



# FIPRESCI Newsletter #7

April 2026

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## 1. Introduction

### **Dear colleagues,**

Traditionally, April is a busy month for FIPRESCI critics. With ten juries—including a debut presence at the Malmö Arab Film Festival—it proved to be a particularly rich period of cinematic discovery and engagement.

Alongside our collaborations with partner festivals, FIPRESCI members also took part in a series of panel discussions, playing a key role in conversations on filmic perspectives on revolution, cultures of remembrance, and social upheaval in cinema, as well as exploring film criticism beyond the review—its function as a cultural and political voice.

Let us take a closer look at the Federation's activities over the past month.

**Yours truly,  
FIPRESCI Board**

## 2. News

### Debut jury in Malmö



As we announced in [the January newsletter](#), the **16th edition of the Malmö Arab Film Festival welcomed its very first FIPRESCI jury**. The members were: Petra Meterc (Slovenia), Schayan Riaz (Germany), Marwa Abu Eish Elmahassen (Egypt).

The FIPRESCI Prize went to **My Father's Scent** by Mohamed Siam (Egypt, Norway, France, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Qatar, 2025, 96 min). The jury's motivation : "A film that portrays a parent and child relationship in all its complexity, with tender and deeply human moments, and remarkable honesty and compassion for all its fractured characters."

*Picture : The Jury with winner Mohamed Siam holding the FIPRESCI prize diploma.*

### **FIPRESCI panel discussion at the 16th Malmö Arab Film Festival, Sweden**



### **Beyond the Review: Film Critics as Cultural and Political Voices**

At the Malmö Arab Film Festival, three critics from FIPRESCI talked openly about their work beyond the traditional review. Drawing from their experience engaging with films shaped by politics, displacement, and contested histories, they reflected on how criticism can affect how films are seen, understood, and remembered. The conversation moved through questions of responsibility and power: how to bring context without taking over the film, how to push back against dominant narratives while still paying attention to craft, and how to write about films that arrive carrying heavy expectations. Moderated by film critic **Elena Rubashevsk**a and with participation of **Ahmed Shawky**, **Petra Meterc** and **Schayan Riaz**, the discussion unfolded through a series of questions that guided the critics' different perspectives while opening space for a broader reflection on the role of criticism today.

*Photo credit : Muhammad Hamed*

### **FIPRESCI panel at goEast, Germany**

At the 26th goEast film festival in Wiesbaden, Germany, a panel discussion was held with FIPRESCI critics Mariana Hristova, Mariola Wiktor and Stojan Sinadino. It was entitled "Who owns the revolution?" and was devoted to the examination of filmic perspectives on revolution, remembrance culture and social upheaval in cinema.

### **FIPRESCI panel at Julien Dubuque, USA**

Critics' panel on "What has changed in film criticism in the past 15 years" to coincide with the 15th anniversary of the festival.

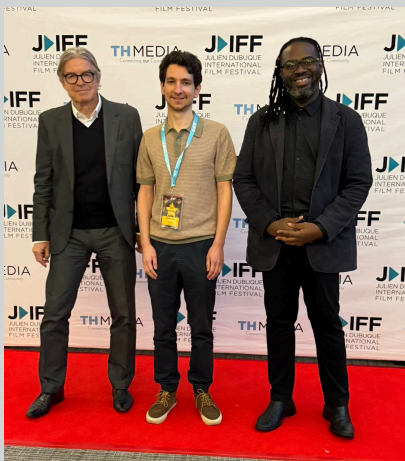
## 3. Juries

In April, FIPRESCI juries were held in:

**Hong Kong, Istanbul, Malmö, Guadalajara,  
Dubuque, Nyon, Zagreb, Wiesbaden**

Among the winning films: *Outliving Shakespeare* by Ruben Ghazaryan Inna Sahakyan, *Slet 1988* by Marta Popivoda, *Saudades Eternas* by Emma Boccanfuso, *Oca* by Karla Badillo, *Linka Linka* by Kangdrun...

All festival reports are available on our website



**Dubuque** : Beat Glur (Switzerland), Elijah Baron (Canada), Andrew Kendall (Guyana)



**Wiesbaden** : Silvia Bahl (Germany), Stojan Sinadinov (North Macedonia), Mariola Wiktor (Poland)



**Hong Kong** : Timmy Chih-Ting Chen (Hong Kong), Panagiotis Kotzathanasis (Greece), Sara Simić (Croatia)



**Istanbul** : Mohamed Nabil (Egypt), Nada Azhari Gillon (France), Selim Eyuboglu (Turkey)



**Nyon** : Nil Kural (Turkey), Jerry Chiemeke (UK), Sabrina Schwob (Switzerland)



**Guadalajara** : Salome Kikaleishvili (Georgia), Azadeh Jafari (Iran), Alfredo Naime Padua (Mexico)



Zagreb : Ana Stanić (Germany), Petra Belc (Croatia), Isabel Jacobs (Czech Republic)

## 4. Next month...

### What to look forward to in May:

- Cannes film festival of course !
- But also festivals in Krakow, Schwerin, Oberhausen
- The winner of the very first FIPRESCI Documentary Grand Prix, to be announced at the Opening Ceremony of the 23rd Millenium Docs Against Gravity in Poland, on May 8. **The nominees were announced in February, you can find them by clicking [here](#).**

## 5. Outro

**Farewell to unforgettable french actress Nathalie Baye, who passed away on April 17th.**



# See you next month !

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