



## **Doha Film Institute to present 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Ajyal Youth Film Festival from Nov. 29 to Dec. 5**

**Tuesday May 12, 2015:** The Doha Film Institute today announced that the third edition of the Ajyal Youth Film Festival will be held from November 29 to December 5, 2015.

'Ajyal', Arabic for 'generations', brings people of all ages together through screenings and events that inspire creative interaction and stimulate cinematic dialogue. Youth participation is at the heart of the Festival and its jury programme which provides young people between the ages of 8 and 21 with an opportunity to watch, analyse and discuss films from all over the world, developing critical thinking, self-expression, and an appreciation of cinema.

The second Ajyal Youth Film Festival took place in December 2014, and hosted 450 young jurors of 45 nationalities, alongside a dynamic public programme of screenings and events which included the world premiere of Palestinian racing documentary, 'Speed Sisters', and the regional premiere of 'Kahlil Gibran's The Prophet' attended by producer Salma Hayek and directors Roger Allers and Mohammed Saeed Harib.

The film programme featured 90 films from 43 countries including critically acclaimed award-winners 'Whiplash' by Damien Chazelle, 'Theeb' by Naji Abu Nowar, 'Gente de Bien' by Franco Lolli and 'Macondo' by Sudabeh Mortezai along with a programme of 20 films by Qatar-based filmmakers screening in the popular Made in Qatar section.

Katara Cultural Village continues as the 'Cultural Partner' to the Festival for the third year running. Occidental Petroleum Corporation will serve as a 'Principal Partner' marking its third year of partnership with the Institute, further building on its commitment to the local community by playing an active role in nurturing talent and strengthening Qatar's cultural landscape.

Fatma Al Remaihi, Chief Executive Officer of the Doha Film Institute and Director of the Ajyal Youth Film Festival, said: "In just two editions, we have defined a unique niche for Ajyal in the international film festival landscape. The first two editions have shown us that we can make a positive impact on young people's lives through cinema, and the feedback we have received from festival-goers both young and old, reinforces our belief that there is a need for a cultural event of our own that addresses the creativity of our youth."

The third edition of the Festival will welcome back popular initiatives including The Sandbox digital exhibition space, outdoor screenings and the Doha Giffoni Youth Summit industry



gathering. The event will be extended by one day to allow for an expansion to the competitive sections voted on by the youth jury.

More details will be announced in the coming months. Registration for the youth jury will open in September.

**-ENDS-**

**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 Youth 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.

Doha Film Institute

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