



Press Release

Doha Film Institute appoints Abdulaziz Al Khater as CEO; Adds Souq Waqif as Hub for Doha Tribeca Film Festival 2012

- *Katara will be the screening hub and heart of Family Days*
- *Three screening venues including Museum of Islamic Art aims to highlight Qatar's cultural heritage with international guests*

Doha, Qatar; October 3, 2012: Doha Film Institute (DFI), an independent cultural organisation that brings Qatar's film initiatives under one banner, has appointed Abdulaziz Al-Khater as its Chief Executive Officer.

Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa Bint Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Founder and Chair of DFI, said: "Doha Film Institute has established its credentials as one of the most promising film education establishments in the region, bringing fresh perspectives and opportunities for our talented creative community. The all-encompassing approach of DFI to promote a robust film industry in Qatar has helped us to create a distinct identity not only in the region but also globally. The appointment of Mr Abdulaziz Al-Khater, who has a wealth of management expertise, will be strong value addition in driving the future growth of the Institute. I also want to thank Acting CEO and DFI Board Member Mr. Mansour Ibrahim Al-Mahmoud in leading DFI during its transition phase and actively supporting strategies to build creative value and sustainable impact."

Acting CEO and DFI Board Member Mansour Ibrahim Al-Mahmoud said, "Abdulaziz brings with him extensive experience in leadership and business management, with a strong local and regional focus. His in-depth business acumen combined with international insights will help further support DFI's overall business objectives and company mandate".

With over 14 years of leadership experience, Al-Khater has extensive regional and international expertise in management, banking, information technology, operations, finance, and logistics. He joins DFI from Al Khalij Commercial Bank, having established it as one of the key financial institutions in the region. Al-Khater has also held senior positions with International Bank of Qatar and HSBC.

Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Khater said, "I am looking forward to being part of a growing cultural organisation that has established itself both within the region and internationally as an Institute dedicated to developing Arab talent and creativity. DFI is poised for an exciting era of growth as it continues to evolve and foster the development of local and regional film industries. I am honoured to be involved in the continuous evolution of DFI under the leadership of H.E Sheikha Al Mayassa and the DFI Board."



To further build on its focus of promoting Qatari culture and heritage and to strengthen local community engagement through the annual Doha Tribeca Film Festival (DTFF), DFI has added Souq Waqif, the city's favourite cultural attraction, which will now serve as a Festival hub for DTFF to be held for eight days from November 17-24, 2012.

Featuring Souq Waqif Boutique Hotels set in an inimitable environment that highlights the richness of Arabian architecture, Souq Waqif will host the opening and closing ceremonies of the Festival, and an array of industry and hospitality events. The other festival venue, Katara, will continue to serve as the Screening Hub of the Festival and the heart of Family Days. DTFF screenings will also be held at the Museum of Islamic Art auditorium.

His Excellency Mr Issa Bin Mohammed Al-Mohannadi, DTFF Vice Chair said: "Souq Waqif, one of Qatar's most popular tourist destinations, is a strong testament to Doha's thriving culture and arts landscape and a perfect choice as one of the Festival hubs. With Souq Waqif, Katara and the Museum of Islamic Art serving as the Festival and screening venues, we are offering visitors a powerful showcase of Qatari culture, bringing them closer to the heart of our nation's proud heritage. DTFF has always focused on bonding with the local community, and Souq Waqif and Katara will be central to community engagement by hosting family and industry events that promote intercultural dialogue."

Souq Waqif Boutique Hotels features a collection of five contemporary hotels including Arumaila Hotel, Al Jasra, Al Mirqab, Al Najada and Musheireb. The boutique properties are designed to provide guests with a strong understanding of Qatari culture – from traditions to architecture – as seen from the winding 'sikkas,' in addition to an array of local art galleries - with truly Arabian generosity.

The fourth edition of the Festival will open with Mira Nair's critically-acclaimed *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, in addition to showcasing an internationally diverse programme of over 50 films in distinct themed segments. Public participation will be central with the Festival hosting an array of large community events, including Family Day, as well as panel discussions, networking events and educational filmmaking programmes including Doha Talks and Doha Projects.

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About Doha Film Institute:

Doha Film Institute (DFI) is an independent cultural organisation established in 2010 to incorporate Qatar's film initiatives under one banner; organically supporting the growth of the local film community by enhancing industry knowledge, cultivating film appreciation and contributing to the development of sustainable creative industries in Qatar. DFI's year-round platforms include funding and production of local, regional and international films, educational programmes, film screenings, and the annual Doha Tribeca Film Festival (DTFF).

With culture, community, education and entertainment at its foundation, DFI serves as an all-encompassing film hub in Doha, as well as a resource for the region and the rest of the world. DFI is committed to supporting Qatar's 2030 vision for the development of a knowledge based economy.



DFI has established a number of strategic cultural partnerships with leading local and international organisations including Tribeca Enterprises, World Cinema Foundation, Maisha Film Lab, Katara Cultural Village and Giffoni Film Festival.

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