



## Hekayat Khaleejiya (Khaleeji Stories) Screens Awards Winner Film '*Wadjda*'

### *Q&A with Saudi Director, Haifaa Al-Mansour Post Screening*

**Doha, March 16, 2013:** Doha Film Institute's (DFI) year round series, Hekayat Khaleejiya, returns for the second time with the screening of the Saudi Award Winning film, '*Wadjda*' (dir. Haifaa Al-Mansour, 2012). The three time Venice Film Festival awarded winner will be screened on April 4th and 5th at the Museum of Islamic Art Auditorium. The two screenings will be followed by an extended Q&A session with the director Haifaa Al-Mansour.

'*Wadjda*', the first film ever shot entirely in Saudi Arabia, and the first Saudi feature directed by a woman, is the story of a fun-loving, entrepreneurial 10-year-old girl living in a suburb of Riyadh. When Wadjda sees a beautiful green bicycle for sale, she wants it desperately, but her mother won't allow her to have it, fearing repercussions from a conservative society, so Wadjda decides to raise the money herself. Just as she is losing hope, Wadjda hears of a cash prize for a Koran recitation competition at her school.

Don't miss the opportunity to see the film which won five international awards, including the Muhr award for Best Film at the Dubai International Film Festival plus the chance to meet one of the most talented Khaleeji newcomers, Haifaa Al-Mansour. Tickets are now on sale at [www.dohafilminstitute.com](http://www.dohafilminstitute.com) or in person at the DFI Ticket Outlet at the Museum of Islamic Art.

'Hekayat Khaleejiya' is a DFI screening series dedicated to showcasing cinematic voices from the Gulf region. Taking place at the Museum of Islamic Art every three months, 'Hekayat Khaleejiya' will present films accompanied by a Q&A session with the filmmakers for a chance to gain insight in to their work and process.

- Ends -

#### **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.

**For more information, please contact:**

Menna Hazem

Media Relations Strategist

33531316

[mhazem@dohafilminstitute.com](mailto:mhazem@dohafilminstitute.com)