (Sweden, January 25 – February 4, 2019). 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). 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. The most likely jury dates are January 28 to February 1 (tbc), with at least one juror staying until February 3, to hand out the award. Language: fluent English. Please make your candidates known by December 7, 2018. Website: www.giff.se

Bangalore (India, February 7 – 14, 2019). The Bangalore Film Festival, now in its 11th edition (and also known as the Bengaluru International Film Festival – BIFFES) agrees to host our jury for the first time. It's a jury of three members, from Europe, Asia and India. The festival writes: "Bengaluru, the capital of Karnataka State in India, is an important centre of international film culture... The Kannada Film Industry has made signal contribution to the quality and range of cinematic expression and grown to produce over 200 films every year." At our suggestion, our jury will hand out one award to a new Indian art film, with 12-13 titles being pre-selected by the festival (a preliminary selection committee) from the 60+ normally submitted for this section. Travel and accommodation will be provided. Deadline: December 14, 2018. A knowledge of, and familiarity with Indian cinema would be helpful. Website: <http://biffes.in/>

Berlin (Germany, February 7 – 17, 2019). 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 7, 2018.

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

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

Zagreb (Croatia, February 24 – March 3, 2019). The Zagreb International Documentary Festival (ZagrebDox) has been around since 2005 and has proven to be an excellent showcase for non-fiction films. Our second 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 14, 2018. Website: <http://zagrebdox.net/en/2019/naslovnica>

Thessaloniki (Greece, Documentary Film Festival, March 1 – 10, 2019). 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

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2 (Thessaloniki)

competition and from the Greek Panorama. The festival offers air tickets and b&b accommodation, possibly restricted to colleagues coming from European countries. *Documentary film specialists* should apply, via their national sections, by **December 14**, 2018. They will receive further information. Language: English. Website: www.filmfestival.gr

Cartagena (Columbia, Festival Internacional de Cine de Cartagena de Indias (FICCI), March 6 – 11, 2019). The 59th edition of the Cartagena Film Festival, now headed by Felipe Aljure, 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. We hope to be back with our jury. It will focus on *Latin American films*, so only specialists in Latin American cinema should apply (via their national sections). One jury member should be coming from Europe or the US/Canada, the others from Latin American countries. Deadline: **December 14**, 2018. Interested colleagues will get further information as soon as available. Website: www.ficcifestival.com

Sofia (Bulgaria, March 7 – 17, 2019). 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 three years, we have established a special award ("FIPRESCI 90 Platinum Award") which went to Béla Tarr, Goran Paskaljevic, and Ildiko Enyédi, all also holding masterclasses (moderated by Klaus Eder). We will continue with this tradition in 2019 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, 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 21**, 2018. Website: www.siff.bg

Guadalajara (Mexico, March 8 – 15, 2019). 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 co-organize, along with the Berlinale and the Goethe-Institute, a Talent Press workshop for young critics from northern Latin American countries. Deadline: **December 21**, 2018. Website: <https://www.figc.mx>

Saguenay (Canada, "Saguenay International Short Film Festival – Regard 21e", March 13–17, 2019). The festival invites again 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 21**, 2018. Festival: <http://festivalregard.com/>

Hong Kong (March 18 – April 1, 2019). This major Asian film event, now in its 43rd 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 longtime partner and colleague and programmer *Li Cheuk-to* left the festival administration recently. We hope that the new team will continue to host our jury. In this case, our jury will focus on 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,

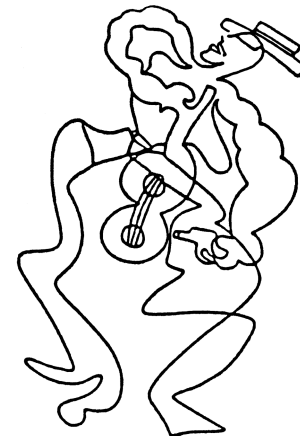
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Continued from page 3 (Hong Kong)

the exact period and conditions to be announced later).
Language: fluent English. Deadline: December 21, 2018.
Interested colleagues are invited to make themselves known
via their national sections; they'll receive further information.
Website: www.hkiff.org.hk

Vilnius (Vilnius International Film Festival Kino Pavasaris, Lithuania, March 21 – April 4, 2019). Now in its 24th year, "*Kino Pavasaris*" 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 can also make some discoveries among the films from the *Baltic region* – on which our jury will focus. There is also an opportunity to see some works in progress from the region and be informed about many new projects. The Baltic films which are eligible for our prize will be shown in different sections, and will be labeled as candidates for our prize. The jury will have three members, will probably be invited for the last six nights of the festival, the invitation will cover an air ticket within Europe and the hotel accommodation. Interested colleagues (Europe, including the Nordic countries) should make themselves known (via their national sections) by December 21, 2018. They will receive further information, Language: English.
Festival: <http://kinopavasaris.lt/en>

Toulouse (France, "Rencontres Cinémas d'Amérique Latine", March 22 – 31, 2019). A prestigious showcase of recent Latin American films, now in its 31st 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 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 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 21, 2018.
Website: www.cinelatino.com.fr



Juries in April (to be announced in next circular): Buenos Aires (BAFICI, April 3-14, 2019); Panama (April 4-10, 2019); Istanbul (April 5-16, 2019); Lecce (April 8-13, 2019); Ismailia (April 10-16, 2019); Wiesbaden (GoEast, April 10-16, 2019).

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