



## 2018 FIAF Award To Be Presented to Apichatpong Weerasethakul

**International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) Celebrates 80th Anniversary Re-Affirming Core Mission of Film Preservation**

**FIAF**, the **International Federation of Film Archives**, the largest and most important global network of cinematheques and film archives around the world, has announced that its 2018 FIAF Award will be presented to Thai filmmaker **Apichatpong Weerasethakul** next month at a special ceremony in Bangkok, Thailand. The ceremony will be held on **Monday, November 19th** at the **Thai Film Archive**, Apichatpong's "archival home", in the presence of the Thai archival and film preservation community as well as the FIAF President and Executive Committee.

Since 2001, when the inaugural **FIAF award** was presented to Martin Scorsese for his groundbreaking advocacy for the cause of film preservation, FIAF has bestowed its annual award to celebrate a film personality external to the archival world, whose experience and personal commitment to cinema underlines FIAF's missions. Past recipients of the FIAF award include Ingmar Bergman (2003), Mike Leigh (2005), Hou Hsiao-hsien (2006), Peter Bogdanovich (2007), Agnès Varda (2013), or Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne (2016). Last year's FIAF award was presented to Christopher Nolan at a special ceremony which took place at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Samuel Goldwyn Theater in Los Angeles. The recipient of the FIAF award is selected by the FIAF Executive Committee from a short-list of nominations submitted by staff members of all FIAF-affiliated archives around the world.

In his home country Thailand, **Apichatpong Weerasethakul** has and continues to be a vocal and active advocate for the cause of film archiving and preservation, where he has closely supported the work of the Thai Film Archive since the 1990's. In 2001, he supported a successful campaign for the Thai Film Archive to be restructured as a Public organization, which led to the emergence of the leading film heritage institution that we know it as today.

Apichatpong has also emphasized the need for film preservation outside Thailand. He has worked with a number of FIAF affiliates around the globe to ensure the safe preservation and restoration of films, and closely supports the cause of film archiving in the South-East-Asian region. Apichatpong has also contributed public appearances at festivals and in films such as the 2016 documentary *Cinema Futures* calling for the importance of film as a cultural record and part of our collective memory.

Commenting on the importance of the FIAF Award, **Apichatpong Weerasethakul** stated: *"Film is an extension of us. I have always appreciated FIAF's dedication to preserve this part of our spirits. So I feel truly honored with this award. Far ahead the new generation will produce an entirely new kind of cinema, if it is still called that. It will show how they think, love, fear, or simply move. But they will know how we move, the same way we know how our forebears move, and laugh, thanks to the existence of FIAF. I am happy to join this ship with such an important mission."*

The President of FIAF, director of the Cinémathèque Suisse and former head of Locarno Film Festival, **Frédéric Maire** also commented: *"As we mark our 80th anniversary in times of radical change, with digital technologies leading to a true paradigm shift in film archives' activity, FIAF's core mission appears more important now than ever. We are honored and delighted to present the 2018 FIAF*

award to Apichatpong Weerasethakul, a director who embodies true commitment to the art of film and engagement in its preservation. As a filmmaker whose work engages deeply with the past and the importance of human memory, while also tracing its own distinctive, original artistic path through the film medium, Apichatpong embodies all of the values the FIAF award represents in this milestone year."

**Apichatpong Weerasethakul** grew up in Khon Kaen in north-eastern Thailand. He began creating film and video shorts in 1994, and completed his first feature in 2000. He has also mounted exhibitions and installations around the world since 1998. Often non-linear, with a strong sense of dislocation, his works deal with memory, subtly addressed personal politics and social issues. A Cannes Palme d'Or winner in 2010 for *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives*, Apichatpong is the first Southeast Asian filmmaker to win the award. His filmography also includes titles such as *Tropical Malady* (2004), *Syndromes of a Century* (2016), or *Cemetery of Splendour* (2015). Through his production company **Kick The Machine**, he helps other filmmakers from across the Asian continent create new works that challenge the aesthetic, social and political status quo. Apichatpong's installation work is also well known for broadening the conception of what cinema can be, most recently SLEEPCINEMAHOTEL, which was commissioned by the International Film Festival Rotterdam in 2018. He is currently preparing his next feature *Memoria*, his first film to be made outside Thailand. *Memoria* will be shooting in 2019 in Colombia and aiming to premiere in 2020.

**FIAF**, the **International Federation of Film Archives**, is a global organization dedicated to the preservation of, and access to, the world's film heritage. Founded in June 1938 with four members (the British Film Institute in London, the Cinémathèque française in Paris, MoMA in New York, and the Reichsfilmarchiv in Berlin), as of 2018 FIAF brings together 166 institutions in 75 countries – reflecting the growth of film heritage as a worldwide concern. FIAF fosters solidarity, exchange and cooperation between the most prominent cinémathèques and film archives worldwide. FIAF's mission comprises the rescue, collection, preservation, screening, and promotion of films, which are valued both as works of art & culture and as historical documents.

**FIAF** wrote and strives to uphold the code of ethics for film preservation and standards for all areas of film archive work, promotes the creation of moving image archives in countries which lack them, encourages the collection and preservation of documents and materials relating to the cinema, seeks the improvement of the legal context in which archives operate, ensures the permanent availability of material from the collections for study and research by the wider community, and develops co-operation between members and to ensure the international availability of all films and documents.

**FIAF** also oversees the increasingly ambitious **Training & Outreach program**, which runs or takes part in training events for professionals of the film archiving field all over the world, and provides assistance to archives in difficulty.

It publishes the bi-annual **Journal of Film Preservation** (a key platform for discussions on all theoretical, technical and historical aspects of moving image archival activities), the **International Index to Film Periodicals** (an authoritative research tool dear to scholars and researchers around the world), and a wealth of other resources (many of which can be found in digital form on the FIAF website) produced by FIAF's three specialized Commissions.

FIAF is an official partner of UNESCO (with consultative status) and is an active member of the Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations (CCAAA), which represents the interests of worldwide professional archive organizations having interests in audiovisual materials and coordinates the celebrations of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage each year on October 27.

*"Only when film archives of different countries will have established regular exchanges will one be finally able to know the true history of cinema." – Henri Langlois, Head of the Cinémathèque française and one of the founders of FIAF, 1936*