

KATARA DFI CINEMA ANNOUNCES NEW 'ARAB VOICES' STRAND FOR APRIL 2013

- *With two screenings of 'Bekas' and five screenings of 'Wadjda'- back by popular demand after sold out screenings this weekend.*

Doha, April 8, 2012: Katara, Cultural Village and Doha Film Institute (DFI) are pleased to announce the latest instalment of Katara DFI Cinema Series, 'Arab Voices', a programme celebrating the diversity of Arab culture featuring contemporary films from leading cinematic voices in the MENA region.

Films by ground-breaking Saudi filmmaker Haifaa Al Mansour and debut feature filmmaker Karzan Kader will run in April with a week of screenings of **'Wadjda'** back by popular demand following the sell-out screenings over the past weekend, and a sneak preview of **'Bekas'**, two standout films in a pioneering year for Arab cinema. The films will be screened daily, with two showings of **'Bekas'** and five of **'Wadjda'** from April 18th to 22nd at Katara Drama Theatre in building 16.

Under the oppressive regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraqi Kurdistan, **'Bekas'** tells the story of two homeless orphaned brothers who are inspired to travel to America after they see 'Superman' in the city's first cinema. They have no passports and no money – and their only means of transport is a donkey called Michael Jackson. With all the odds against them, they set out toward their dream, discovering on their journey that perhaps they are superheroes themselves. It was a crowd favourite at the Dubai International Film Festival where it won the People's Choice award.

'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. **'Wadjda'** won three awards at the Venice Film Festival where it premiered last year and

has gone on to screen in 12 countries winning critical and popular acclaim. It was named Best Film at the Dubai Film Festival in December.

For tickets, Box Office timings and full films listing please log in to www.dohafilminstitute.com/arab-voices or visit the DFI Ticket Outlet in Katara, Building 26, from April 14th to 22nd between 1:00 PM till 7:00 PM.

-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:

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

Ajay Teli
Doha Film Institute
Tel: 00974 55406634
ateli@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