



FIPRESCI Newsletter #12

September 2026

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1. Introduction

Dear colleagues and friends,

September has been an exceptionally eventful month for FIPRESCI. Our **General Assembly in Budapest** brought colleagues together to discuss the Federation's work and priorities, followed immediately by the presentation of the **2026 FIPRESCI Grand Prix** to Paul Thomas Anderson's *One Battle After Another* in San Sebastián. Our juries, meanwhile, continued their work at festivals across the world, bringing new awards, reports, and critical perspectives to our website.

The month also reflected the growing diversity of FIPRESCI's activities beyond juries: our first collaboration with **MedFest Egypt** explored the intersection of cinema, healthcare, and professional sustainability, while our joint publication with the **Polish Film Festival in Gdynia** brought together seven international perspectives on the

legacy of Krzysztof Kieślowski. And as September draws to a close, new partnerships already point towards the months ahead — further expanding the spaces in which FIPRESCI members can meet, exchange ideas, and contribute to international film culture.

**Yours truly,
FIPRESCI Board**

2. News

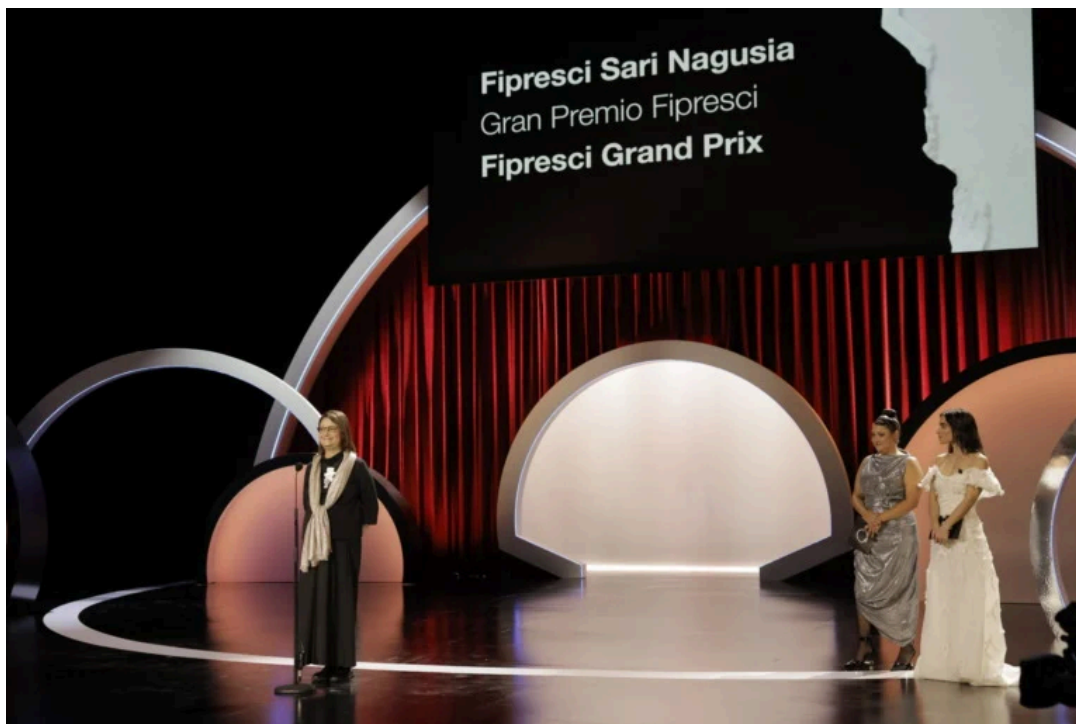
FIPRESCI General Assembly 2026 Concludes in Budapest



The International Federation of Film Critics held its 2026 General Assembly in Budapest on September 17, bringing together 22 delegates representing national sections and the Federation's Board for a full day of discussion, decisions, and exchange. After six hours of concentrated work, a great deal of discussion, and voices arriving in Budapest from across Europe and well beyond, the 2026 General Assembly closed with something equally important: renewed connections between colleagues and plenty of work to take back home.

[All the details of the General Assembly](#)

One Battle After Another by Paul Thomas Anderson wins the FIPRESCI Grand Prix 2026



A total of 591 critics from 69 countries participated in the vote, choosing this North American production from among all those released since 1 July 2025. This is the fourth time that a film by the North American director will have received said recognition from the international critics. The award was presented at the San Sebastián Festival's opening gala on September 18th.

[Read more about the Grand Prix](#)

FIPRESCI establishes jury at Doha Film festival



FIPRESCI and Doha Film Institute (DFI) are pleased to announce a new partnership, with a FIPRESCI jury at the upcoming edition of Doha Film Festival, taking place 19–27 November 2026. The collaboration brings together two institutions committed to cinema as a space for cultural exchange, discovery, and critical dialogue. Built on 15 years of Doha Film Institute’s commitment to authentic storytelling, DFF is a dynamic platform for world cinema that inspires dialogue, reflection and connection. It is the bold next chapter in the Institute’s enduring mission to nurture regional talent, deepen cultural understanding, and amplify unheard voices.

[More info about Doha](#)

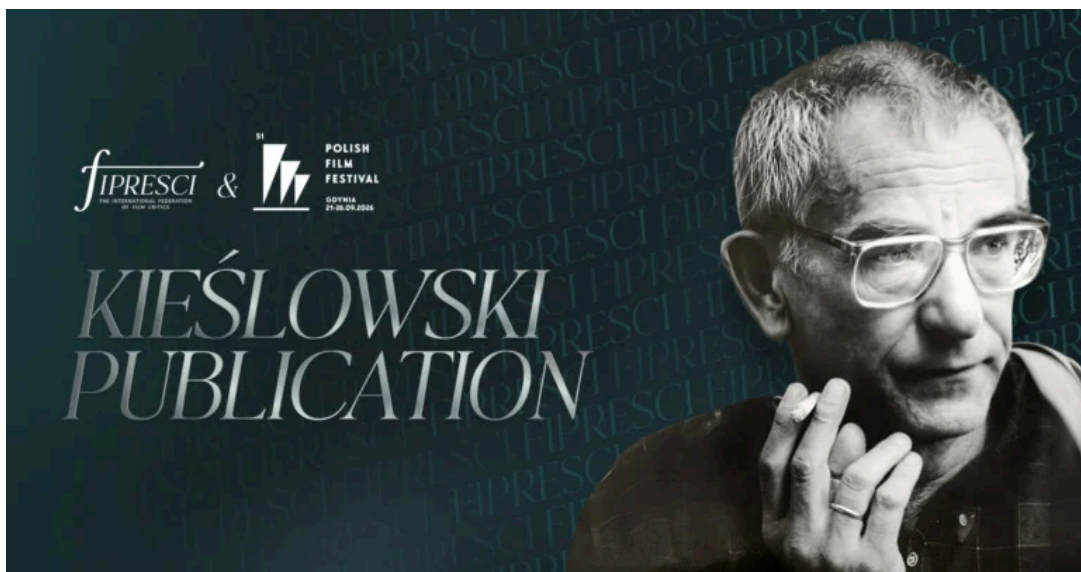
FIPRESCI debut collaboration with MedFest Egypt



FIPRESCI launched its first collaboration with **MedFest Egypt** in Cairo, bringing film criticism and healthcare into an unusual dialogue. Developed from the Federation's **Health & Sustainability initiative**, the partnership included a five-part workshop introducing healthcare professionals to film criticism, followed by an in-person session and participation in the festival. The collaboration opens new possibilities for exploring health, working conditions, and professional sustainability within film criticism itself.

Cinema meets healthcare

FIPRESCI and Polish Film Festival Release Joint Publication on Krzysztof Kieślowski



FIPRESCI and the Polish Film Festival in Gdynia are proud to present a new joint publication dedicated to Krzysztof Kieślowski, marking the 30th anniversary of the passing of one of Poland's most internationally influential filmmakers. The publication brings together seven essays by FIPRESCI critics from across the world, approaching Kieślowski's cinema from distinctly different cultural and critical perspectives. From South Africa, Germany, and Brazil to India, Iran, Italy, and the United Kingdom, the collection traces the continuing resonance of his work far beyond its original Polish and European contexts.

All about Kieślowski

Ashes and Diamonds in Venice



Andrzej Wajda's newly restored 1958 masterpiece *Popiół i diament* (*Ashes and Diamonds*) was screened on September 8, 2026, as part of the Venice Classics section at the 83rd Venice International Film Festival. The screening was introduced by FIPRESCI jury member Anna Osmolska-Metrak.

Picture credit : Luca Zambelli Bais

3. Juries

In July, FIPRESCI juries were held in:

Venice, Miskolc, Brussels, Drama, Toronto, Brasilia, San Sebastian

Among the winning films: *Possible Love* by Lee Chang-Dong, *The Incomer* by Louis Paxton, *We Were Here* by Pranav Bhasin, *Ancestors* by David Turpin, *In My Father's Room* by Maha Harada...

All the juries on our festivals page



22nd CineFest Miskolc International Film Festival: Kathy Vanhout (Belgium), José Solís (Honduras), Zsuzsa Borbély (Hungary)



59th Brasília Festival of Brazilian Cinema: Maja Korbecka (Poland), Helvecio Parente (Brazil), Héctor Llanos (Spain) with award winner Caetano Gotardo.



9th Brussels International Film Festival: Andrzej Fogler (Poland), Frédérique Morin (Belgium), Hamed Soleimanzadeh (Iran)



49th Drama International Short Film Festival: Anastasios Dertilis (Greece), Yun-hua Chen (Germany), Sofía Alvarez Salas (Peru)



51st Toronto International Film Festival: Victor Stiff (Canada), Savina Petkova (Bulgaria), Enoe Lopes Pontes (Brazil), Catalin Olaru (Romania), Pragma Mishra (India/UK)



74th San Sebastian International Film Festival: Agus Izquierdo (Spain), Loreta Gandolfi (UK), Guillermo Courau (Argentina) with winner Maha Harada



83rd Venice International Film Festival: Carmen Gray (New Zealand), Marco Lombardi (Italy), Berke Göl (Turkey), Anna Maria Osmólska-Metrak (Poland), Alvise Mainardi (Italy), Jorge Roig Graterol (Venezuela)

4. Next month...

What to look forward to in September:

- **FIPRESCI Juries** in Rio de Janeiro, Schlingel, Busan, Sitges, Warsaw, El Gouna...
- Debut FIPRESCI juries in Sitges, Fredrikstad, and Jihlava, reaffirming our commitment to genre, animation, and documentary cinema.
- Our traditional annual workshop for film critics at Warsaw Film Festival

Stay tuned!

5. Outro

Farewell to...

Patricio Guzmán

The mighty Chilean filmmaker died on September 15th, at age 85. Here is an appreciation of a career retrospective of his work at the 2013 Thessaloniki Documentary Film Festival, in [a report by FIPRESCI member Alberto Castellano](#).

Gideon Kouts

We sadly learned of the passing of Gideon Kouts, Vice-President of the French Union of Film Journalists, at the age of 78. A Paris correspondent for one of Israel's leading radio stations, Gideon was a fixture on the movie scene, attending press screenings in Paris as well as major film festivals in Berlin, Cannes, and many others, where he indulged his passion for cinema. He had been a FIPRESCI Juror in many film festivals, including Cannes, and was once a representative of UJC at a FIPRESCI General Assembly where his wit was greatly appreciated.

See you next month !

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