



Geekdom, Qatar's one-of-a-kind pop-culture event, returns to Ajyal Film Festival

Exciting range of activities include cool cosplay days, Geekdom Talks, video game tournaments and film screenings

Doha, Qatar; November 26, 2018: Qatar's largest pop-culture event, **Geekdom** returns to the sixth edition of the Ajyal Film Festival, the annual cinema event hosted by the Doha Film Institute from November 28 to December 3 at Katara Cultural Village. The must-visit event for nerds, gamers and everyone who loves to have a good time in the company of friends, **Geekdom** is part of the Ajyal Creativity Hub, which aims to engage the community. Entrance to the Geekdom pavilion in Katara Buildings 18 & 19 is free and open to the public.

Among the highlights are cool cosplay days, edge-of-your-seat video game tournaments, and film screenings ensuring that everyone has something to enjoy from Nov. 29 to Dec. 3. In addition, Qatar's character designers, concept artists, storyboard artists and fan artists will demonstrate their skills and share them with the community, with their arts and products offered for sale.

The Geekdom screenings this year is a special showcase of films by eminent Japanese animator and director Hayao Miyazaki. The films include: **Kiki's Delivery Service** (Japan/1989), the story of a young witch who is a little green and plenty headstrong, starring Kirsten Dunst and Minami Takayama; **Spirited Away** (Japan/2005), co-directed by Miyazaki and Kirk Wise, about 10-year-old Chihiro and her parents, who stumble upon a seemingly abandoned amusement park, which won the Golden Bear at Berlinale and the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature Film in 2003; and **My Neighbor Totoro** (Japan/1988), an enchanting tale that captures all the wonder, awe and gentle sadness of childhood, starring Dakota Fanning.

At Geekdom Talks, engage in insightful and interesting discussions as author, actor, director and voice artist **Omar Al Shamma** takes you through his life journey, especially the challenges he faced as one of the founding members of the dubbing movement in the region. Also listen to Dr. Gregory Bergida, who served previously as Director of Student Affairs at Northwestern University in Qatar, talk on **'Immersive Content: Expanding Outward by Looking Inward'**. The final Geekdom Talk is by Professor Leland Hill on **'Life as a Geek'** as he looks back at his childhood and the television shows and movies that influenced and cultivated his love for all things geeky.

The Geekdom Tournaments, at the gaming area sponsored by Virtuocity, are not to be missed. Compete at the **FIFA 19 Tournament**, the latest and greatest edition of the ever-popular EA football video game franchise, organised by Youth Hobbies Centre. You can also register your team for **Overwatch**, a videogame played in teams of six, with players selecting from a roster of 29 characters, known as heroes, each with a unique style of play; the event is organised by the Kanpeki team.

Other videogame tournaments include **Super Smash Bros**, a fighting game featuring Nintendo's 'all-stars' as playable characters and organised by 1-UP Gaming Centre; **Tekken 7**, the best-selling fighting game franchise in history; and **Street Fighter V**, the legendary fighting franchise; and **Dragon Ball FighterZ**, the latest 2D fighting game from Bandai Namco, all three organised by Qatar FGC.



The closing night – ***Cinemoon meets Geekdom*** – will be held at the Katara Esplanade on Dec. 3 from 9 to 10 PM, organised by the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra.

2018 Ajyal Film Festival's Official Partners include: Katara Cultural Village – Cultural Partner; Ooredoo – Principal Partner; Novo Cinemas – Strategic Partner and St. Regis Doha – Signature Sponsor.

-ENDS-

Note to Editors:

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 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.

Twitter: @DohaFilm; Instagram: @DohaFilm; Facebook: www.facebook.com/DohaFilmInstitute

About Ajyal Film Festival:

Ajyal Film Festival is an annual celebration of film designed to nurture young minds and support the development of mindful global citizens and thoughtful future leaders in a creative and educational environment. 'Ajyal', Arabic for 'generations', brings people of all ages together through screenings and events that inspire creative interaction and stimulate cinematic dialogue. Through its' jury programme, youth between the ages of 8 and 21 are given an opportunity to watch, analyse and discuss global cinema and culture, developing self-confidence, independent critical thinking skills, self-expression, and an appreciation of cinema. 6th Ajyal Film Festival takes place from the 28th of November to the 3rd of December.

Twitter: @AjyalFilm; Instagram: @ajyalFilm, #ajyal18