



# FIPRESCI Newsletter #4

January 2026

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## 1. Introduction

**Dear colleagues,**

After an overwhelmingly successful year for FIPRESCI, **2026 has begun with no less intensity — and with a wealth of encouraging news.** We were delighted to kick off the year with the announcement of important new collaborations in the Nordic region, the establishment of a new prize, and the continuation of research initiatives supported by our federation.

The Board remains firmly committed to creating further opportunities throughout the coming eleven months to advance the art and practice of film criticism worldwide.

And now, we invite you to take a look back at the highlights of **January.**

Yours truly,  
FIPRESCI Board

## 2. News

### FIPRESCI introduces the Documentary Grand Prix, to be presented annually at MDAG



The International Federation of Film Critics, FIPRESCI, which brings together film journalists from around the world, is pleased to announce the launch of **The Documentary Grand Prix**. **This new award will be given to the best documentary film of the year.** The winner will be selected through a vote by all members of this prestigious federation, representing over 50 national sections and 30 more countries with individual members. The award will be presented annually starting in 2026 at Millennium Docs Against Gravity (MDAG). The first winner will be announced at the Opening Ceremony of the 23rd MDAG in May 2026.

[More info here](#)

### On Falling Wins the Prix FIPRESCI for European Discovery 2026



At the 38th European Film Awards in Berlin, the [Prix FIPRESCI for European Discovery was awarded to \*On Falling\*](#), the debut feature by Portuguese director Laura Carreira. The decision highlights the role of international film critics in identifying emerging voices in European cinema at an early stage of their careers.

[Read more](#)

## **FIPRESCI at the 38th European Film Awards in Berlin**

The award ceremony for the 2025 European Film Awards once more celebrated the best of film production releases in Europe over the previous year, while also paying homage to cinema legends. Many of those who came to the stage to present or receive an award did not shy away from commenting on the current state of the world, often reflected in the subject matter of films from the final shortlist.

**Read the full account of the ceremony by the FIPRESCI member Steven Yates :**

[Click here](#)

## The finalists of the CINAMAA Cinematic Studies research papers call have been announced

In collaboration with our Saudi Arabian partners @Cinamaa\_sa, FIPRESCI launched a Call for Papers dedicated to **Cinematic Studies**. We invited scholars, critics, and researchers to submit proposals exploring diverse aspects of cinema and its critical discourse. As a result, we received 32 high-quality applications from 21 countries.

We would like to sincerely thank all applicants for their ideas and projects. We greatly value the perspectives and research interests reflected in every proposal, and we would be pleased to remain in contact for potential future collaborations and upcoming calls.

[Discover the finalists](#)

## BUFF Malmö Film Festival establishes its first FIPRESCI Jury



In its upcoming edition, taking place from March 7–13, 2026, **BUFF Malmö Film Festival** will welcome a FIPRESCI Jury for the first time, marking a new collaboration between the International Federation of Film Critics and one of Europe's leading platforms for children's and youth cinema. This new partnership was made possible with the support of the **European Children's Film Association (ECFA)**, of which BUFF Malmö Film Festival is a member.

[Read the full statement](#)

## FIPRESCI announces a new collaboration with Malmö Arab Film Festival



The International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI) and the **Malmö Arab Film Festival (MAFF)** announce a new partnership, whereby the festival will host a jury composed of FIPRESCI member critics starting from its 16th edition, taking place from April 10 to 16, 2026.

The jury will each year include critics from Europe, the Nordic countries, and the Arab world, reflecting the festival's mission to foster cinematic collaboration between Europe and the Arab world—a mission that has established it as Europe's largest festival dedicated to Arab cinema.

[More info](#)



### **FIPRESCI at IFFR**

International Film Festival Rotterdam hosted the FIPRESCI 100th Anniversary cocktail, preceded by a speech from the federation's president Ahmed Shawky.

## **3. Juries**

**In December, FIPRESCI juries were held at:**

- 37th Palm Springs International Film Festival, USA
- 36th Tromsø International Film Festival
- 49th Göteborg Film Festival

Among the winning films: **Happy Birthday** by Sarah Goher (Egypt), **Left-Handed Girl** by Shih-Ching Tsou (Taiwan), **Broken Voices** by Ondrej Provaznik (Czech Republic)

All festival reports are available on our website



Göteborg: Janet Barış (Turkey), Jenni Zylka (Germany), Jean-Max Méjean (France)



Tromsø: Ida Madsen Hestman (Norway), Sarah-Louise Pelletier-Morin, (Canada Québec), Tadeusz Szczepański, (Poland)



Palm Springs: Patrick Mullen (Canada), Fran Romero (Chile) Davide Abbatescianni (Ireland)

## 4. Next month...

### What to look forward to in February :

- Berlinale - the biggest FIPRESCI jury and 4 prizes!
- More collaborations in Nordics

## 5. Outro

Farewell to the great Béla Tarr, who passed away on January 6.



*"Father and daughter appear to be living a life without anything resembling pleasure or reward.... Even when the cataclysm drives the light out of the air, they go through their daily rounds. When all is said and done, how different are the people from the horse, with its blinders and its clockwork duties? Tarr forces you to ponder these ideas, while the world's last light vanishes."* Some words on **The Turin Horse** by FIPRESCI member Robert Horton - full review [available here.](#)

# See you next month !

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