

ASIAN CINEMA COMPETITION

BEST ASIAN FILM - IN THE LAND OF BROTHERS

(IRAN | FRANCE | NETHERLANDS / 2024 / PERSIAN | DARI),

Director: Raha Amirfazli and Alireza Ghasemi

Production: Adrien Barrouillet, Charles Meresse, Emma Binet, Alireza Ghasemi, Raha Amirfazli, Frank Hoeve.

The movie tackles universal topic of displacement and forced migration from the war inflicted countries. Through cleverly crafted narrative structure, the movie depicts transgenerational trauma of war refugees. The world of story is structured as a multilayered, spatial and temporal narrative, using evocative cinematic language, and transcending borders and time, offering a deeply human and empathetic perspective on survival, memory, and resilience.

SECOND BEST ASIAN FILM - READING LOLITA IN TEHRAN

(ISRAEL/ITALY / 2024 / FARSI)

Director: Eran Riklis, **Production:** Marica Stocchi

The film is appreciated for its courageous and moving portrayal of resilience and intellectual freedom in the face of oppression. By weaving the autobiographical journey of a fearless teacher who defies state's restrictions, the film becomes a powerful testament to the power of literature and the spirit of education.

THIRD BEST ASIAN FILM - SABA

(BANGLADESH / 2024 / BENGALI)

Through the lens of a non-conventional mother-daughter relationship story, fraught with tension and love, the film captures the profound complexities of generational divides, cultural expectations, and personal values. With powerful storytelling, it delves into the heart of human relationships, offering an honest and thought-provoking portrayal of conflicting perspectives on autonomy and dignity, highlighting female agency and women empowerment.

Director: Maksud Hossain

Production: Uri Singer, Arifur Rahman, Tamim Abdul Majid, Maksud Hossain, Trilora Khan, Mehazabien Chowdhury, Barkat Hossain Polash

ASIAN CINEMA COMPETITION

JURY SPECIAL MENTION - FEMINICHI FATHIMA

(INDIA/ 2024 / MALAYALAM)

Director : Fasil Muhammed , **Production :** Thamar KV

The film is appreciated for its blend of humour and social commentary, creating a poignant yet entertaining exploration of gender equality, cultural traditions, and personal empowerment, through the journey of its determinate protagonist, Fathima.

JURY SPECIAL MENTION - PYRE

(INDIA / 2024 / HINDI)

Director : Vinod Kapri

Production : Bhagirathi Films Private Limited

The film is appreciated for its compelling portrayal of the universal themes of loneliness, abandonment, and the enduring resilience of the human spirit, through the story an ageing couple. The film captures the intricate balance between despair and hope, as well as the deep emotional connection with the land.

INDIAN CINEMA COMPETITION (CHITRABHARATI)

BEST INDIAN FILM - HUMANS IN THE LOOP

(INDIA / 2024 / HINDI)

Director : Aranya Sahay

Production : Mathivanan Rajendran, Sarabhi Ravichandran, Shilpa K Kumar

The film explores the challenges of indigenous society and the looming repercussions of AI.

SECOND BEST INDIAN FILM - LEVEL CROSS

(INDIA / 2024 / MALAYALAM)

Director: Arfaz Ayub

Production: Ramesh P Pillai

The film provides the experience of genre storytelling of troubled lives through captivating world building.

THIRD BEST INDIAN FILM - SWAHA

(INDIA / 2024/ MAGAHI)

Director: Abhilash Sharma

Production: Abhilash Sharma

The film depicts the struggle of untouchables in society, in desolate social situation while redeeming hope through individual action.

JURY SPECIAL MENTION - BELI HOO

(INDIA / 2024/ KANNADA)

Director: Sebastin David

Production: Dr. S Venkatesh

The film explores the life of a subaltern woman, in a trying profession, struggling to make the world a better place through compassion.

INDIAN CINEMA COMPETITION
FIPRESCI AWARD - HUMANS IN THE LOOP

(INDIA / 2024 / HINDI)

Director: Aranya Sahay

Production: Mathivanan Rajendran, Sarabhi Ravichandran, Shilpa K Kumar

This film manages to question both the traditions and the new technologies, putting in perspective, through the use of AI, identity issues in a new technological age that pretends to be neutral. It's a very local story, and a very global one at the same time, a testament to the fact that a highly personal and grounded vision will always be, in some way, universal.

KANNADA CINEMA COMPETITION

KARNATAKA CHALANACHITRA ACADEMY AWARD

BEST KANNADA FILM - **MIKKA BANNADA HAKKI**

(INDIA / 2024 / KANNADA)

Director: Manohara K

Production: Prithvi Gopal Konanur

The film's poetic storytelling and subtle narrative make it a deeply moving cinematic experience, celebrating the strength of the human spirit.

SECOND BEST KANNADA FILM - **PIDAYI**

(INDIA / 2024 / TULU)

Director: Santhosh Mada

Production: Suresh K

For tackling untouchability linked to menstruation, the film's rich visuals and powerful message inspire awareness and social change.

THIRD BEST KANNADA FILM - **DASKATH**

(INDIA / 2024/ TULU)

Director: Aneesh Poojary

Production: Raghavendra Kudva

For highlighting the struggles of ordinary people forced to surrender their dignity before an egoistic, powerful officer - until they rise, fight back, and reclaim their self-respect.

NETPAC JURY AWARD - LACCHI

(INDIA / 2024/ KANNADA)

Director: Krishnegowda

Production: Krishnegowda

A modern film that portrays global issues such as child abduction, violence against women, and corruption within law enforcement with acting is excellent, and the filmmaking style is highly contemporary.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

SHABANA AZMI

For illuminating the screen with performances of rare depth and authenticity, for fearlessly embracing roles that challenge conventions, for the portrayals of complex, defiant women and for being an unwavering voice in gender discourse. This award is given in honor of the unparalleled contributions to cinema and the tireless advocacy for equality, justice, and human dignity.