

Ajyal Film Festival Closing Ceremony Celebrates the Best of the 2020 Competition

- *Winners of Ajyal 2020 Jury Competition and Made in Qatar announced in the presence of H.E Salah bin Ghanem Al Ali, Minister of Culture and Sports*
- *Qatari actor Amina Hilal wins the Abdulaziz Jassim Award for Best Performance for **Under Her Skin** in the Made in Qatar Competition*

Doha, Qatar; November 23 2020: The first-ever hybrid edition of the 8th Ajyal Film Festival, presented by the Doha Film Institute (DFI) held from November 18 - 23, announced the winners of the **Ajyal Jury Competition** and **Made in Qatar** Awards at a festive closing ceremony at Katara Cultural Village yesterday with simultaneous live broadcast at Ajyal's new Drive-In Cinema at Lusail.

DFI delivered an adapted Ajyal Film Festival 2020 experience with a balance of virtual and in-person elements in line with government guidelines and with the health of all Ajyal participants as the top priority.

Among those in attendance was H.E Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Chairperson of the Doha Film Institute, who delivered a special online message to the Ajyal jurors and the audience.

Fatma Hassan Alremaihi, Festival Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Doha Film Institute, thanked the leadership, public and private sector entities, sponsors, volunteers, filmmakers, and members of the jury for their support in hosting the event.

"As the curtains come down on this year's 8th Ajyal Film Festival, I remain deeply grateful for your support and unwavering belief in the power of cinema to spark meaningful change in the world and to inspire us to take on the challenges of this year with compassion and humanity. I am proud of your passion, tireless energy, and enthusiasm in keeping cinematic conversations alive, and making this year's Festival possible. Our Ajyal community around the world connected to push the limits of creativity and unite for an unforgettable edition in a virtual space of imaginative collaboration. While this edition was a seemingly impossible challenge at the beginning, you not only made it a reality – but a truly special experience."

Ajyal's flagship programme **Made in Qatar**, presented by Ooerdo, included 16 narratives, documentaries and reflective essays by 18 Qatari and Qatar-based filmmakers in celebration of Qatar's growing national film industry. The **Made in Qatar** jury was comprised of filmmaker Kamal Aljafari, composer Dana Al Fardan, and producer Marie Balducci.

The international Ajyal Jury – many who participated virtually from around the world – selected this year's **Ajyal Jury Competition Awards** winners. Jurors were divided into three age categories: Mohaq (8-12 year olds), Hilal (13-17 year olds), and Bader (18-25 year olds) to evaluate a selection of 22 feature films, including **Sun Children**, **200 Meters** and **Their Algeria**, and 58 shorts, including **Woman of Steel**, **How My Grandmother Became a Chair** and **The Present**.

The winners of the Made in Qatar Competition Awards presented by H.E Salah bin Ghanem Al Ali, Minister of Culture and Sports:

- Special Jury Award: **Stranger** (Qatar, France/2020) by Yasser Mustafa and Christophe Buffet
- Abdulaziz Jassim Award for Best Performance: Amina Hilal from **Under Her Skin** (Qatar, France, Algeria/2020) by Meriem Mesraoua
- Best Documentary Award: **Ander** (Qatar, Kazakhstan/2020) by Alina Mustafina
- Best Narrative Award: **Under Her Skin** (Qatar, France, Algeria/2020) by Meriem Mesraoua

The winners of the Ajyal Jury Competition Awards are:

Mohaq:

- Best Short Film Award: **Hope** (Qatar, Indonesia/2020) by Abdulla Mohammed Al-Janahi
- Best Feature Film Award: **Dino Dana** (Canada/2019) by J.J. Johnson

Hilal:

- Best Short Film Award: **The Present** (Palestine, Qatar/2019) by Farah Nabulsi
- Best Feature Film Award: **Sun Children** (Iran/2020) by Majid Majidi

Bader:

- Best Short Film Award: **Woman of Steel** (Jordan, Qatar/2020) by Obada Yousef Jarbi
- Best Feature Film Award: **200 Meters** (Palestine, Jordan, Qatar, Italy, Sweden/2020) by Ameen Nayfeh

Audience Award:

- Audience Award: **200 Meters** (Palestine, Jordan, Qatar, Italy, Sweden/2020) by Ameen Nayfeh

Bariq Audience Award:

- Best Short Film Award: **Small Spark** (France/2019) by Julie Rembauville and Nicolas Bianco-Levrin