



FIPRESCI - Film Festivals

FIPRESCI History

In 1925, film journalists from Paris and Brussels founded the Professional Association of the Film Press. Shortly thereafter, Belgian journalists initiated contact with colleagues abroad. A pivotal decision was reached during the International Congress on Cinema in Brussels in June 1930: to establish a federation based on individual membership. In 1931, the federation was given a name by which it is known today, FIPRESCI.

FIPRESCI stands for the Fédération Internationale de la Presse Cinématographique. Today, a hundred years after the first encounter between French and Belgian film critics, FIPRESCI prides itself in uniting colleagues from more than 80 countries worldwide, safeguarding the freedom and ethics of film criticism and encouraging the exchange of ideas and experiences and thereby creating, outside all ideological and political distinctions, a new foundation for a permanent dialogue.

FIPRESCI Prize

In addition to publishing criticism, conducting scholarly research, and organizing educational initiatives, FIPRESCI is best known for its **International Critics' Prize**, awarded at a vast network of accredited film festivals. The Film Critics Prize is considered one of the most prestigious awards, and often it marks the discovery of promising talents and gives spotlight to films that tackle cinematographic boundaries while respecting the tradition of filmmaking craft.

The very first film critics prize was given at the **1st Cannes Film Festival in 1946**. In subsequent years, Venice and Berlinale invited film critics juries, followed shortly by Locarno, Karlovy Vary, and San Sebastian. As of 2025, the federation partners with over 80 international festivals, with the network steadily expanding to include previously underrepresented regions and genres and to support the professional development of local critics' communities.

FIPRESCI Jury General Conditions

- The festival covers travel costs and provides accommodation for the jury members (one representing local section), as well as accreditation and assistance of press office.
- FIPRESCI Board ensures selection of suitable candidates (active film critics) to serve on the jury. For every jury, the candidates are discussed with the festival in an attempt to both guarantee the festival's approval, but also to strengthen the implication of each and every jury member within the event itself.
- The competition which FIPRESCI jury will follow is discussed and defined between the festival management and FIPRESCI.
- FIPRESCI encourages both jury members and festival organizers to collaborate beyond the jury duties, be it for panel moderations, film presentations, Q&As, etc.
- FIPRESCI jurors are obliged to cover the festival in their own media, as well as write at least one text for the FIPRESCI website.
- Upon agreeing on establishing a jury, FIPRESCI and the festival sign Memorandum of Understanding with the general guidelines for collaboration.

We will be delighted to set up a call and discuss further steps! Please send a written request to info@fipresci.org and CC casella@fipresci.org

Sincerely,

FIPRESCI Board

President Ahmed Shawky

Vice Presidents Paola Casella, Elena Rubashevskaya,
and Marina Kostova

