



Ajlal Film Festival celebrates Year of Culture Qatar – Russia 2018 with powerful Made in Russia program of six short films

Follows the exhibition of 'Made in Qatar' films at the VII Saint Petersburg International Cultural Forum in Russia in November

Doha, Qatar; November 19, 2018: The sixth edition of the Ajyal Film Festival, the Doha Film Institute's annual cinema event taking place November 28 – December 3 at Katara Cultural Village, will celebrate the **Year of Culture Qatar – Russia 2018** with a powerful **Made in Russia** showcase of six short films that present fascinating insight into the country's filmmaking trends, culture and people.

Made in Russia will screen on **Friday, November 30** from **8 PM** at **The Ajyal Stage on Katara Esplanade** and includes a selection of short Russian narrative and documentary films. This follows the success of Doha Film Institute's **Made in Qatar** screening earlier this year at the at the **VII Saint Petersburg International Cultural Forum** in Russia in partnership with the Qatar's Ministry of Culture and Sports.

"The Made in Russia showcase at Ajyal marks the Year of Culture Qatar – Russia, and the significant cultural interaction between our countries," remarked Fatma Hassan Alremaihi, Festival Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Doha Film Institute. "We have placed the focus on the work of up-and-coming Russian directors that will stimulate dialogue among young filmmakers as well as audiences and drive a deeper understanding of Russian cinema – a country that has gifted the world with some of the finest classics and bold new filmmaking statements."

Curated by Alexei Medvedev, the Made in Russia programme films are:

- **The Hymns of Muscovy** (2018) by Dimitri Venkov – an experimental telling of Moscow's history through architecture and music. The film is a trip to the planet Muscovy – an upside-down twin of the city.
- **The Return of Erkin** (2015) by Maria Guskova – Erkin gets out of prison and wants to return to his former life. But everything has changed, and he does not know if he can live as a free man.
- **Aquathlon** (2018) by Alexey Shabarov – a timid young man learns to stand up for himself when faced with the oppression of an over-demanding swimming coach.
- **What a Pest** (2018) by Svetlana Chernikova – a forlorn old fisherman reflects on his life and loss, taking some comfort in his beautifully Arcadian but solitary surroundings.
- **Hide and Seek** (2018) by Anastasia Ostapenko – an experimental exploration of mortality in which a young boy happens upon a graveyard while he is burying his beloved pet.
- **The First Thunder** (2017) by Anastasia Melikhova – a beautifully illustrated musical fantasy about mischievous little water drops and the awakening of mother nature from her winter hibernation.

Tickets for Ajyal Film Festival screenings are priced QR25 for general screening. Tickets are available for purchase 24 hours a day at <http://www.dohafilminstitute.com/filmfestival/ticketinformation>, or in-person at Ajyal FNAC Ticket Outlets (located at Doha Festival City and Lagoona Mall) or from the Ajyal Katara Main Box Office in Katara Building 12.

2018 Ajyal Film Festival's Official Partners include: Katara Cultural Village – Cultural Partner; Ooredoo – Principal Partner; Novo Cinemas – Strategic Partner and St. Regis Doha – Signature Sponsor.



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Note to Editors:

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 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.

Twitter: @DohaFilm; Instagram: @DohaFilm; Facebook: www.facebook.com/DohaFilmInstitute

About Ajyal Film Festival:

Ajyal Film Festival is an annual celebration of film designed to nurture young minds and support the development of mindful global citizens and thoughtful future leaders in a creative and educational environment. 'Ajyal', Arabic for 'generations', brings people of all ages together through screenings and events that inspire creative interaction and stimulate cinematic dialogue. Through its' jury programme, youth between the ages of 8 and 21 are given an opportunity to watch, analyse and discuss global cinema and culture, developing self-confidence, independent critical thinking skills, self-expression, and an appreciation of cinema. 6th Ajyal Film Festival takes place from the 28th of November to the 3rd of December.

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