

iffiloid

Your never-ending reel!

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Spanish Film 'I Have Electric Dreams' wins Golden Peacock

The prestigious Golden Peacock for the Best Film of the festival goes to Spanish film 'I Have Electric Dreams', a movie which the jury finds to be bringing to the screen the present and the future of cinema.

Directed by Costa Rican film maker Valentina Maurel, the film explores 16-year-old girl Eva's passage into adulthood, a process that is not just about getting older, a process which so profound that sometimes it can break people in a certain way.

In speaking about the honest portrait of the complexity of life the film presents, the jury remarks that violence and grace, fury and intimacy become synonyms. "It was so electrifying, so vibrating, that while watching it, we felt as if we, ourselves, were trembling", cites the jury.

The film, which can help people identify with stories from the other side of the world and at the same time connect with family values or feelings that are universal, is produced by Benoit Roland and Grégoire Debailly.



Silver Peacock for Best Director goes to **Nader Saeivar** for *No End*

The Turkish film *No End*, which depicts the manipulations and machinations of Iran's secret police, has fetched its director Nader Saeivar the Silver Peacock for the Best Director.

The film tells the story of Ayaz, a man of quiet integrity, who indulges in a lie involving the secret police in a desperate attempt to keep his house. Things get complicated when the real secret police enter the scene.

Proclaiming that the choice of the award has been unanimous, the jury mentions that the story from Iran brings out the highly regressive socio-political system in a magical subtle narrative - slow yet hammering our sensitivity.





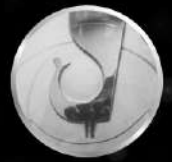
Daniela Marín Navarro
of '*I Have Electric Dreams*'
wins
Silver Peacock for Best Actor (Female)

Daniela Marín Navarro, debutante actor who plays the role of the 16-year-old girl Eva in the Spanish film '*I Have Electric Dreams*', has been adjudged to be the Best Actor (Female).

In the citation, the jury members state that Daniela has been chosen for this recognition "for the ease, freshness and

credibility with which the actress carries out her work, giving life to her character, full of naivety, so typical in the difficult age of adolescence."

Notably, Daniela's performance in the film has also won her award for the Best Actress at Locarno International Film Festival.



Vahid Mobasseri, lead actor of *No End*, wins Silver Peacock for Best Actor (Male)

The jury has unanimously chosen Vahid Mobasseri as the Best Actor for his amazing portrayal of Ayaz in *No End*, directed by Nader Saeivar. The jury observes that the award has been given to Vahid “for the apparent facility of how this actor acts, with economy of gestures, being capable to transmit, with no words, and only with his face, the complexity of feelings that torment the protagonist of the



film”.

In this protest drama, a common honest citizen ostentatiously grew in mind of the viewer - a helpless, conspicuous - breathlessly vulnerable common Iranian.

Award for Best Debut Feature Film of a Director
goes to
Asimina Proedrou
for
Behind The Haystacks

IFFI honoured Director Asimina Proedrou, hailing from Athens, with the Award for the Best Debut Feature Film of a Director, for the film *Behind The Haystacks*, which had its International Premiere at the festival.

The jury mentioned that the film is a culmination of “an intense psychological dissertation of redundant morality, ingrained aversiveness towards the ethnic refugee crisis and awakening adolescent consciousness”.

The story invites viewers to partake in the journey of a man, his wife and his daughter, who are having to confront for the first time, when a crisis strikes, the price to pay for their actions.



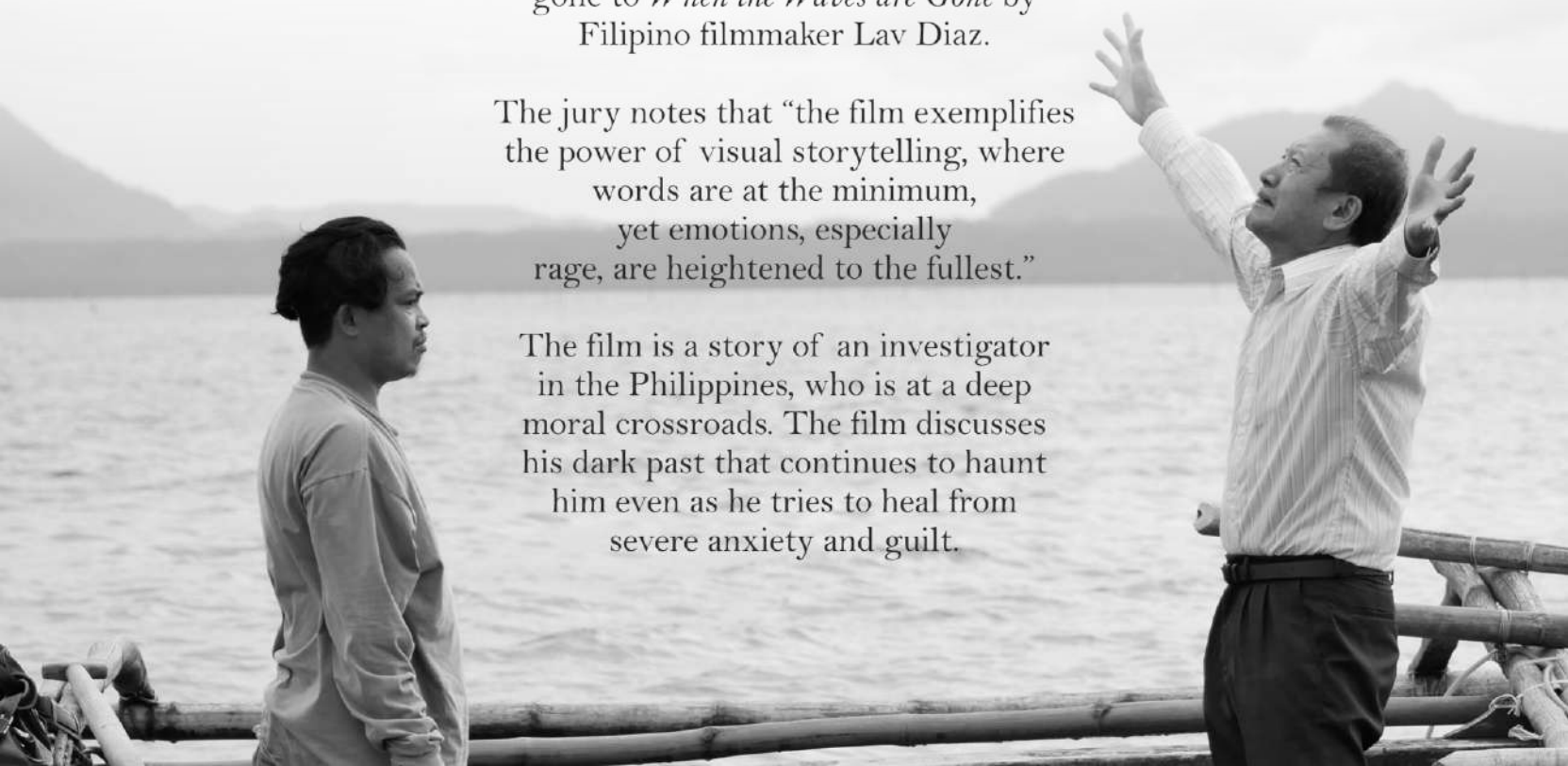


Filipino filmmaker **Lav Diaz** gets Special Jury Award for *When the Waves are Gone*

The IFFI 53 Special Jury Award has gone to *When the Waves are Gone* by Filipino filmmaker Lav Diaz.

The jury notes that “the film exemplifies the power of visual storytelling, where words are at the minimum, yet emotions, especially rage, are heightened to the fullest.”

The film is a story of an investigator in the Philippines, who is at a deep moral crossroads. The film discusses his dark past that continues to haunt him even as he tries to heal from severe anxiety and guilt.





Megastar Cheeranjeevi

Indian
Film Personality
of the Year
2022

Megastar Cheeranjeevi was declared the Indian Film Personality of the Year 2022. Accepting the Award the veteran actor thanked IFFI and Government of India. "Few recognitions will be special and this award is one such" he said.

Cheeranjeevi has worked in the film industry for 40 years in over 150 films. Speaking of the ten years he was involved in politics and was away from the films, Cheeranjeevi said, "After ten years I was skeptical if people will shower me with the same love and affection. But my place in their hearts was not only intact, but their love had only multiplied."

To the crowds that cheered on as he took the award, Cheeranjeevi promised to never again leave films and remain in their hearts forever!

A "Perfect" Ending!

"What is a sin is not clear just like what is god", says Joachim as he looks you straight in the eye in Krzysztof Zanussi's latest film *Perfect Number*. The film, which tries to decipher what really matters in a world permeated by mystery, was screened as the closing film at IFFI 53.

The story of the film follows a dialogue between a young mathematician David (Jan Marczewski) and his distant relative Joachim (Andrzej Seweryn), who is a successful and wealthy businessman. Their conversation on the meaning of life and existence of god is interspersed with scenes from their lives that reflect on their realities of today. Through these reflections audiences encounter contradictions between the values of faith and science which forms the highpoint of the film.

Speaking at IIFI 53 about why his work often delves on existential questions, the director said, "After centuries of running behind money human kind must realise that we have other problems that are more important and interesting. We need to find new goals for mankind as our survival on this planet is challenged by our self-destruction. I am searching for a reality beyond material reality which I can experience with all my senses."

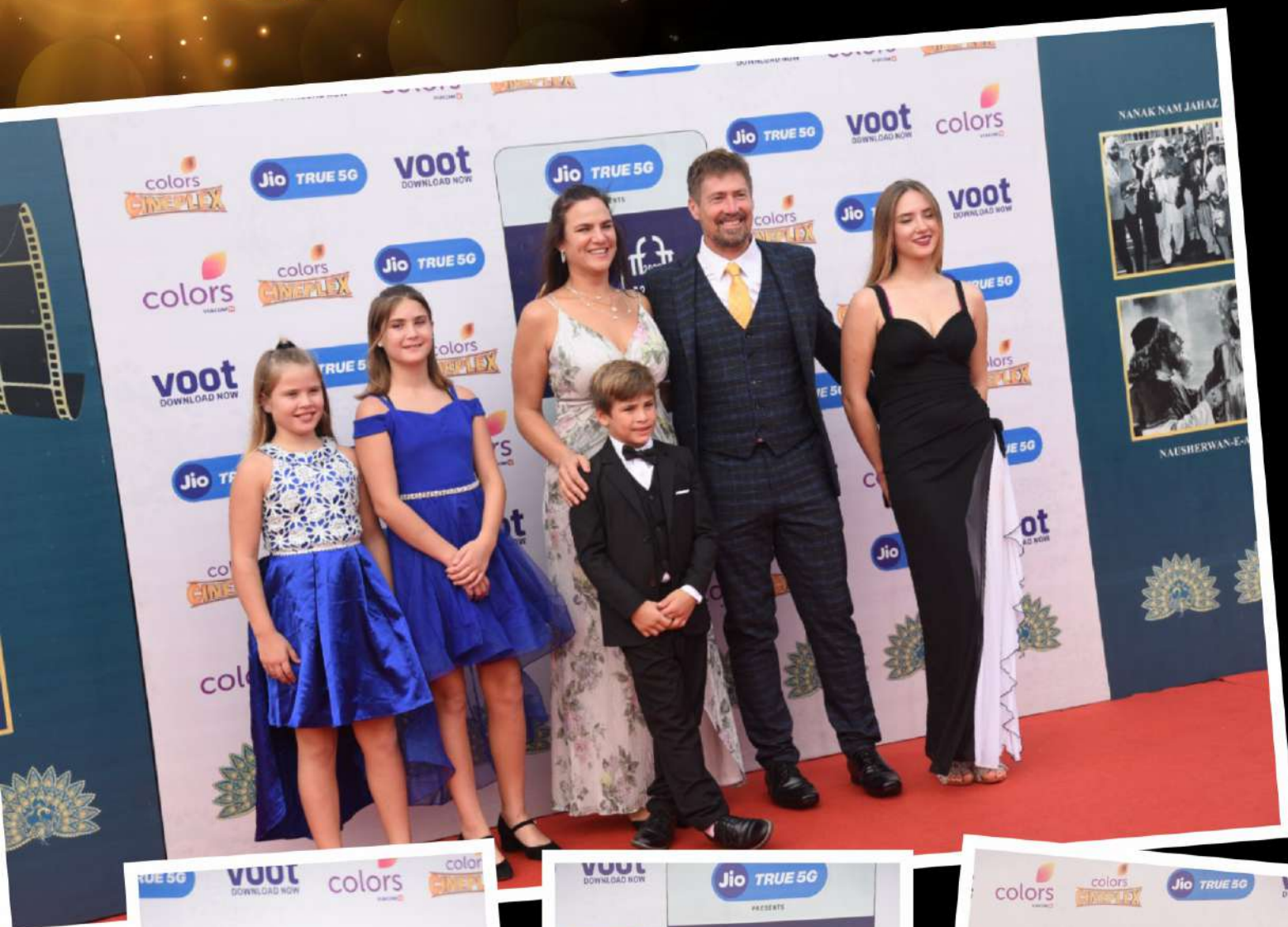
And indeed the experience of watching *Perfect Number* transcends beyond the visual medium to captivate all your senses creating a connection with the universal consciousness.



As the Curtain falls













“A person who can tell a good lie can be a good storyteller.”
– Vijayendra Prasad (Screenwriter, @iffi masterclass)

“Our life is also art and art has no format.”

– Vikram Patwardhan (Director, *Frame*)

**“When we make Indian cinema in Marathi, Bangla, Tamil etc,
we are only making big cinema in small budgets, it is not regional cinema.”**
– Arindam Sil (Director, *Mahananda*)

**“Children have not changed, but parenting has changed in today's
world. How you tell stories to children matters.”**

– Saleel Kulkarni (Author, Music Composer and Director, *Ekda Kay Zala*)

“Every person needs a support system to lead a happy life.”
– Avijit Sen (Director, *Tonic*)

“There are only two gods worth worshipping – chance and light.”
– Anil Mehta (Cinematographer, @ iffi masterclass)

“Marriage between tune and verse forms a great composition”
– Prasoon Joshi (Lyricist, @ iffi masterclass)

“If aspiring for social, political and economic equality for women is feminist, then my film is a feminist film.”
– Signe Baumane (Director, *My Love Affair with Marriage*)

“To create empathy for a character is one of the biggest qualities of an actor.”
– Adil Hussain (Actor, *The Storyteller*)

“Film – making is like Soccer, every team member matters.”
– Shoojit Sircar (Director/Producer, @ iffi masterclass)

“Failure is an event, not a person.”
– Anupam Kher (Actor, *Kashmir Files*)

“Sometimes animals behave more like humans and humans more like Animals.”

– Rodrigo Guerrero (Director, *The Seven Dogs*)

“Reading rather than watching films allows me to learn as an actor. Visuals fix references, but reading opens up the imagination.”

– Pankaj Tripathi (Actor, @ *iffi masterclass*)

“I don't try to convince others with my films. I try to convince myself.”

– R. Balki (Director/ Screenwriter/ Producer, @ *iffi masterclass*)

“The narrative is not the end all and be all of cinema, but just one of the elements.”

– Natalia Lopez (Director, *Robe of Gems*)

“There is no difference between A.R. (Rahman) and A.I. (Artificial Intelligence) as both evolve and grow with time.”

– A. R. Rahman (Producer/ Music Composer, @ *iffi masterclass*)

“I need someone to rescue me from myself.”

– Garodiya (Character, *The Storyteller*)

**“The crux is storytelling; the more local you go
– the more global you become.”**

- Supratim Bhol (Cinematographer, @ iffi masterclass)

**“Most people are so stuck in reality that they fail to
utilise dreams to their advantage.”**

- Anton Mani Svansson (Producer, *Beautiful Beings*)

“Beauty of film festivals is in collective viewing.”


- Mahesh Narayanan (Director, *Ariyippu*)

**“Films with even a little weird and different subject treatment can
find their audience as long as it is truthful.”**

- Max Topplin (Lead Producer, *Fixation*)

“There is art inside every human. I just try to capture it as a director.”

- Priyanandanan (Director, *Dhabari Quruvi*)

A photograph of Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Anurag Thakur speaking at a podium. He is wearing a light grey blazer over a white shirt. The background is dark with some blue and red lighting.

IFFI not only Entertains but also Educates, says I & B Minister Anurag Thakur

Nurturing and promoting an ardent love for films, the 53rd International Films Festival of India came to a conclusion with a star studded grand ceremony at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium, Goa. Welcoming guests to the vibrant valedictory ceremony, Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Anurag Thakur said that IFFI opened up a nuanced world of cinema for audiences across the region, both young and old, new and festival veterans. “IFFI not only entertained but also educated us. IFFI tickled our humour and refined our senses”, he said.

“Over the last nine days, IFFI curated the screenings of 282 films including 183 international films and 97 Indian films from 78 countries worldwide. Over 20 Masterclasses, In-Coversation sessions and a long list of celebrity events were held out of which several sessions were accessible not just physically but even virtually.”

Anurag Thakur added that the diversity showcased at the festival is the living embodiment of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' that brought together creative thinkers, film makers, cinema lovers and cultural enthusiasts from all over the world under one roof.

The Minister said the 53rd IFFI has concluded having made many beginnings. He said, "For the first time, we reciprocated our Cannes Country of Honour by France status be welcoming them as our Country of Focus.

It also had a technological exhibition by FTII with record footfall, to showcase the latest innovations from the world of cinema. The 75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow completed a 53 hour challenge to make films envisioning India at 100 years of Independence. There was also a specially curated package of notable Manipuri films marking 50 years of Manipuri cinema. Regional is no more regional, it has gone national and international. This year we have seen many films like *RRR*, *KGF* and others getting international acclaim."

The season four of the hit Netflix Israeli series *Fauda* premiered at IFFI this year, and the cast was present at

the closing ceremony. On the relationship between India and Israel, the Minister exuded confidence that this is just the beginning for the creative economies of India and Israel and both countries can be leading partners to propel the creative economy sector.

Referring to talents and trends in cinema, Anurag Thakur said that the world of cinema is bustling with raw talent, finding its voice from theatre schools, small independent production houses and the hinterland of India. "The platforms are new, whether it is watching on mobile devices, or binge watching on OTT. We are seeing incredible talent being recognised, enthralling audiences and being loved by fans and doing great business too".

The Minister lauded IFFI for transforming into a platform where ideas emerge, and where cinematic innovation is showcased, where collaborations and co-productions are embarked upon, experiences shared and timeless cinema emerges for generations to enjoy and remember.

Over the last few days, we celebrated films, we watched, discussed, experienced and shared our love for films, learning and thus celebrating life itself in a fuller and richer manner.

As we bid adieu for now, we hope that the celebration of films and of life goes on... after all, IFFI is not just IFFI...isn't it?



- PIB IFFI Cast & Crew



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