

## Plenty still to see as festival comes to a close tomorrow (Monday) at the 5<sup>th</sup> Ajyal Youth Film Festival

*Films to remember offer something for all the family.*

**Doha, Qatar; Dec 3, 2017:** Tomorrow (Monday Dec. 4) the fifth Ajyal Youth Film Festival, presented by the Doha Film Institute, comes to a close with a series of repeat screenings that offer moviegoers the opportunity to see films they might have missed the first time around.

These include Shirin Neshat's *Looking for Oum Kolthoum (Germany, Austria, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar / 2017)*, an examination of the great singer and 'Star of the East' that is more than a standard biopic, which screens Mon 4 Dec / 9:00 PM, director-twins Alex and Andrew J. Smith's *Walking Out (USA/2017)*, the story of an estranged father and son and a hunting trip that goes wrong, which screens Mon 4 Dec / 6:00 PM and finally, Dorota Kobiela and Hugh Welchman's *Loving Vincent (UK, Poland, Qatar/2017)*, an exploration of the life of Vincent van Gogh through 65,000 animated oil paintings executed in his signature style, which screens Mon 4 Dec / 10:00 PM

Showing for the first time, *Journey into Life* presents 12 short films from far-flung nations, full of exceptional characters and unusual situations, from a tiny man who lives in a suitcase and a building where everything is not as it seems, to a chameleon whose eyes are larger than his stomach and a girl who wants to live in the technicoloured world of television. **Screens Mon 4 Dec / 4:00 PM**

Finally, **Geekdom**, a pop culture feast of comics, cosplay, movies, TV series and video games and **LeBlockade**, a multimedia celebration of Qatar's cultural resilience open for the last day at Katara Buildings 18 and 19, from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Over the last six days, festivalgoers have had the chance to see 103 films, including 20 full-length features from 43 countries around the region and the world, making this year's Ajyal festival the largest to date. From the MENA premier of Nora Twomey's much-anticipated film *The Breadwinner (Canada, Ireland, Luxembourg/2017)* and the world premier of the *My Little Beasts* cine-concert, a collaboration with Forum des Images to screenings of Doha Film Institute supported films like *Wallay (Burkina Faso, Qatar/2017)* and *Liyana (Swaziland, Qatar, USA/2017)* and a number of other Qatari co-productions, including *Birds Like Us (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey, UK, USA, Qatar/2017)*, *Listen to the Silence (Georgia/Qatar/2017)* and *House in the Fields (Morocco, Qatar/2017)*.

Now an integral part of Qatar's cultural landscape, the festival celebrated the artistic resistance and rebirth that has followed the imposition of the blockade, and as part of its on-going remit to demonstrate the power of film to engage the youth and illuminate issues of global importance, it will continue to build upon its five values of curiosity, empowerment, film, friendship and joy for years to come.

Tickets 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 Doha Festival City.

The Ajyal Youth Film Festival is made possible thanks to its partners: Katara Cultural Village as its Cultural Partner; Qatar Tourism Authority is the Strategic Partner and Occidental Petroleum Corporation and Ooredoo are the Principal Partners. For more details on the Ajyal Youth Film Festival, please visit [www.dohafilminstitute.com/filmfestival](http://www.dohafilminstitute.com/filmfestival)

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**About Doha Film Institute:**

The 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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