

Homegrown film industry shines at Qumra 2022 with 16 projects from Qatar

- *Three feature narratives, three documentaries, nine shorts, and one series by Qatar-based talent have been selected to participate in the prestigious annual industry incubator event*
- *Three feature projects by Qatari female directors included in this year's line-up along with three projects in post-production from Qatar*
- *Qumra 2022 will be held as an online event from March 18 to 23, with a total of 45 promising projects from around the world*

Doha, Qatar; March 14, 2022: The remarkable growth and progress of Qatar's burgeoning film industry continues to shine, despite the ongoing global pandemic, at Qumra 2022, the Doha Film Institute's annual industry talent incubator event, to be held from March 18 to 23, 2022. In all, 16 homegrown projects with 13 from Qatari nationals, including feature films, documentaries, shorts, and a series will receive crucial support at Qumra 2022.

Qatar has the strongest presence among the 45 selected projects by filmmakers from the Arab world and beyond, which will participate in the online programme including roundtables, feedback sessions, and collaborative skills development on key knowledge-sharing platforms. This year's edition continues to advance Qumra's goal to strengthen filmmaking skills among emerging talent from Qatar and beyond, and provide meaningful support to help aspiring film talent to reach their full cinematic potential.

Fatma Hassan Alremaihi, Chief Executive Officer of the Doha Film Institute, said: "As our nation celebrates one of its crowning achievements with the hosting of the FIFA World Cup 2022 this year, we also want to celebrate the significant cultural achievements of our locally driven, globally accomplished film industry. As we continue to apply an integrated focus on promoting homegrown talent through film appreciation, skills development, financing support and high-level networking, we are honoured to witness their incredible talent thriving. "

"We are proud of the creative professionals who have seized the opportunity to build competencies that resulted in this year's exciting line-up from Qatar at Qumra 2022. The diversity of the formats of the works – from feature film to series – and the masterful storytelling talent displayed, whether it is highlighting our heritage, telling tales of people and places in Qatar or inspiring fantasies, we can't wait to share their universal stories with audiences around the world."

Among the film projects by Qatari talent, two are feature narratives in development, one feature documentary each in development, post-production, and picture lock, one series in the development, five short narratives in development, two in post-production, and one in picture lock.

2022 Qumra projects from Qatar:

Development- Feature Narrative

- *Khuzama* by A.J Al-Thani (Qatar) is about Azzam, the young heir to a Bedouin tribe, who is discovered to be a woman the night before her wedding to Khuzama, sent by her mother to save her from the perilous, barbaric land of Remal.

- *The Pearl* by Noor Al-Nasr (Qatar) tells the story of a tech-obsessed Qatari teen, who travels back in time to an era before his beloved technology existed when the city's main source of income was pearl diving.

Development- Feature Documentary

- *When The News Breaks You* by Hamad Al-Hajri (Qatar) narrates the story of conflict journalists who keep the world informed of war, revolutions, political unrest, natural and manmade disasters.

Post-Production - Documentary – Work-in-progress

- *Qatar Stars* by Danielle Beverly (Qatar, USA) is set in a girls' rhythmic gymnastics school in Doha led by a former Russian gymnast providing a space for empowerment and freedom.
- *Let's Play Soldiers* by Mariam Al-Dhubhani (Yemen, Qatar) is about Nasser, a child-soldier who tries to find his place in his community in Yemen, where the war forced him to become the guardian of his younger siblings' fate.

Post-Production - Documentary – Picture Lock

- *Places of the Soul* by Hamida Issa (Qatar) depicts a Qatari woman, who travels on an environmental expedition to Antarctica.

Series- Development

- *Traditional Qatari Songs* by Aisha Al-Jaidah and Kholoud Al Ali (Qatar) brings back Qatar's traditional children's songs with new beats and colourful animations to appeal to the kids of today.

Short Narrative – Development

- *I Wished for Solitude* by Hamad Alfayhani (Qatar), A mother grapples with the loss of her identity as she takes on the arduous job of caretaking for her ill son.
- *Abu Fanoos* by Amira Abujbara and Horia El Hadad (Qatar), On a routine road trip to a petrol station in 1980s Qatar, Khaled and his grandfather encounter a strange and eerie presence in the middle of the desert.
- *Sandogi* by Noor Alkuwari (Qatar), A middle-aged man is left to question his existence as he goes through an extraordinary journey to reconnect with himself.
- *The Line* by Hitmi Al Hitmi (Qatar), Born into a silly, yet strict hierarchical social structure, Bu Mubarak finds himself in a constant struggle to enjoy simple pleasures that are considered beneath his class.
- *Mercy* by Abdulaziz Mohammed (Qatar), A woman finds herself in a moral struggle when a man asks her for help with a difficult request.

Short Narrative – Post-Production – Work-in-progress

- *Kinship* by Ali Alhajri (Qatar), When a shadow emerges with the birth of his newborn, Khalid must come face to face with his past.
- *A Simple Cut* by Maha Al-Jefairi (Qatar), After 13-year-old Kholoud rebels and cuts her hair without her mother's approval, what should be a minor disagreement between mother and daughter turns into a series of mishaps and unfortunate mistakes that end up changing the relationship unexpectedly.

- *The Swinging Chandelier* by Karim Emara (Egypt, Qatar), After moving back into the old worn-out house he grew up in, Ameen, a newlywed Egyptian man, struggles to attend a crucial online job interview due to a visit from his needy in-laws.

Short Narrative – Post-Production – Picture Lock

- *A Proposal* by Nadia Al-Khater (Qatar), A young Qatari man dreams of marrying his American fiancé. However, he must first face a panel who hold his fate in their hands.

The Qumra 2022 include 11 feature projects in development, 17 feature projects in post-production, 6 in Qumra Series, and 11 in Qumra Shorts. Women directors helm 20 of the total selected projects.

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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.

About Qumra

Directors and Producers attached to 45 projects in development and post-production are invited 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 work-in-progress screenings, bespoke matchmaking sessions and tailored workshops with industry experts.

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.