



## 8 captivating 'Made in Qatar' films and acclaimed international films at 4<sup>th</sup> Ajyal Youth Film Festival on Thursday

**Doha, Qatar; November 30, 2016:** On Thursday (December 1, 2016), the fourth Ajyal Youth Film Festival, presented by the Doha Film Institute, presents its first showcase of 'Made in Qatar' films by Qatari directors and people who call Qatar home.

There is a section of internationally acclaimed films as Ajyal marks the commencement of its first Midnight Screenings and SONY Cinema Under the Stars. Ajyal Family Weekend also kicks off today (Thursday), which is open for all, as well as the first Ajyal Talks, insightful discussions with social media influencers that provide an inspiring interaction with people who have a positive influence on youth.

A strong demonstration of the home-grown film capabilities, the Made in Qatar 1 will screen at 7 PM at Katara Drama Theatre, and includes a selection of eight short films including those made with the support of Doha Film Institute's Qatari Film Fund.

On showcase are: **9956** by Zaki Hussain, a wonderful satire that is as heartfelt as it is hilarious about Hassan, who is told he would never walk again but discovers he could crawl, and never looks back. Recipient of the Qatari Film Fund grant, **Amer: An Arabian Legend** by Jassim Al-Rumaihi, follows the story of Amer, a legendary purebred Arabian racehorse.

**Between Science and Religion** by Hamida Issa is a poignant short that reminds us to be mindful of the present in our all-too short time on Earth, while **Dana's Kite** by Noor Al-Nasr, is about Dana, who plays on the beach and tries to get her brother's attention, but he's too busy messaging his friends to watch out for her.

**Fragile** (Qatar, France) by Khalifa AlMarri, is about an ex-couple is having a lot of trouble letting go, while **Al-Johara**, also a Qatari Film Fund grant recipient, directed by Nora Al-Subai reimagines a familiar fairy tale in a very contemporary fashion. **Kashta** by AJ Al Thani is about a father teaching his sons how to hunt out in the quiet desert, when a careless struggle between the two brothers leads to disaster. Also watch **Shishbarak** by Bayan Dahdah, a gentle film that captures the wonderful effects of spending time with loved ones, even if they aren't actually there.

Do not miss **Enclave** (Serbia, Germany), Serbia's entry for the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film last year, directed by Goran Radovanović, about young Nenad, who lives in Kosovo and is the only student in a school, where he is taken every day in an armoured vehicle. It will screen at 8.30 PM at Katara 12 – Theatre A.

Following its world premiere at Cannes comes **Fatima** (France) by Philippe Faucon, screening at 9.15 PM at Katara 12 – Theatre B. It is about an Algerian immigrant to France who spends all her energy working as a cleaner to care for her two daughters.

The Midnight Screenings at Ajyal will debut with **Under the Shadow** (Iran, UK, Jordan, Qatar) UK's selection for the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film this year, directed by Babak Anvari. Against the



distressing backdrop of the War of the Cities that came soon after the Iranian Revolution, the line between the terrors of wartime and the threat of supernatural possession is blurred in this exceedingly unnerving film. The screening is at 11 PM at Katara Drama Theatre.

Also watch the winner of Berlinale's Golden Bear this year, ***Fire at Sea*** (Italy, France) directed by Gianfranco Rosi at Katara Opera House at 9.30 PM. The documentary is set in the tiny Italian island of Lampedusa, which has been the first stop on the migrant route from Africa to Europe for about 400,000 people.

Tickets for all the above are priced QR25 for general screening, and are available for purchase 24 hours a day at [ajyalfilm.com](http://ajyalfilm.com) or from the Ajyal Katara Main Box Office in Katara Building 12 or Ajyal FNAC Ticket Outlet, FNAC Qatar (at Lagoona Mall).

Open for free to the public is the first screening of SONY Cinema Under the Stars with ***CodeGirl*** (USA), directed by Lesley Chilcott. Screening at 8 PM at Katara Esplanade, it follows several all-girl teams as they attempt to address issues from feeling isolated at school to wasting water, from garbage in the streets to violence in the home.

Also open to the public is the first Ajyal Talks on ***When 1 Thousand > 1 Million*** by Omar Hussein, a Saudi public figure who specialises in digital media, at 7.30 PM at Katara Opera House. Families can revel at the Ajyal Family Weekend that opens at 6 PM with an array of fun activities for all.

Katara is the Cultural Partner and Oxy Qatar is the Principal Partner for the 2016 edition. Qatar Tourism Authority is the Signature Partner of the festival this year. For more details on the Ajyal Youth Film Festival, please visit [www.dohafilminstitute.com/filmfestival](http://www.dohafilminstitute.com/filmfestival)

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**Photo caption:**

*Fatma Al Remaihi, Festival Director and Chief Executive Officer of Doha Film Institute, with the Ajyal Jurors.*

**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.

Doha Film Institute

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