

KATARA DFI CINEMA RETURNS WITH QATAR PREMIERE OF OSCAR WINNER 'A SEPARATION'

Doha, May 22, 2012: Katara and Doha Film Institute (DFI) will continue a new strand of world cinema screenings with the highly acclaimed Oscar-winning® Iranian film *A Separation*. Cultural partners Katara and DFI, following their successful collaboration on the Doha Tribeca Film Festival and TEDx Doha Summit, aim to provide Doha audiences with the best in world and independent filmmaking through the monthly Katara DFI Cinema screenings.

Ludmila Cvikova, Head of International Programming at DFI, said: "Every year there are gems that are produced outside of the conventional studio system, and we are honoured to be able to screen a selection of them in Doha. *A Separation* deservedly won massive recognition from international critics and audiences alike, and Doha audiences will appreciate its powerful take on family and society."

Dr. Emad Sultan, Cultural Affairs Director, Katara said: "Doha is fast becoming a cultural hotspot, and we at Katara are proud to be able to provide some of the most innovative screenings and events. Our partnership with DFI has allowed us to boost Doha's cinema culture by showcasing the best films from our region and beyond, and we look forward to continuing the trend with this year's screening series."

A Separation centers around the marital disintegration of Nader and Simin, an upper middle class couple in Tehran. The film is Iran's first Oscar® winner; prior to its 2012 Best Foreign Language Oscar®, the film also won Golden Globe Awards in the Best Foreign Language Film category, and the prestigious Berlin International Film Festival Golden Bear for best film as well as the Silver Bear for Best Actress and Best Actor.

This release is supported by the film's Middle East Distributors, MC Distribution and Teleview International. Screenings of *A Separation* will take place daily from June 12 to 18 at Katara Drama Theatre (Building 16). For show timings, please consult the DFI website: www.dohafilminstitute.com.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editor

About Doha Film Institute (DFI):

Doha Film Institute: Incorporated in May 2010, The Doha Film Institute (DFI) is Qatar's first independent cultural organization dedicated to enhancing the cultural impact of film, improving industry expertise and building a sustainable film industry in Qatar. Since its inception, DFI has led Qatar's national mandate to invest into the development of the creative industries, and supports the country's 2030 vision for the development of a knowledge based economy. DFI's first major co-production included 'Black Gold', directed by Jean Jacques Annaud which was released in 2011 and 'The Reluctant Fundamentalist', directed by Mira Nair which is currently in post-production.

For more information, please contact:

Majid Wasi
Doha Film Institute
Tel: 00974 33247800
Email: mwasi@dohafilminstitute.com

About Katara – The Cultural Village

Situated on the eastern coast of Doha, Katara – The Cultural Village is an integrated cultural landmark which possesses the character of a historic and inspirational breeding ground for arts and culture in Qatar.

The village is built on 1,000,000 square meters, its interconnecting pathways and creatively placed buildings constructed to resemble Al Fareej, an ancient Qatari alley.

Attractions offered by Katara – The Cultural Village include an open amphitheatre, an opera house, a cinema which can double as a drama theatre, a multi-purpose hall, handicrafts souq, book stall, and beach, in addition to a rich variety of international cuisine.

Several locally based NGOs, including Algannas Society, Childhood Cultural Center, Qatar Fine Arts Society, Qatar Photographic Society, Qatar Society for Engineers, and Visual Art Center, currently operate in Katara – The Cultural Village.

By hosting entertaining and informative festivals, exhibitions, forums, and other cultural events, Katara – The Cultural Village accentuates Doha's globally recognized position as the capital of Arab culture.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Rabia Zaman
H+K Strategies
rabia.zaman@hkstrategies.com
+974 4441 4781