

had voiced their opinions on political issues. Politically charged Kirill Serebrennikov from Russia has been one among the several such directors. His last two works, "Petrov's Flu" and "Leto," competed at the Festival.

PHOTOGALLERY

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Serebrennikov, who was accused by Moscow of embezzlement, is now under a three-year travel ban. His "Tchaikovsky's Wife is expected to compete at Cannes this year. But this may not happen."

Also, the European Film Awards has said that it "strongly condemns the war started by Russia" and decided to exclude Russian movies.

The Cannes Festival's history is linked to dissent and dissatisfaction. Once, it played Jafar Panahi's "This is Not a Film' by having it smuggled from Iran in a pen drive, which was buried inside a cake! The auteur has been banned from making cinema for 20 years, but has still managed to make movies on the sly.

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In fact, Cannes began in 1939 (though it had to wound up in three days because Hitler's forces marched into

In fact, Cannes began in 1939 (though it had to wound up in three days because Hitler's forces marched into Poland heralding World War II) as a protest against German and Italian domination of titles at the Venice Film Festival.

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**GAUTAMAN BHASKARAN** *Gautaman Bhaskaran is a movie critic, commentator and an author, who penned the first ever biography of Adoor Gopalakrishnan, and has been covering ma...<u>Read More</u>* 

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