10 Films to Compete for ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal at 57th IFFI

Four-member international jury headed by Dr. Prof. Ahmed Bedjaoui to adjudicate the entries

Goa, 16 November 2026

Ten Indian and international fiction feature films will compete for the prestigious ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), scheduled to be held in Goa from 20th to 28th November, 2026. The selected films explore themes of peace, tolerance, empathy, social justice and intercultural dialogue, in keeping with the festival's overarching theme, 'Stories Without Borders'.

Instituted at the 46th edition of IFFI in collaboration with the International Council for Film, Television and Audiovisual Communication (CICT-ICFT), Paris, under the aegis of UNESCO, the award recognizes films that reflect Mahatma Gandhi's ideals of non-violence, tolerance, intercultural understanding and a culture of peace.

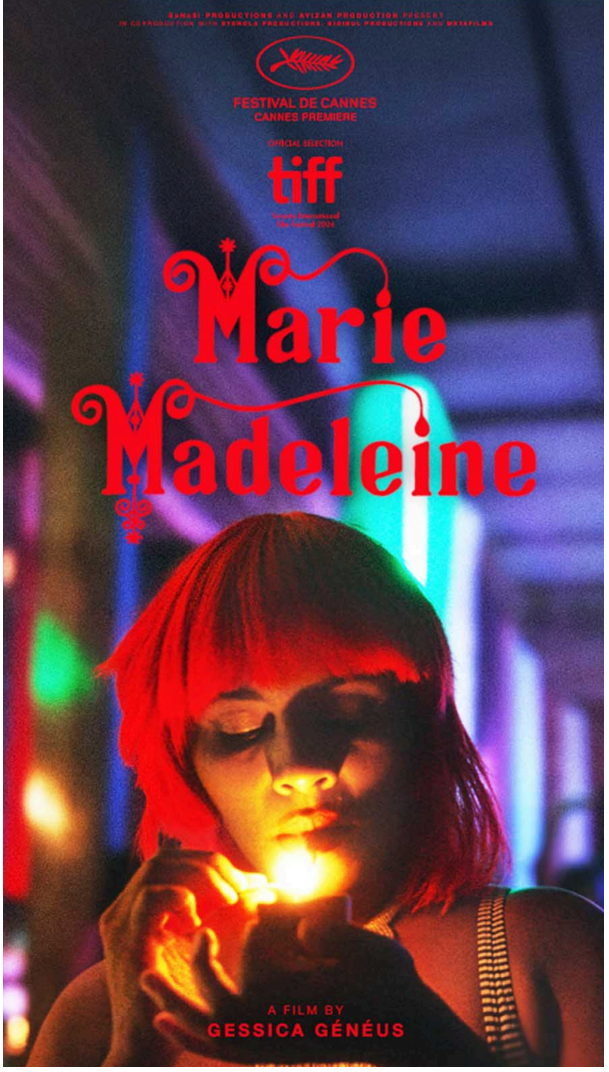
The four-member international jury will be headed by Prof. (Dr.) Ahmed Bedjaoui of Algeria, a University professor, filmmaker, producer and film critic. The other members are Maria Cristina Iglesias of Argentina/France, former Head of Programme at UNESCO's Cultural Sector; Georges Dupont of Luxembourg, former Director-General of CICT-ICFT; and Manouj Kadaamh of India, an internationally acclaimed filmmaker and member of ICFT.

The ten films selected for this year's competition bring together stories from diverse cultural backgrounds, highlighting human relationships, social challenges and shared values.

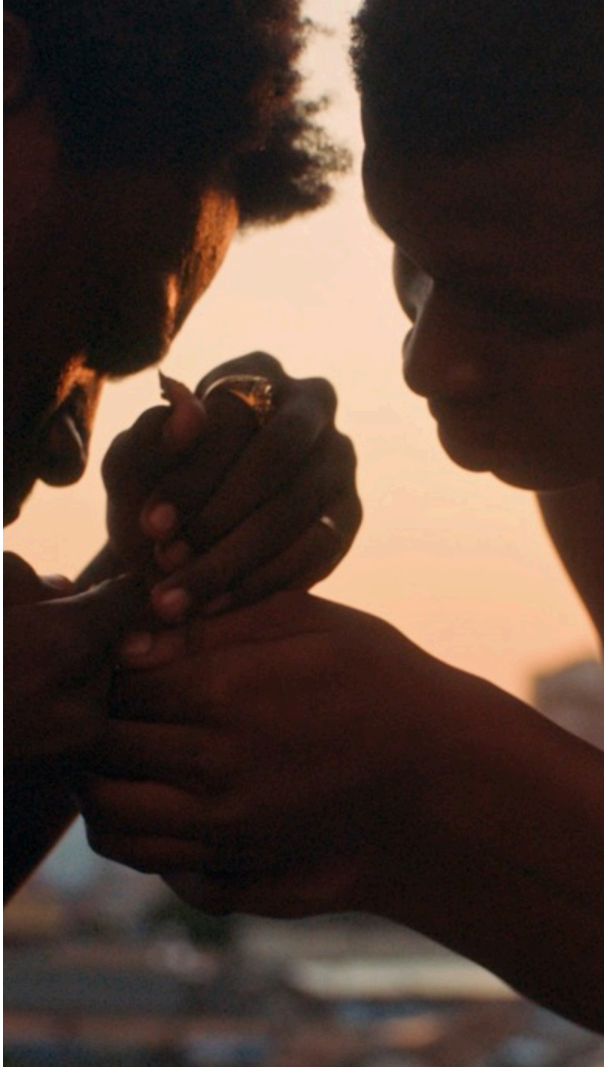


The international line-up includes *Call Me Queen*, directed by Emily Atef, a Germany-France-UK-Kenya production set in 1990s Nairobi. It follows a single mother who finds strength in an unexpected friendship while confronting an AIDS diagnosis and social injustice. The film will have its India Premiere at IFFI.

India is represented by three films. *Kabir Sir ka Akhri Lesson (Kabir Sir)*, directed by Sarfaraz Alam and starring Vinay Pathak, explores the challenges faced by veteran educators in the age of technology and will have its World Premiere. *Scroll*, directed by Kannan S, examines smartphone addiction through the disturbing experiences of a young man using an app-based game to control his screen time. *Sev Micchar*, the debut feature of Muskan Asthana, explores family tensions, rivalry and reconciliation through the story of a shopkeeper facing financial and personal challenges.



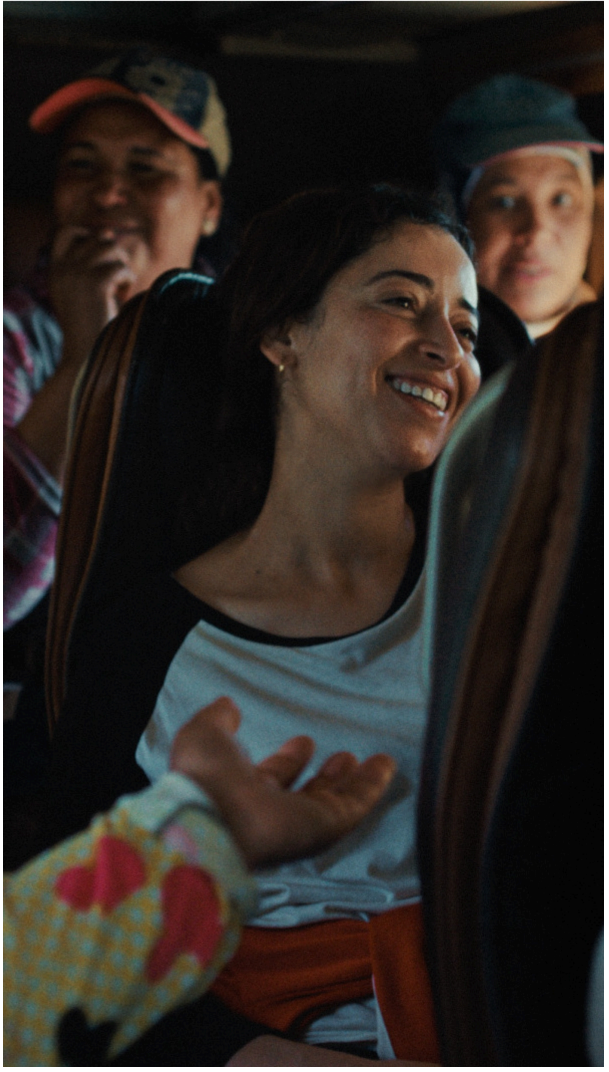
The Haiti-France-Belgium-Luxembourg-Canada production *Marie Madeleine*, directed by Gessica Généus, explores faith, social conventions and personal freedom through the evolving relationship between an independent woman and a young evangelist. The film won the Grand Prix du Jury at the Festival de Cabourg 2026 and will have its Asia Premiere at IFFI.



Ghanaian-American filmmaker Amartei Armar's *Our Time Will Come (Ego Reach We All)* follows two orphans travelling to Accra in search of their last living parent. The film won the Pardo for Change and Pardo for Best Performance at the Locarno Film Festival 2026 and will have its Asia Premiere.



Turkish filmmaker Faysal Soysal's *Rahma* tells the story of an archaeologist whose unexpected bond with a nine-year-old Syrian orphan brings emotional healing and changes her outlook on life. The film will have its Asia Premiere.



Strawberries (La más dulce), directed by Laïla Marrakchi, follows two Moroccan women working as seasonal strawberry pickers in Spain who find the courage to stand against workplace abuse and exploitation. The France-Morocco-Spain-Belgium production will have its India Premiere.



Another Turkish entry, *The Farm* (Süt Çiftliği), directed by Elif Eda, follows a 12-year-old girl who, disturbed by the separation of newborn calves from their mothers at a dairy farm, joins an orphaned veterinary apprentice to free the pregnant cows. The film will have its International Premiere at IFFI.



The Taiwan-Singapore production, *Will You Still Be My Friend* (*Ri guang*), directed by Lu Po-Shun, explores the friendship between two 13-year-old boys from different backgrounds, as tensions among adults threaten to drive them apart. The film will have its India Premiere.

Through this diverse selection, the ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal competition at the 57th IFFI brings together cinematic narratives that promote compassion, mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and shared human values across cultures and geographical boundaries.

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