



FIPRESCI Newsletter #9

June 2026

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1. Introduction

Dear colleagues,

June was another dynamic month for FIPRESCI, marked by new partnerships, returning collaborations, and a continued commitment to strengthening international film criticism.

We took important steps in expanding our festival network by establishing new collaborations with Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival, reaffirming our dedication to documentary cinema, and with Sitges and BIFAN, bringing the FIPRESCI Prize to two of the world's leading festivals devoted to fantastic and genre cinema. At the same time, we were delighted to continue our young but already fruitful partnerships with the Bishkek International Film Festival and ART Film Fest Košice,

where our juries returned for the second consecutive year to discover and champion regional cinema.

As always, FIPRESCI critics were present at the Flying Broom International Women's Film Festival, celebrating women's voices in cinema, while our long-standing partnerships with the Kraków Film Festival, Transilvania International Film Festival, and Mumbai Film Festival continued to enrich our international calendar.

Beyond jury activities, we remained committed to supporting film criticism through our joint publication with the Polish Film Festival dedicated to Krzysztof Kieślowski, and to nurturing future generations of critics through our educational collaboration with the Warsaw International Film Festival.

We wish all our members and festival partners an inspiring and productive summer. Now, let's take a closer look at the highlights of June.

**Yours truly,
FIPRESCI Board**

2. News

FIPRESCI Establishes a Jury at Sitges – International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia

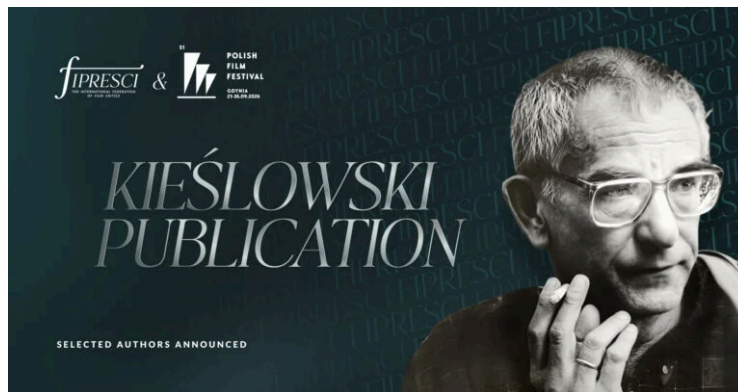


The International Federation of Film Critics and the **Sitges – International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia** are pleased to announce the establishment of a FIPRESCI jury beginning with the 2026 edition of the festival. Founded in 1968, Sitges is widely regarded as the world's leading festival dedicated to fantastic, horror, and science-fiction cinema. For

nearly six decades, it has served as a premier platform for genre filmmaking, championing both established masters and emerging talents while introducing audiences to some of the most innovative and influential works in contemporary cinema. The festival's unique ability to bridge artistic ambition and popular appeal has made it a key destination for filmmakers, critics, industry professionals, and audiences from around the globe.

[Read about it here](#)

FIPRESCI and Polish Film Festival Announce Selected Authors for the Kieślowski Publication



FIPRESCI and the Polish Film Festival are pleased to announce the selection of authors for a **joint publication dedicated to the legacy of Krzysztof Kieślowski**. The initiative was launched to commemorate the anniversary of the celebrated Polish filmmaker's passing and to reflect on the enduring impact of his work on cinema, film criticism, and contemporary culture. Bringing together international critical perspectives, the publication seeks to demonstrate how Kieślowski's films continue to inspire new interpretations, provoke debate, and resonate with audiences and critics across generations and geographical boundaries.

[More information here](#)

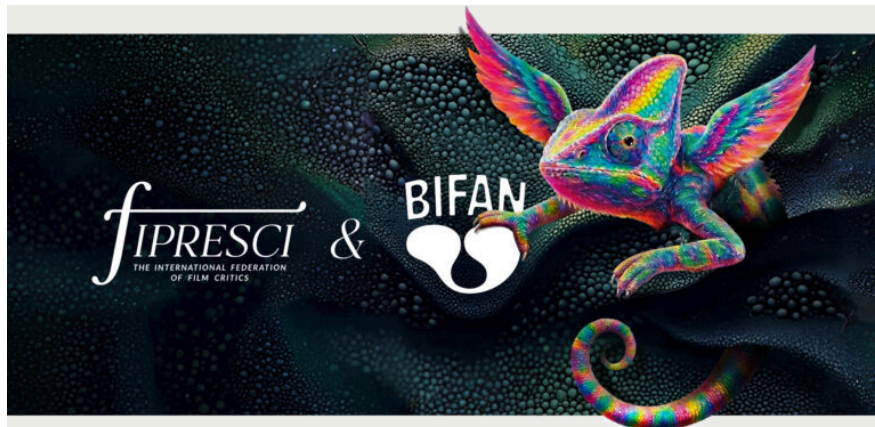
FIPRESCI Establishes a Jury at Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival



The International Federation of Film Critics and the Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival are pleased to announce the establishment of a FIPRESCI jury at the festival, beginning with the upcoming 30th edition, which will take place from October 23 to November 1, 2026. The new collaboration marks another important step in FIPRESCI's growing engagement with documentary cinema. Recognized as one of the most respected documentary film festivals in Europe and the leading event of its kind in Central and Eastern Europe, Ji.hlava has, for nearly three decades, provided a platform for innovative, artistically ambitious, and critically engaged documentary filmmaking.

[Read more](#)

FIPRESCI and BIFAN Announce First-Ever FIPRESCI Award at a Fantastic Film Festival

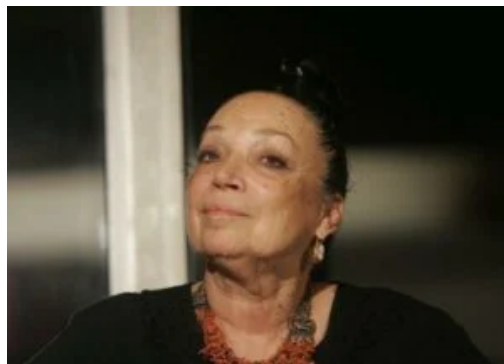


The International Federation of Film Critics and the Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFAN) are proud to announce a new collaboration with South Korea's first

genre-focused film festival and Asia's premier hub for fantastic cinema. The partnership, starting from the upcoming 30th edition of the festival on July 2-12, 2026, will establish FIPRESCI's first official critics' jury at BIFAN, marking an important milestone: the first-ever FIPRESCI Award to be presented at a fantastic film festival.

[More info](#)

As Edna Ascends the Stairs: In Memory of Edna Fainaru



Edna Fainaru was one of the most essential and influential figures in Israeli cinema over the last four decades and, paradoxically, at the same time, one of the least known to the Israeli public. This is partly because she published her articles mainly in international outlets such as *Variety* and *Screen International*.

[Read the In Memoriam by Pablo Utin](#)

3. Juries

In May, FIPRESCI juries were held in:

Krakow, Košice, Mumbai, Transilvania, Bishkek, Ankara

Among the winning films: *The Tale of Silyan* by Tamara Kotevska, *Don't Let Me Die* by Andrei Epure, *Yo (Love is a Rebellious Bird)* by Anna Fitch Banker White, *Another Birth* by Isabelle Kalandar...

All festival reports are available on our website



32nd IFF ART FILM Košice: Pierre-Yves Roger (France), Clementine Van Wijngaarden (The Netherlands), Matus Kvasnicka (Slovakia)



29th Flying Broom International Women's Film Festival, Ankara: Nadia Meflah (France), Omnia Adel (Egypt), Ece Vitrinel (Turkey)



4th Bishkek International Film Festival: Manuel Halpern (Portugal), Latika Padgaonkar (India), Israa Radaydeh (Jordan)



66th Krakow Film Festival: Kira Tazsman (Germany), Ladislav Volko (Slovakia), Lukasz Knap (Poland)



19th Mumbai International Film Festival: Rwita Dutta (India), Kyoko Inada (Japan), Barbara Lorey de Lacharriere (France)



25th Transilvania International Film Festival: Steffen Moestrup (Denmark), Veronika Zakonjšek (Slovenia), Marian Florian Tutui (Romania)

4. Calls

FIPRESCI Critics Project – Applications Open for the 21st Edition of the Warsaw International Film Festival Workshop



The Warsaw International Film Festival has announced the 21st edition of the FIPRESCI Warsaw Critics Project, which will take place during the festival's 42nd edition, running from October 9–18, 2026. Organised in collaboration with FIPRESCI and the Warsaw Film Foundation, the programme is aimed at young film critics and journalists from Central and Eastern Europe who are at the beginning of their professional careers. The selected participants will attend one of the region's most prestigious film events, meet filmmakers and industry professionals from around the world, and serve on the Young FIPRESCI Jury, which will present an award to a film screened during the festival.

Read more

5. Next month...

What to look forward to in July:

- July will bring another milestone for FIPRESCI with the **very first FIPRESCI jury at the Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFAN)**, marking the beginning of our collaboration with one of Asia's leading genre film festivals.
- We are also preparing a major partnership announcement that we are particularly excited to share. **Can you guess which renowned international film festival will soon welcome its first FIPRESCI jury?**

Stay tuned!

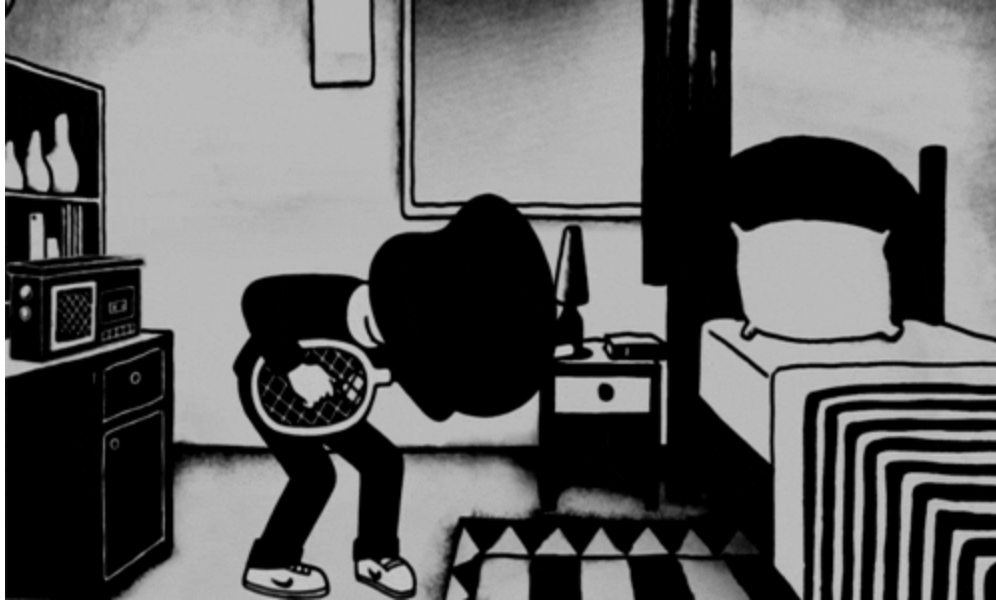
6. Outro

Farewell to... Marjane Satrapi

The French-Iranian comic book author and director of *Persepolis* (among others) passed away on June 4th, at the young age of 56.

If you speak French (one of FIPRESCI's official languages), you can read an interview of Marjane Satrapi with FIPRESCI member Elli Mastorou back in 2015 for her dark comedy The Voices [by](#)

[clicking on this link.](#)



See you next month !

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