

## Asghar Farhadi's 'The Salesman' among 7 films supported by Doha Film Festival Selected to Screen at 2016 Cannes Film Festival

- Co-financed by DFI, *The Salesman* competes for the coveted Palme d'Or in the Festival's Official Competition
- Six DFI Grantees at Cannes include *Divines*, *Apprentice*, *Dogs*, *Mimosas*, *Tramontane* and *Diamond Island*
- DFI Also Supports Screening of Eight Made in Qatar Films at the Cannes Short Film Corner

**Doha, Qatar; May 08, 2016:** *The Salesman* written and directed by celebrated filmmaker Asghar Farhadi, and co-financed by the Doha Film Institute, will mark its world premiere in the official competition of the 2016 Cannes Film Festival. Six other films supported by the Doha Film Institute Grants programme have been officially selected to screen in key sections at the prestigious global film event running from May 11 to 22.

*The Salesman* is produced by Memento Films Production and Asghar Farhadi Production, in coproduction with Arte France Cinéma and in association with Doha Film Institute, Memento Films Distribution and Arte France.

Forced out of their apartment due to dangerous works on a neighboring building, Emad and Rana move into a new flat in the center of Tehran. An incident linked to the previous tenant will dramatically change the young couple's life. *The Salesman* stars Shahab Hosseini (*A Separation*) and Taraneh Alidoosti (*About Elly*). Farhadi won the 2012 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film for *A Separation* and the Best Actress Award at Cannes 2013 for his last film *The Past*.

Fatma Al Remaihi, Chief Executive Officer of the Doha Film Institute, said: "We are delighted that seven films supported by the Institute have been officially selected at Cannes this year. The selection of *The Salesman* in the Festival's official competition section is an achievement we are all very excited about, as it adds to our pride in partnering with international productions that set new benchmarks in excellence in filmmaking. Asghar Farhadi is one of the most recognized filmmakers working today, someone we have long admired for his talent and commitment to making films that tackle strong subject matters with enduring humanity.

"I would like to thank the entire team behind the film for sharing their vision with us and making us a part of their incredible journey, and wish them the very best. This has been a

passion project for all involved and we look forward to audiences discovering this latest masterpiece”.

Among the six DFI grantee films, two have been selected to the Un Certain Regard section - **Apprentice** (Singapore, Germany, France, Hong Kong, Qatar) written and directed by Boo Junfeng; and **Dogs** (Romania, France, Bulgaria, Qatar) by Bogdan Mirica.

Showcased in the Directors’ Fortnight is **Divines** (Morocco, France, Qatar), directed by Houda Benyamina. The remaining three DFI grantee films will compete for top honours in the Critics Week including: **Mimosas** (Spain, Morocco, France, Qatar) by Oliver Laxe; **Tramontane** (Lebanon, France, UAE, Qatar) by Vatche Boulghourjian; and **Diamond Island** (Cambodia, France, Germany, Qatar) by Davy Chou.

“At the very core of DFI’s film funding mandate is to contribute to World Cinema and ensure that great stories continue to be told. We are committed to celebrating high-calibre talents, both emerging and established, to contribute to a growing roster of quality world cinema. Through our DFI Grantee programme, we are underling our commitment to support emerging talent and create a body of work that reflects the cinematic ambitions of the next generation. These projects will also inspire the young Qatari film professionals to create compelling content that will gain international acclaim,” added Al Remailhi.

As part of Qatar’s presence in Cannes, the Doha Film Institute is also presenting a special Made in Qatar showcase of short films at the Cannes’ Short Film Corner, a section of the festival dedicated to showcasing films from more than 90 countries to thousands of accredited industry guests, festival selectors and short film industry specialists.

The line-up includes winners of the Best Documentary Film and Best Narrative Film at Ajyal 2015, *The Palm Tree* by Jassim al Remailhi and *Asfoora* by Mayar Hamdan respectively, *Good as New* by Jasser Alagha, *Yellow Nights* by Abdullah Al Mulla, *The Notebook* by Amna Al-Binali, *Light Sounds* by Karem Kamel, *Veganize it* by Khalid Salim, *To My Mother* by Amina Ahmed Al Bloshi and *Inside Out* by Fahad Al-Obaidly.

Since premiering at Ajyal in 2015 the MIQ package screened at Clermont Ferrand and Berlinale, and is also scheduled to screen in Sarajevo and several other festivals on the international circuit later this year.

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**About Doha Film Institute:**

Doha Film Institute is an independent, not-for-profit cultural organisation. It supports the growth of the local film community through cultivating film appreciation, enhancing industry knowledge and contributing to the development of sustainable creative industries in Qatar. The Institute’s platforms include funding and production of local, regional and international films; skills-sharing and mentorship programmes; film screenings; the Ajyal



Youth Film Festival; and Qumra. With culture, community, learning and entertainment at its foundation, the Institute is committed to supporting Qatar's 2030 vision for the development of a knowledge-based economy.

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