



FIPRESCI Newsletter #8

May 2026

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1. Introduction

Dear colleagues,

It is always a pleasure to meet again in May on the Côte d'Azur, and this year the FIPRESCI jury once again had the opportunity to walk the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival, while also welcoming members and friends of the federation to the traditional critics' cocktail party celebrating film criticism during one of the world's most important cinematic events.

May also brought major highlights in the documentary field. During Millennium Docs Against Gravity, the very first FIPRESCI Documentary Grand Prix was successfully presented, accompanied by the debut of a FIPRESCI jury at one of Europe's leading documentary festivals. The month was marked by numerous inspiring encounters and discussions that are already developing into exciting new collaborations.

Stay tuned — summer promises further surprises. But first, let us look back at the highlights of May.

Yours truly,
FIPRESCI Board

2. News

Fiume o morte! wins the first-ever FIPRESCI Documentary Grand Prix



On Thursday, May 7, during the Opening Ceremony of the **23rd Millennium Docs Against Gravity**, a new international award was introduced – the **FIPRESCI Documentary Grand Prix**. This distinction honors the best documentary film of the past year, selected through a vote by members of the International Federation of Film Critics from around the world. MDAG will serve as the home of the award, which will be presented annually at the opening of the second-largest documentary film festival in Europe and Poland's biggest film event. The jury, comprising all FIPRESCI members, representing over 50 national sections and individual members from more than 30 additional countries, has chosen the winner. The first recipient of the Documentary Grand Prix is *Fiume o morte!* by **Igor Bezinović**.

[Read more](#)

A New Collaboration Between the Cairo International Film Festival, FIPRESCI, and Durban FilmMart to Empower Young Critics

The Egyptian Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival witnessed the announcement of a new collaboration bringing together the **Cairo International Film Festival (CIFF)**, the **International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI)**, and the **Durban FilmMart (DFM)**, during the Federation's annual reception. Under this collaboration, FIPRESCI will select one of the standout participants in the Durban Talent Press program to receive an award presented by CIFF. This award includes an invitation to attend the festival, cover its events, and write for its English-language daily bulletin.

[Read more](#)

Fipresci cocktail party in Cannes



Held with the kind support of the Egyptian Pavilion, the FIPRESCI cocktail party once again brought together film critics, filmmakers, and festival partners on the shores of the Côte d'Azur during the Cannes Film Festival.

Credit : Muhammad Hamed

[Click here for all the pictures of the FIPRESCI cocktail party](#)

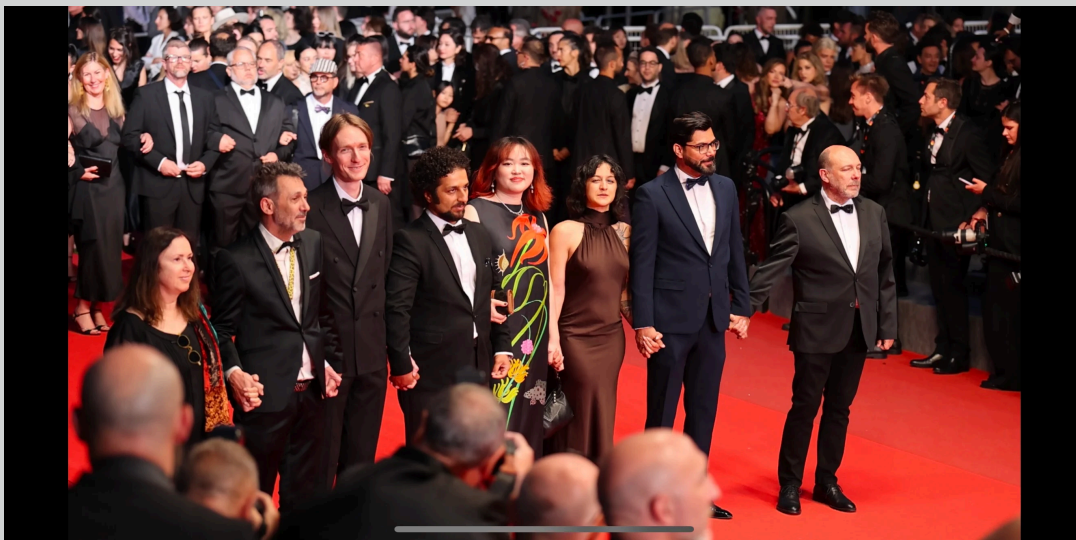
3. Juries

In May, FIPRESCI juries were held in:

Cannes, Schwerin, Oberhausen, Warsaw

Among the winning films: *Fjord* by Cristian Mungiu, *Treat Her Like a Lady* by Paloma Aguilera Valdebenito, *Opera* by Igor Zelić, *Becaària* by Erik Bernasconi, *A Girl Unknown* by Jing Zou...

[All festival reports are available on our website](#)



Cannes : Ivonete Pinto (Brazil), Renaud Baronian (France), Edin Čusto (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Pouya Aghelizadeh (Iran), Tilda Li (China), Elvira Del Guercio (Italy), Mohamed Allal (Algeria), Thierry Meranger (France). Not pictured : Pamela Jahn (UK)



Warsaw (Millenium Docs Against Gravity) : Bartolomé Armentano (Argentina), Sylwia Szostak (Poland), Igor Angjelkov (Macedonia)



Oberhausen Short Film Festival
: Amirata Joolae (Iran), Fabian Tietke (Germany), Meena Karnik (India),
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4. Next month...

What to look forward to in June:

- Juries in Brussels, Bishkek, Cluj Napoca, Guadalajara and more
- Announcements of new exciting partnerships!

5. Outro

Farewell to...

- **Krzysztof Piesiewicz** - Screenwriter, lawyer, politician, longtime collaborator of Krzysztof Kieslowski, Piesiewicz passed away during the Cannes film festival this year, as mentioned by Asghar Farhadi, whose Palme d'Or contender *Parallel Tales* was inspired by Kieslowski and Piesiewicz's *Dekalog: Six*.

- **Atsuko Saito** - Japanese film critic and cinema translator, [member of FIPRESCI](#). She had studied cinema in Paris and was a regular at the Tokyo International Film Festival and other film events over the years. Translations include Pierre Braunberger's *Cinemamemoire*, and film subtitles include Mike Leigh's *Vera Drake*, and Frederick Wiseman's *Near Death* and *Domestic Violence*. She also did Japanese subtitles for the Tagalog scenes in *Plan 75* by Chie Hayakawa. (sources: [X AKA Twitter](#) / [Yamagata IFF](#))



See you next month !

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