



Regulations for Ecumenical Juries No 4_2012

The World Association for Catholic Communication, SIGNIS (the former OCIC), and the International Interchurch Film Organisation INTERFILM are present together at numerous festivals in Ecumenical Juries. This leaflet is addressed to the members of an **International** Ecumenical Jury by SIGNIS and INTERFILM. Its object is to define their task and make them easier.

1. Constitution of the Jury

1.1 An **International Ecumenical Jury** is formed by INTERFILM and the SIGNIS Festival Committee jointly.

1.1.1 The jury members of SIGNIS are appointed by the SIGNIS **Cinema Desk** in co-operation with the SIGNIS General Secretariat and the member organisation of the country in which the festival is held.

1.1.2 The jury members of INTERFILM are appointed by its Jury co-ordinator in co-operation with the INTERFILM Presidium and, if possible, with the member representative of the country in which the Festival is held and with WACC, when it gives its support.

1.1.3 INTERFILM and SIGNIS may accept special appointments concerning the origin of single jury members according to the nature of the respective festival.

1.2 Only people recognized for their competence in the field of cinema and who accept the rules and criteria may become members of an Ecumenical Jury. Normally, they will be members of SIGNIS or INTERFILM.

1.3 SIGNIS and INTERFILM will endeavour to form Juries representing various aspects of the cinema world as well as different nationalities, genders and ages.

1.4 An Ecumenical Jury comprises at least three members, including a chairperson and a Secretary. Usually the chairperson is appointed in advance by SIGNIS or INTERFILM (alternative each year) or by the jury members themselves, if this has not been done by INTERFILM or SIGNIS. If the chairperson is a SIGNIS member, the secretary should be an INTERFILM member and vice-versa if possible (see 3.1).

2. The Jury's responsibilities

2.1 As guests of the Management of a film festival, the members of the jury undertake to

2.1.1 fulfil their role as jury members by viewing **all the films in their entirety** in the official competition (fiction, documentary or short film competition depending the aim of the Festival) and, as far as possible, the most important films in the other sections **and by attending all the jury meetings including ecumenical receptions and additional special jury obligations.**

2.1.2 to award a prize and where appropriate, commendations (in French "mention spéciale", in German "Lobende Erwähnung") for the films in competition which they consider the most outstanding according to the criteria of SIGNIS and INTERFILM (*see item 4*).

2.1.3 award a prize and, where appropriate, commendations to films in additional sections of the festival, if this has been decided officially by INTERFILM and SIGNIS (for example "Forum" and "Panorama" at the Berlinale).

2.1.4 Special Awards and/or Honorary Awards (in French «Prix d'Honneur»; in German "Spezialpreis", "Sonderpreis" oder "Ehrenpreis" (**special commendations/prix spéciale/spezielle Erwähnung**) will be given only through a special agreement made by SIGNIS and/or INTERFILM to honour films out of competition, filmmakers or personalities from the world of cinema.

2.1.5 The jury limits its presentation of awards to the film it has chosen for prize or commendation and makes no other awards or comments on other films in the festival selections.

2.2 As SIGNIS and INTERFILM delegates at a film festival, the members of the jury undertake:

2.2.1 to represent the members of SIGNIS and INTERFILM in relation to the Festival Management and the professionals attending the Festival;

2.2.2 **send to the SIGNIS and INTERFILM Offices respectively all articles they write and publish concerning the Festival, the prize winning films and the jury presence** (*see item 3.6.7*).

2.2.3 **make additional efforts that the prize winning films become known in the jury member's country of origin, informing local distributors, cinemas and press-services. The owners of the film-rights are asked to support and facilitate all kind of efforts by INTERFILM- and SIGNIS members to screen the awarded film in non-theatrical and non-commercial areas in Church and cultural institution, where INTERFILM- and SIGNIS members are engaged and active.**

3. The Jury's Duties

3.1 Members of the Jury meet together at the beginning of the Festival according to the information given by one of the jury-coordinators of INTERFILM and SIGNIS or the appointed chairperson

3.1.1 to appoint, eventually, the chairperson if SIGNIS and INTERFILM have not done so in advance and to appoint a secretary from amongst their number as needed (*see item 1.5*)

3.1.2 **to be briefed about the workings of the festival programs, meetings and practical information**

3.1.3 **to remind jurors of the basic criteria for the choice of films and the goal of an Ecumenical Prize.**

3.1.4 All members of the jury will regularly meet together during the festival, not only at the beginning to present each other and to discuss the schedule, but at least also in the middle of the festival and/or before having the final discussion and decision.

3.2 The Jury's discussions and deliberations are held in camera **and not in public. The jury members undertake not to disclose the award winners until the Award ceremony, with the exception of SIGNIS and INTERFILM representatives.**

3.3 The Jury takes its decisions independently.

3.4 The jury considers every film eligible for an award, eliminating a film only after an open discussion and dialogue. The decisions of the Jury are made only after the opinions of all jurors are heard and by simple majority; the Chairperson having a casting vote in the case of a tie.

3.5 The citation for each award includes the title of the film, director, country of origin, year of production and a short explanation of motivation for the award. The text of the citation for the award should be about three sentences and 60 to 80 words maximum. Readers of these texts who have not seen the film receiving the award should be able to gather the basic plot, the film's values and the particular and distinctive qualities of the film, avoiding generalisations that could apply to many films.

3.6 The Chairperson, in cooperation with its jury-secretary (see 3.7) or the local representatives of SIGNIS and/or INTERFILM ensures that the jury carries out its mission and in particular undertakes

3.6.1 to convene and chair the meetings of the Jury;

3.6.2 to represent the jury;

3.6.3 to **announce** and to make the jury's decisions public (see also the duty of the secretary item 3.7.5)

The announcement has to be done as follows:

"The Ecumenical Jury of SIGNIS and INTERFILM", ...or: "of INTERFILM and SIGNIS" awards its Prize to

3.6.4 draw up a report of the Jury's activities at the Festival, special observations and propositions for the future presence at the Festival and send it to the SIGNIS and INTERFILM Offices.

3.7 The **Secretary** undertakes (in collaboration with the Chairperson and the local representatives of SIGNIS and/or INTERFILM, depending on the rules of the festival):

3.7.1 to support the Chairperson;

3.7.2 to take minutes about the main decisions of the jury;

3.7.3 to **fulfill** the certificates/diplomas (which are prepared by SIGNIS or INTERFILM, eventually by the local representatives of SIGNIS and/or INTERFILM)

3.7.4 to plan (in collaboration with the Festival Management) the award ceremony;

3.7.5 to draw up and circulate a press release on the choice of the Jury and send it as soon as possible by email to the SIGNIS and INTERFILM Offices as follows:

3.7.5.1 for SIGNIS: guido.convents@signis.net

3.7.5.2 for INTERFILM: kvisarius@gep.film.de; hanshodel38@bluewin.ch

3.7.6 to call a press conference if necessary and suitable (in collaboration **with the local representatives and/or the Festival Management**);

3.7.7 to send to the SIGNIS and INTERFILM Office as soon as possible complete documentation on the awards made by the Jury (see 3.7.5)

4. Choice of films: Criteria and Rules

4.1 Rules and Recommendations

4.1.1 An Ecumenical **Prize** consists of a trophy and a certificate, while an Ecumenical **Commendation** (in French: “Mention spéciale”; in German: “Lobende Erwähnung”) consists of a certificate only. The trophy and certificates are given to the director or his/her representatives.

4.1.2 An Ecumenical Jury may not give a prize to a film which has already been awarded a prize by another Ecumenical Jury.

4.1.3 The Ecumenical Jury will limit the number of prizes and commendations to a maximum of three (one prize with one or two commendations, prize ex aequo and one commendation).

4.1.4 The jury should favour quality films without regard to their commercial future. However, the Jury will take into consideration, that the award can help independent films to find a wider audience and possibilities for successful distribution.

4.1.5 The jury is not obliged to award an Ecumenical Prize or Commendation at a Festival. It should be noted, however, that, if an Ecumenical Jury does not make an award or gives its award to a film outside the official competition, such a decision is generally seen as a negative judgement on the official selection of films made by the Festival Management (*see item 2.1.1*).

4.2. Criteria

The Ecumenical Jury makes awards to films and to filmmakers according to the criteria developed by SIGNIS and INTERFILM as guidelines for judging films:

4.2.1 High artistic quality: The jury takes into account the artistic talent and technical skill manifested by the director and the film-makers. Films which receive awards should be of high artistic quality.

4.2.2 Message of the Gospel: The jury encourages films which lend expression to a human viewpoint or stimulate debate, raise audience consciousness of the transcendent dimensions of life or portray spiritual values in keeping with the message of the Gospel.

4.2.3 Christian responsibility and human progress: The Jury give special attention to themes relevant to Christian responsibility in modern society and encourages films which dramatise human values and contributes to human progress concerning:

- respect for human dignity and human rights;
- solidarity with all kind of minorities, disadvantaged and oppressed people;
- support for processes for liberation, justice, peace and reconciliation;
- preserving creation and the environment.

4.2.4 Universal impact: Films which receive awards have a universal impact and are not confined to their national or local context. They reflect their local culture and help audiences to respect the language and the images of that culture.

4.2.5 Inventive expression: Regarding all the criteria listed above, the Jury takes into consideration that a film deserves to receive an award if its intention, choice of issues and story telling have found an adequate, convincing and some inventive expression.

4.2.6 Films which have received awards can be recommended for groups to see, discuss and use in appropriate ministries.

5. Participation in Festivals

5.1 SIGNIS and INTERFILM form International Ecumenical Juries at Festivals recognized as being the most competitive (A) by the International Federation of Associations of Film Producers (FIAPF).

5.1.1 SIGNIS and INTERFILM appoints juries for the following festival:

Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin (since 1992)
Festival de Cannes (1974)
Karlovy Vary International Film Festival (1994)
Festival internationale del film, Locarno (1973)
Festival des Films du Monde, Montréal (1979)
International Film Festival Moscow (1989, currently not active)
Internationales Leipziger Festival für Dokumentar- und Animationsfilm (1990)

5.1.2 With the intention of supporting particular fields of cinemas, **SIGNIS and INTERFILM** may also appoint International Juries to certain other festivals. International Ecumenical Juries take part in the following Festivals:

International Film Festival Bratislava (2001, since 2010 not active)
Festival des Osteuropäischen Films Cottbus (1999)
Festival de Film Fribourg (2001)
Internationales Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg (1995)
International Film Festival MOLODIST Kyiv ((1999)
Internationale Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen (2000)
International Film Festival for Children and Youth Zlin (2000)
Golden Apricot International Film Festival Yerevan (2007)
Warsaw Film Festival (2010)
Miskolc Jameson Cinefest (2011)

5.1.3 Interreligious jury INTERFILM and SIGNIS:

Festival Visions du Réel, Nyon (2005)

5.2 SIGNIS also appoints juries for:

Mostra Internazionale del Cinema, Venezia
Festival Internacional de Cine, San Sebastian
Festival Internacional de Cinema, Troia
Mar del Plata
Buenos Aires Festival Internacional de Cine Independente
Festival International de Television de Monaco
Festival del Cinema africano, d'Asia e America Latina (Milano)
Festival del Nuevo cine latinoamericano, La Habana
Festival Panafricain de Cinéma de Ouagadougou
Festival International du film d'Amiens
Hong Kong International Film Festival
Infinity Festival Alba (Italy)
Journée Cinémathographique de Carthage (currently not active)
Prix Italia – TV Festival (Italy)
Rencontres Cinémas d'Amérique Latine de Toulouse
The Sevilla Film Festival
Zanzibar International Film Festival

5.3 Interfaith juries SIGNIS

Fajr Film Festival, Teheran
Brisbane International Film festival
Dhaka International Film Festival

5.4 INTERFILM also appoints juries for:

Filmfestival Max Ophüls Preis, Saarbrücken (1985)
Nordische Filmtage Lübeck (1996)
International Film Festival Arsenal Riga (2004)
International Film Festival Venice (2011)

5.4.1 National members of **INTERFILM** have award prizes since 2002 in Göteborg and Malmö (Svenska Kyrkan) and since 1987 in München (One-Future-Prize of the INTERFILM-Akademie).

5.5 Please note, national members of **SIGNIS** take initiatives to award prizes to films either in the framework of festivals which take place in their own countries or during events which they themselves organize (SIGNIS-SALUTATION Sri Lanka; GOLDEN TORCH AWARD Taiwan, MARGARITA DE PRATA Brazil, CONDOR Venezuela etc.)

5.6 An International Jury of **INTERFILM** or **SIGNIS** can make an award, (prize or commendation) to a film which has already received a prize from a member of **SIGNIS** or **INTERFILM** outside the framework of a festival.

5.7 An Ecumenical Jury may award a film which has already received a prize or commendation by a **SIGNIS** or **INTERFILM** jury alone.

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Berlin, 08-02-11 (No_2)
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