



FIPRESCI Newsletter #10

July 2026

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1. Introduction

Dear colleagues,

July was a month of milestones—both on and off the screen. We were thrilled to launch the **new FIPRESCI website**, introducing a refreshed visual identity and a more accessible, modern platform designed to better showcase the work of our members and the federation's activities. We hope it will become an even more welcoming home for international film criticism and continue to evolve alongside our community.

The past month also reminded us just how many faces film criticism can have. We ventured into new cinematic territory with the debut FIPRESCI jury at the **Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFAN)**, proving that fantastic cinema deserves the same thoughtful critical engagement as any other art form. In Munich, we gathered to tackle one of the most pressing questions facing our profession today—"Film

Criticism in the Age of AI – Will AI Replace Film Critics?"—continuing an important conversation about the future of our craft.

The month also gave us reasons to celebrate and to look ahead. We were honored to mark the **60th edition of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival**, one of FIPRESCI's oldest partners, and equally delighted to announce a new collaboration with the **Sundance Film Festival**, opening another exciting chapter for international film criticism and strengthening FIPRESCI's presence in North America.

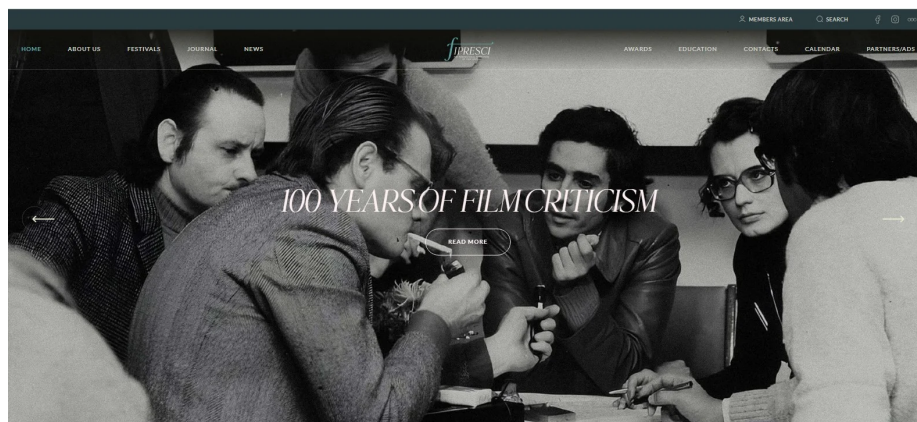
At the same time, July was also a month of remembrance. We bid farewell to **Bruno Torri (1932–2026)**, one of the defining voices of Italian film criticism and a longstanding friend of FIPRESCI. His legacy will continue to inspire generations of critics to come.

As always, thank you for being part of our international community. We hope you enjoy this month's highlights and wish you an inspiring remainder of the summer.

**Yours truly,
FIPRESCI Board**

2. News

FIPRESCI launches new website



This month, FIPRESCI proudly unveiled its new website, marking the beginning of a renewed digital chapter for our federation. More than a visual redesign, the platform reflects a broader philosophy: **rooted in more than a century of film criticism, while embracing the opportunities and challenges of the future.**

As cinema continues to transform, so too must the ways we communicate about it. With our refreshed digital identity, FIPRESCI reaffirms its commitment to preserving the values that have guided the federation for over a century—independence, intellectual curiosity, and dialogue across cultures—while ensuring that film criticism remains visible, relevant, and accessible in the digital age.

*We are especially pleased that the new website was created by a talented Ukrainian team: web developer **Mariia Titievska** and designer **Lily Topor**.*

[Discover the new website](#)

FIPRESCI jury at Sundance Film Festival



FIPRESCI and the Sundance Film Festival are pleased to announce **the establishment of a FIPRESCI jury beginning with the upcoming edition of the festival, January 21-31, 2027.**

This collaboration marks a long-anticipated and logical step for both institutions. It reflects a shared commitment to independent cinema, critical dialogue, and the discovery of new voices in filmmaking. It also represents a significant moment in the strategic expansion of FIPRESCI's jury network in North America, strengthening the exchange between international film critics and their counterparts in the United States, and fostering deeper engagement with one of the world's most influential platforms for independent cinema.

[Read all about it](#)

In Memoriam : Bruno Torri, a pillar of film criticism



Esteemed and beloved Italian film critic Bruno Torri (Genoa, 1932–2026) has passed away after a long illness. Together with Lino Miccichè, Torri founded the Pesaro International Festival of New Cinema in 1965 and served as its Artistic Director for its first five editions. For 17 years, he was President of the Italian National Syndicate of Film Critics (SNCCI), helping shape generations of Italian film criticism. He will be deeply missed.

[Read more](#)

3. Juries

In May, FIPRESCI juries were held in:

Munich, Bucheon, Karlovy Vary, Yerevan, Palić, Fužine

Among the winning films: *The Meltdown* by Manuela Martelli, *Beautiful Souls* by Tom Schreiber, *The Night* by Paul Urkijo Alijo, *Only Beautiful Things to Look At* by Ivan Ostrochovsky, *Dry Leaf* by Alexandre Koberidze...

Discover our new festival page on the the website



43rd Filmfest Munchen: Bettina Schuler (Germany VdFk), Övgü Gökçe, (Turkey), Joanna Orzechowska-Bonis, (France SFCC)



30th Bucheon Fantastic Film Festival: Yuhee Park (South Korea), Joonatan Itkonen (Finland), Giovanni Stigliano Messuti (Italy)



60th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival: Wellington Almeida (Portugal), Marita Nyrhinen (Finland), Shiva Fouladi (France), Isabel Jacobs



23rd Golden Apricot International Film Festival: Kees Driessen (The Netherlands), Diana Martirosyan (Armenia), Lika Glurjidze (Georgia)

(Czech Republic), Laura Arias (Colombia),
Giuseppe Sedia (Italy)



33rd European Film Festival

Palić: Bozidar Zecevic (Serbia), Jana Bébarová (Czech Republic), Michael Phillips (USA)



28th Cinehill Film Festival: Petra Belc (Croatia), Nataliia Serebriakova (Ukraine), Gabriele Barrera (Italy)

4. Calls

Call for signatures - Save Palas Cinema in Athens, Greece



Photo: Marili Zarkou

PALAS CINEMA, opened in 1925, it is **the second-oldest cinema in Greece and one of the country's last surviving historic cinemas**. Located in the neighbourhood of Pagrati in Athens, this unique cultural landmark is now under serious threat. Since the death of its owner, Matthaios Potagas, in 2021, the building has been left increasingly neglected, while its unique architectural features and historical archive are also at risk. The future of the building remains uncertain, with reports that the building has been bought by a German supermarket chain.

The **SAVE PALAS CINEMA Movement** is launching a campaign for international support to save it from demolition. **We share their invitation to co-sign their public letter, as well as to write your own public letters to the Greek ministry of culture**, which has refused so far to declare the cinema a monument, despite over 100 years of cinema history.

[Read more](#)

5. Next month...

What to look forward to in July:

On **1 August**, FIPRESCI will announce the **five nominees for the FIPRESCI Grand Prix**

2026 – Best Film of the Year, one of the federation's highest distinctions and among the most prestigious international accolades awarded by the global community of film critics.

The Grand Prix recognizes the film that has most profoundly impressed FIPRESCI members over the past year, celebrating artistic excellence, originality, and lasting cinematic achievement. Following the announcement of the nominees, the final vote will determine the winner, who will receive the award during the opening ceremony of the **74th San Sebastián International Film Festival** on **18 September**.

Stay tuned as we reveal the five films competing for this year's most coveted FIPRESCI honor.

6. Outro

Farewell to... Sam Neill

The New Zealand actor passed away on July 13th, at the young age of 78.

Read our article by a FIPRESCI member Carmen Gray, from New Zealand, which mentions Neill's directing effort, a documentary about New Zealand cinema, [by clicking on this link](#).



See you next month !

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