



CIRCULAR 2/2020

fIPRES CI

Dear colleagues,

This is a regular circular, as we send it four times a year to our members to inform about upcoming events, in particular about next juries at worldwide festivals.

This is *not* a normal circular, though, as the current situation is far from normal. Our everyday lives have been interrupted by a virus. We do not know today what will happen tomorrow – and what happens tomorrow could always be worse than what we imagine today.

This affects our professional lives. It affects the world of festivals. During the last months and for the months to come, festivals were cancelled. Alternatively, they were postponed to a later date this year. Or they were moved online, to an Internet platform. However, every decision made today can change tomorrow.

Let's find a way to handle this complicated situation.

As always, we announce our juries at festivals that *normally* take place in July, August, and September. We announce them as if they would indeed take place as announced. This means: interested candidates should make themselves known via their national section and by the respective deadline. **Every candidate needs to add whether he/she is also ready and willing to serve on an online jury in case a festival goes online.**

All current information about juries (and their date and form) will be immediately uploaded to our website (member's area, jury's page, <https://fipresci.org/members-area/juries/>). All colleagues who have shown interest in a jury will be informed directly about the situation and about possible changes.

We hope that this way, each colleague can get all reliable and available information on the festivals and our juries.

Some additional information.

Pay attention to travel warnings issued by the respective government authorities of your country and the visiting country, and possible quarantine issues upon re-entry.

The conditions to serve on an online jury are: to be able see films via streaming; to use Skype or Zoom for jury meetings; to include the jury activity in your everyday life at home.

To see films via streaming has not so far been much favored by film critics and concerns some basics of our profession.

Published on June 19, 2020, by
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Next Juries July, August, September 2020

We will discuss it in detail at our next general assembly (no date fixed yet). For the time being, we will prefer "real juries", but will not refuse "online juries".

It might be that we need to apply deadlines more flexibly, according to the circumstances. Please refer to our website for possible changes.

Best wishes,

KLAUS EDER

Juries in July, August, September 2020

Deadlines. "As soon as possible" means that there is a certain urgency to finalize the jury. Such juries will be closed as soon as enough appropriate candidates have applied. As well, because of the unusual situation caused by the Coronavirus, deadlines might be handled more flexibly.

National Sections are kindly requested to appoint the national jury members (requested for a majority of our juries) by respecting the applicable deadlines.

Yerevan (Armenia, "Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival"). The festival has been postponed – from the traditional summer-date in July to autumn, November 1-8, 2020. Our colleague Susanna Harutyunyan writes: "At this moment GAIFF team made a decision to postpone the festival to November 1–8, 2020, to be able to arrange a real film celebration with screenings at cinemas and guests, hopefully." We will announce details in the next circular.

Web: www.gaiff.am

Prishtina (Kosovo, July 14–19, 2020). The festival will keep its date in July, and will be adapted to the health conditions: "We will hold a full open-air edition due to pandemic," writes festival director Vjosa Berisha, "while PriForum will happen online." There will however be no competition and no juries ("We cannot accommodate the international juries at this point with all the restrictions.") Hopefully, we will be back at the festival's next edition in 2021. Web: www.prirest.org

Motovun (Croatia, July 30 – August 1, 2020). The festival prepares "a shorter edition" of only of three days. We cannot establish "a real jury" (travel restrictions may still be active), but will have an online jury of three members. Interested colleagues are asked to make themselves known (via their national sections). The small and lovely festival usually organizes an overview on international cinema and includes

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films from the region in particular (in a program called "Country Partner"). Colleagues interested in attending online should contact the General Secretary (via their national sections). Deadline: asap. This event should also be attractive to young critics. Language: fluent English.

Website: www.motovunfilmfestival.com

Locarno (Switzerland, August 5–15, 2020). The regular Locarno Film Festival's 2020 edition has been cancelled. In a special online edition, new initiatives will be offered, see [Locarno 2020 – For The Future of the Films](#) and the main initiative [The Films After Tomorrow](#). Web: www.pardo.ch

Palic (Serbia, August 8–14, 2020). The festival plans to organize a regular version. The plan is to fly jurors in. They should however be prepared to work online, if it turns out to be necessary. The European Film Festival Palic, headed by our colleague Nenad Dukic, was first founded in 1992 in an effort to give audiences access to films made by the then-warring factions of former Yugoslavia. With its 10th edition in 2003, it became a truly European film festival. Split between Palic and neighboring Subotica, the festival combines outdoor screenings with indoor locations and has so far given out awards to Jean-Marc Barr, Emir Kusturica, Nikita Mikhalkov, Constantin Costa Gavras and Ken Loach... Our jury will consist of three members from Europe and will likely focus on the main competition, with travel and full accommodation being provided. Deadline: asap.

Website: www.palicfilmfestival.com

Haugesund (Norway, August 14–21, 2020). This year, the festival "will run its course at limited capacity" and cannot host our jury. Website: <https://filmfestivalen.no>

Venice (Italy, September 2–12, 2020). The festival, headed by Alberto Barbera, plans to take place in its traditional way. We'll present two awards: to a film in the international competition and to a young or first film in the parallel sections. Colleagues interested in participating in the jury are asked to make known in their request (to be sent via their national sections), on which of the two "sub-juries" they would wish to focus their attention (applications without this information are at risk of not being processed). Well-known and experienced critics are invited to join the competition part, while young critics are welcome to serve on the parallel sections part. Invitations will cover hotel accommodation for (almost) the whole period of the event, but no travel expenses. Colleagues who are regularly invited to Venice and wish to extend their Lido activities by serving on our jury are also asked to make themselves known. Deadline: asap. Language: fluent English or French. Website: www.labiennale.org

Toronto (Canada, September 10–20, 2020). The decision of a "traditional" or an "online" jury has not yet been made. We started to talk preliminarily about an online jury, composed of three international critics that will focus on 1st and 2nd long feature films. It is preferably open to critics who cover the event in a well-known publication (print media, daily or weekly newspapers or film magazines of a certain importance). National sections (worldwide) should make their

candidates known asap and by July 10, 2020, latest delay. Language: very fluent English.

Website: www.tiff.net/thefestival

Duhok International Film Festival (Iraq, originally planned for September 2020). The festival informs us that this year's edition has been cancelled: "We are sorry to announce that the 8th Duhok International Film Festival has to be cancelled due to the ongoing corona pandemic. This year's edition [...] will be postponed for a year." Website: <https://www.duhokiff.com>

St. Petersburg (Russia, September 11–19, 2020). The "Message to Man International Film Festival" will probably take place in actual theaters. Candidates for our jury should however be ready to change to an online jury, if requested because of the circumstances (of cinemas and flights). The festival, now in its 30th edition, is dedicated to documentaries and to experimental films. It hosts a national as well as a worldwide competition and should be of special interest for colleagues interested in documentaries, as well as short and experimental films. Our jury will focus on full-length documentaries and has three members. Airfare (preferably from Europe) and hotel accommodation will most likely be provided (if circumstances permit). Interested colleagues are kindly asked to contact their national sections. The deadline: asap – urgent (visa), latest by July 10, 2020.

Website: www.message2man.com/

Perm (International Documentary Film Festival Flahertiana, Russia, September 18–24, 2020). After having had a jury at the "Flahertiana" festival from 2007 to 2014, we have once again been invited to return on its 20th anniversary, with the possibility of colleagues from Eastern and Western Europe being provided with air tickets and accommodation. We are, however, only in the early stages of negotiations, as the festival itself currently has to deal with budget issues and safety measures for September. While writing these lines, we got news from the festival: "We absolutely won't move to online. But it seems that we can't invite foreign guests in September because of a very unstable situation with COVID in Russia. So now we are thinking about changing the dates and have a "real" festival in January." Colleagues with a special interest in the documentary film genre (and a solid knowledge of English) are kindly asked to inform the general secretary (via their national sections) about their basic interest, may it be for the September issue (not very probable), may it be for January 2021 (the exact dates to be published later). No deadline, we're expecting only an expression of interest and will keep all candidates informed about the further development. Website: <http://eng.flahertiana.ru>

San Sebastian (Spain, September 18–26, 2020). This festival, which celebrates its 68th anniversary this year, will most likely take place in its traditional form (unless changes have to be made). San Sebastian has become one of the highlights of the international festival circuit, mostly due to its well-selected program and its marvelous retrospectives. Our jury (five members) will focus on the international competition. The festival might offer hotel invitations (b&b). Colleagues being interested should contact their national sections, informing if

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they need an invitation. Also the confirmation will be appreciated that the candidates would move to an online jury if necessary. They will receive further information. Deadline: July 17, 2020. Languages: fluent English or French.

Website: www.sansebastianfestival.com

Drama (Greece, September 20 – 26, 2020). The International Short Film Festival in Drama, dedicated to fictional, documentary and animated short films, informs: "We are working in the direction to present it normally on the big screen. If the general health circumstances allow it we will do it. If not, we consider an online version... Flights are open in July, but we will buy tickets the latest possible so as to be as sure as we can that our guests can fly to Greece." – The festival is now its 26th edition and runs concurrently with the Greek Short Film Festival, which will celebrate its 43rd anniversary. Located in the district of Macedonia, Northern Greece, the aptly named city at the foot of mount Falakro has been an integral part of the Hellenic world since the classical era. Our jury will have three members from European countries. In case of a traditional festival, airfare and hotel-accommodation will be provided. Colleagues interested in short narrative, documentaries and animation, and available for both a traditional or an online event, are kindly asked to apply to their national sections. Deadline: July 17, 2020.

Website: www.dramafilmfestival.gr

ElGouna (Egypt, September 24 – October 2, 2020). As of now, the festival will most likely take place as it did in previous years. After its launch in 2017, it didn't take very long for ElGouna to become one of the most interesting festivals in the Middle East. It is the only film festival in Egypt (and maybe in the entire Arabic world) not to be funded primarily by the state, but by private entities, which allows for a well-deserved respite from local politics. In its first three editions, the festival enjoyed both guest-lists packed with celebrities from the Arab world and a very good selection of international and regional films. The festival is run by Intishal El-Tamimi and the artistic director is Egyptian filmmaker Amir Ramsis. Like last year, our jury will be made up of three members (including an Egyptian colleague) and will focus on Arab feature films in the festival's competitions (both fiction and documentary). The festival will provide flights and accommodation. Interested colleagues will be asked to apply via their national sections. Deadline July 17, 2020.

Website: <http://elgounafilmfestival.com>

Odessa (Ukraine, September 25–October 3, 2020). The festival was postponed from July and will be an online event this year. The competition program includes "features of high artistic quality aimed for mass audiences", or "art-mainstream", as the festival organizers have originally called it. Some of the films will probably be known from the festival circuit. The jury will have three members (among them a colleague from Ukraine), and will work online. Colleagues with a special interest in eastern European cinema and ready to sit on an online jury are kindly requested to make themselves known (via their national sections) by July 17. Language: English.

Website: www.oiff.com.ua

Miskolc (Hungary, September). The 2020 edition has been cancelled. The 17th festival edition will take place in September 2021. Website: www.cinefest.hu

First Juries in October

Busan (Korea, October 7–16, 2020). The festival writes: "We have the green light to go ahead and prepare the festival in its true form. This means films on big screens in cinemas, and guests visiting to talk with the audience. Unfortunately, our country still has a 14-day mandatory quarantine imposed for all people (regardless of nationality) arriving from overseas. We are hoping that restrictions shall be more relaxed throughout the summer, but it seems inevitable that international traveling will meet unexpected challenges." This festival in the Korean city of Busan (formerly Pusan) has, in the 25 years of its existence, become a marvelous showcase for and center of Asian cinema. It is one of the most important film events in Asia and a must for everybody with a particular interest in Asian films. The festival section "New Currents", which our jurors are going to follow, presents 10 first- and second-time filmmakers from a variety of Asian countries. The festival also offers a series of new Korean films, the "A Window of Asian Cinema"-Series, which spotlights "the most-talked-about films of the year by talented Asian filmmakers" and a world cinema program. The invitation includes an air ticket, with the stipulation that "the festival offers only economy class flight round-trip to/from Busan, and can cover up to 1,200 USD when travelling from Asia, and up to 1,800 USD each for those travelling from non-Asian countries." Colleagues are advised to check various airline-connections or should be willing to cover the extra charge (if) at their own expense. Attention: our jury (three members) is strictly reserved for specialists of Asian cinema (language: English). Only colleagues who can produce some evidence of their special interest in and knowledge of Asian cinema are asked to contact us (via their national sections) by July 31, 2020. Website: www.biff.kr

Vladivostok (Russia, October 10–16, 2020). The festival informed us that it is set to take place in its traditional form. Hopefully the travel restrictions for foreigners will be removed soon, so that the attendance of international participants can be guaranteed. (The option would be an online jury.) This year would see our seventh jury at the Vladivostok International Film Festival of Asian-Pacific countries, which celebrates its 18th edition. It is dedicated to "developing cultural exchange between Asia-Pacific countries and presenting Asia-Pacific cinematography to Russian people". It should be of interest for colleagues attracted to cinema from these countries. Our jury will have three members. Colleagues interested in Asian-Pacific cinema are kindly asked to contact their national sections – please as soon as possible and by July 10 at the latest (because of time-consuming formalities such as visa, long distance flight, etc).

Website: www.pacificmeridianfest.ru

The juries at festivals in October, November and December will be announced in a later circular.

Texts edited by Karsten Kastelan.