

Qumra 2017 to host over 100 international film experts including festival directors, producers, sales agents and consultants

Industry experts to view exclusive footage from new projects, participate in mentoring and networking sessions with emerging filmmakers

Doha, Qatar; March 1, 2017: The third edition of Qumra, the annual industry event by the Doha Film Institute aimed at mentoring and promoting the new generation of filmmakers, will host over 100 international film industry experts including festival directors, producers, fund managers, sales professionals, script consultants, distributors, VoD platforms and broadcasters amongst others, during the six-day event to be held from March 3 to 8 at Souq Al Waqif and the Museum of Islamic Art.

A number of industry leaders who attended the previous editions have confirmed their participation for the third time alongside many new organisations at the annual gathering dedicated to supporting first- and second-time filmmakers on both a creative and practical level. The delegates come from as far afield as Argentina to the UK, and India to The Netherlands and Egypt to the US.

The Qumra industry programme is centered around 34 projects from Qatar, the Arab region and the rest of the world at various stages of development. The industry sessions are presented in two strands: tutorials, workshops, consultations and one-on-one meetings for projects still in development; and a series of work-in-progress and 'picture lock' screenings and feedback sessions for projects in post production.

Fatma Al Remaihi, Chief Executive Officer of the Doha Film Institute, said: "The enthusiasm and commitment of these international film experts to mentor emerging talents is truly admirable, and we are extremely thankful to them. Qumra is now recognised as an important and relevant project incubator in the Middle East that taps into world-class filmmaking expertise, to benefit the participating projects and provides them with the creative and practical support to scale up the quality and reach of their films.

"We have seen many productive and tangible outcomes for the projects developed in the first two editions of Qumra and I am confident that the connections made between emerging filmmakers and industry mentors in the coming week will further contribute to the growth of a more robust regional film industry and benefit the participants far into the future."

Among the leading industry names to attend the event this year are: Bero Beyer, Director of IFFR; Netflix's Funa Maduka, Content Acquisition – Global Independent Feature Films & Documentaries; Andy Whittaker, Founder of UK distributor and international sales agent Dogwoof; Philippe Bober, Managing Director of Coproduction Office; Christophe Leparc, Managing Director, Programmer at Quinzaine des Réalistes; Carlo Chatrian, Artistic Director of Festival Del film Locarno; Remi Burah, Senior Executive Vice President, ARTE France Cinéma; Filmmaker Tala Hadid and Producer Michel Merkt.

There is a strong representation of consultants, film institutes, film funds, distributors and sales agents such as: Amazon, USA; Arte France Cinema, France; Cohen Media Group, USA; Eye Films, Netherlands; European Audiovisual Entrepreneurs, Luxembourg; The Match Factory, Germany, Front Rowed Entertainment, UAE; Gulf Film, Iffix and Image Nation of UAE; La Cinefoundation, France; the Robert Bosch Stiftung, Berlin; Netflix, USA; Metropolis Art Cinema, Lebanon; Screen Institute Beirut; Sundance Film

Institute, USA; Torino Film Lab, Italy; Tribeca Film Institute, USA; the World Cinema Fund; Gulf Films of Qatar, among others.

A number of international film festivals are represented at Qumra 2017 by their consultants, programmers and other officials, including: Berlin International Film Festival, Busan International Film Festival, Cannes Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, Dubai International Film Festival, Locarno International Film Festival, International Film Festival Rotterdam, Sarajevo Film Festival, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Venice Film Festival, Dublin International Film Festival, Edinburgh International Film Festival, and Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Film Festival among others.

Qatar-based organisations are represented by teams from AJ Digital, AJ Documentary, AJ English along with over 120 Qatar-based film, media and entertainment delegates who will also participate in the programme, further building on the event's aim to connect local, regional and international industry for the benefit of emerging talent.

Qumra has three main elements: Masterclasses by the Qumra Masters, which will be led this year by Asghar Farhadi (Iran), Rithy Panh (Cambodia), Bruno Dumont (France), Lucrecia Martel (Argentina) and Paulo Branco (Portugal); industry meetings and screenings. All projects selected by the Doha Film Institute will benefit from the industry meetings with the experts to take their work to the next stage.

-ENDS-

Note to Editors:

About Qumra

Directors and Producers attached to thirty-four projects in development and post-production are selected to participate in the event. They will include a number of emerging filmmakers from Qatar, as well as recipients of funding from the Institute's Grants Programme. The robust programme will feature industry meetings designed to assist with propelling projects to their next stages of development, including master classes, work-in-progress screenings, bespoke matchmaking sessions and tailored workshops with industry experts. This creative exchange will take place alongside a programme of public screenings curated with input from the Qumra Masters.

The event is organised in three main sections: The **Qumra Master Classes** are daily sessions; each led by one of the Masters. The participating filmmakers have full access to these sessions, which are also open to accredited industry guests to attend in an observational capacity.

The **Qumra Meetings** are a series of one-on-one meetings, workshops and tailored mentoring sessions between representatives from the selected projects and seasoned industry experts.

The **Qumra Screenings** are open to the public and feature projects funded by the Institute through its grants and co-financing initiatives, as well as a series of films chosen by the Qumra Masters accompanied by Q&A sessions.

The Arabic term 'qumra' is popularly said to be the origin of the word 'camera', and to have been used by the scientist, astronomer and mathematician Alhazen (Ibn al-Haytham, 965-c.1040 CE), whose work in optics laid out the principles of the camera obscura.

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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