

A photograph of a film set. In the foreground, a person wearing a cap and a dark shirt is silhouetted against a bright green screen, talking on a mobile phone. To the left, another person in an orange headscarf is seated. In the background, there are various pieces of film equipment, including a monitor displaying a scene, and large studio lights hanging from the ceiling. The overall atmosphere is that of a busy production environment.

ART BEATS ADVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

مؤسسة الدوحة للأفلام

DOHA FILM INSTITUTE

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His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani,
the Father Emir of the State of Qatar



His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani,
Emir of the State of Qatar

مؤسسة الدوحة للأفلام
DOHA FILM INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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H.E. Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani
Chairperson, Doha Film Institute

Message from The Chair

Photograph by Brigitte Lacombe



2017 defined Qatar's strong will to be self-reliant and resilient in the face of an increased number of global challenges. Our nation's creative community expressed their solidarity with the country through art, with film taking on a central role.

As a compelling medium that connects people through the power of storytelling, the relevance of film in today's times cannot be overlooked. That is why in 2017, at the Doha Film Institute, our focus was on drawing on the power of film to communicate our stories to the world on the one hand, and to bring global stories to our region on the other in order to create a world of shared narratives.

But films do not happen by chance. A culture of filmmaking needs nourishment, guidance

As a compelling medium that connects people through the power of storytelling, the relevance of film in today's times cannot be overlooked.

and care. Building a film industry here in Qatar has been one of the founding goals of the Doha Film Institute, and since its inception, it has done the commendable task of nurturing a new generation of filmmakers and creative professionals who are passionate about the medium, and push their boundaries in storytelling.

In 2017, we placed emphasis on what we have been doing all the past years – but with greater conviction and a stronger sense of urgency – because we believe that honest storytelling is the only antidote to the current climate of misinformation spreading globally.

We helped empower our emerging talents with the tools for creating captivating storytelling – from providing an understanding of the finest in world cinema through our year-round educational initiatives to sharpening their skills through dedicated workshops led by experts. This included a wide range of training and development programmes that covered key subjects such as developing serialised content across all platforms, strengthening the creative, financial and strategic skills of film producers based in the Middle East and youth animation amongst others.

We also continued to support 81 emerging and established filmmakers through our Grants Programme, co-financing support and, most important of all, the Qatari Film Fund for local talents.

We travelled along with them on this journey, enabling a script-to-screen transition through

industry events such as Qumra, which brought them face-to-face with leading names in contemporary world cinema and recognised industry professionals. And, finally, the joy of watching their films come to life at Ajyal Youth Film Festival, where we joined together with the community to applaud their work.

Our filmmakers have taken their projects globally, gaining recognition at prestigious international film festivals, and in doing so, they have taken our stories to the world. This is the film ecosystem that the Doha Film Institute has been fostering – and will continue to drive – centred on education, support and empowerment.

Given their honest approach to storytelling, the films we put forward come as a response, from a cultural perspective, to our detractors. And in the context of the current political climate, they fulfil the words of His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani on the unjustified siege: “The crisis has driven Qatari society not only to explore its human values, but also to draw on its sources of strength, which lie in its unity, will and determination.”

Together, with film, with creative industries, and with our emerging talents, we will continue pushing the boundaries of what is possible. As Doha Film Institute's Chairperson, I invite all to join me in celebrating the 2017 legacy and setting the path forward towards a successful year ahead.

Al Mayassa bint Hamad Al-Thani
Chair, Doha Film Institute

Message from The CEO

Photograph by Brigitte Lacombe



Fatma Hassan Al Remaihi

Chief Executive Officer, Doha Film Institute

Academy Award-winning filmmaker Steven Spielberg once observed: “People have forgotten how to tell a story. Stories don’t have a middle or an end any more. They usually have a beginning that never stops beginning.”

When I look back on our own mission and journey at the Doha Film Institute, I cannot help but agree with his words. Ours is a story that never stops beginning because for us, every new talent that we nurture brings a new story, a new perspective, a new idea, and a new reality.

In 2017, Doha Film Institute continued the journey of empowering new talents in film and creative industry, with a firmer focus on presenting bold new narratives that must be told in today’s times, when misinformation goes viral and the truth lies buried under propaganda. Over the course of the year and through a regional blockade we remained committed to uplifting Arab cinema and giving a voice to creators across the region.

We worked with 81 filmmakers last year, from Qatar and the wider Arab world, representing

diverse points of view and amplifying authentic voices that transcend cultures, bringing our stories to the world.

At home, we have seen the success of our grassroots approach – of identifying talent, supporting and empowering them, and taking their works to global audiences. In 2017, 12 Made in Qatar films screened to audiences at leading international film events including Cannes and Berlin, not only presenting a window to our lives and stories, but also showcasing our nation’s creativity.

Ours has been a carefully calibrated journey – following filmmakers and audiences – with many initiatives created for a very specific purpose. If our year-round workshops, led by international experts, aim at building the skills of emerging filmmakers, our film financing programmes aim to empower them, and help translate their dreams to reality. To date, DFI has proudly supported 379 films from 61 countries, nearly 80% by Arab filmmakers, whose works portray important issues affecting our region, and earned critical acclaim and numerous awards at leading film festivals.

Along with our two focal events – Qumra, the industry gathering aimed at mentoring emerging talents through the participation of global masters in cinema – and Ajyal Youth Film Festival that continues to entertain, yet spark dialogue around social change and transformation among youth using the powerful medium of film– we create and deliver a comprehensive ecosystem for film here in Qatar.

Through the journey, we were also unequivocal in highlighting the creative community's voice against today's challenges with our Dari Qatar and the LeBlockade exhibition at the Ajyal Youth

Film Festival, delivering Qatar's message to the world, strengthening the nation's resolve and demonstrating how adversity can generate creativity for artists and unite people of all backgrounds.

The visit of His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, The Emir of Qatar, to the landmark 5th edition of Ajyal, was a powerful statement on our success in bringing the community together through film and cultural initiatives that position Qatar as a committed and successful player in advancing the development of the global creative landscape.

Last year, when a DFI supported film, 'The Salesman', outshone 80 eminent competitors to win the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar®, it was an endorsement of our vision that we can make a positive difference and shine the spotlight on our country's commitment to support the development of original and compelling content from the region and beyond.

That too, was another beginning for us; much like the many new beginnings that lie ahead. Thank you for your support and for being with us on this important and inspiring journey.

Fatma Hassan Al Remaihi

Chief Executive Officer, Doha Film Institute

In 2017, Doha Film Institute continued the journey of empowering new talents in film and the creative industry, with a firmer focus on presenting bold new narratives that must be told in today's times.

Acknowledgements

Doha Film Institute would like to sincerely thank everyone who gave their time and talent to us in 2017.

Without your ceaseless hard work and unwavering dedication, none of the accomplishments detailed in this report could have been possible. All of us at DFI look forward to working with you again and achieving even more success in 2018.

- His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar
- Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani
- Trustees
- Fatma Hassan Al Remaili
- DFI Executive Management
- DFI Employees
- Elia Suleiman, Artistic Advisor
- Occidental Petroleum of Qatar
- The Cultural Village Foundation
- Sarajevo Film Festival
- Giffoni Film Festival
- Masters
- Mentors
- Filmmakers
- Jurors
- Volunteers
- Audiences
- Sponsors

Trustees

H.E. Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani
Founder and Chairperson of the Doha Film Institute

H.E. Sheikh Thani bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani
Doha Film Institute Board Member

H.E. Salah bin Ghanem bin Nasser al-Ali Maadheed
Qatar’s Minister of Culture and Sports

H.E. Nasser bin Ghanem Al-Khelaifi
Chairman of Qatar Sports Investments and CEO of the BEIN Media Group

H.E. Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad bin Jassim bin Hamad Al-Thani
CEO of the Qatar Media Corporation

H.E. Sheikh Saif bin Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani
Director of the Government Communication Office and Acting Director of the Prime Minister’s Office

Mansour Ibrahim Al-Mahmoud
CEO of Qatar Museums and Special Advisor to H.E. The Chairperson

H.E. Issa bin Mohammed Al Mohannadi
Chairman of the Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club Board of Directors



Photograph by Brigitte Lacombe

Executive Directors

- Abdulla Al Mosallam**
Chief Administrative Officer / Deputy Director of Ajyal Youth Film Festival
- Fatma Al Ghanim**
Director of Marketing and Communications
- Russell Frame**
General Counsel
- Hanaa Issa**
Director of Strategy and Development / Qumra Deputy Director
- Nikolaos Bempis Kolyfas**
Director of PMO and Event Management / Festival Managing Director



Abdulla Al Mosallam



Hanaa Issa



Fatma Al Ghanim



Nikolaos Bempis Kolyfas



Russell Frame

**Doha Film Institute
is dedicated to the
development of
a sustainable film
industry, inspiring
widespread film
appreciation, and
nurturing a vibrant
film culture in Qatar.**

Our Objectives

To pave the way to a sustainable film industry in Qatar, spanning all of its relevant elements.

To provide Qatari talent with a platform for storytelling through the medium of film, and the opportunity to develop skills and professional careers in the film industry.

To support and advance Qatar's film and cultural objectives by positioning Qatar in a leading role in the international film industry.

Doha Film Institute (DFI) is an independent, not-for-profit cultural organisation dedicated to the development of a sustainable film industry, generating film appreciation, and nurturing a vibrant film culture in Qatar.

About DFI

DFI 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.

Since its inception, DFI has provided Qataris, local and regional talent with opportunities to tell their stories through the medium of film, while paving the way for the development of skills in order to equip and empower future filmmakers in their pursuit of professional careers in the film industry.

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, a film industry event. With culture, community, learning and entertainment at its foundation, the Institute is committed to supporting Qatar National Vision 2030 for the development of a knowledge-based economy.

Achievements

17%

INDEPENDENT FILMS
IN THE ARAB WORLD
FROM QATAR

FILM
SCREENINGS

2014 93
2015 30
2016 45
2017 43

AWARDS

GRANTS &
CO-FINANCE

2014
AWARDS
SELECTION

2015
AWARDS
SELECTION

2016
AWARDS
SELECTION

2017
AWARDS
SELECTION

Academy Awards®	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	1
Festival De Cannes	1	2	2	5	5	6	3	6
Berlin Film Festival	-	1	-	4	2	6	1	7
Dubai Film Festival	2	8	5	13	3	15	6	15
Toronto International Film Festival	-	3	-	6	-	7	2	10
Rotterdam Film Festival	-	1	-	1	-	3	1	10
Sarajevo Film Festival	-	1	2	3	2	7	-	4
Venice Film Festival	1	2	-	3	3	2	4	5
Total Awards (All Festivals)	52		68		117		+60	
Total Selections (All Festivals)		144		229		410		250

Achievements

FILM
TRAINING
2017

158 Qatari
Participants

19 Projects
& Workshops 238
Participants

15 Education
Partners 17 Shorts
Produced

QATAR'S FILMS

QATARI FILM FUND

QFF GRANTED & PRODUCED FILMS

QFF FILMS IN DEVELOPMENT

GRANTS

NUMBER OF SUPPORTED PROJECTS

CO-FINANCE FOLIO

NUMBER OF NEW CO-FI FILMS

	2014	2015	2016	2017
QFF GRANTED & PRODUCED FILMS		12	9	13
QFF FILMS IN DEVELOPMENT		4	1	1
NUMBER OF SUPPORTED PROJECTS	63	65	58	64
NUMBER OF NEW CO-FI FILMS		4	6	5

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

DFI establishes distinguished educational platforms and leads programmes that have a tangible impact on the development and nurturing of filmmakers in Qatar and the region.

DFI develops the creative and practical skills of filmmakers through a dynamic range of programmes, workshops and labs.

Committed to Equipping and Elevating Talent



Confirming our commitment to paving the way towards a sustainable film industry, we develop exchanges and collaborations between filmmakers and the wider industry by establishing pathways for them to craft cinematic projects of the highest quality and access audiences both at home and abroad.

HEADLINES FROM CANNES

Cannes Film Festival

The Doha Film Institute shined the spotlight on Qatar's emerging talents with a special screening of 'Made in Qatar' films at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival. This marked the Institute's 7th year of participating at the Cannes Short Film Corner, dedicated to showcasing films from more than 90 countries, where the Doha Film Institute screened 10 titles.

CANNES TO SCREEN 10 'MADE IN QATAR' FILMS

Peninsula / 11.05.2017 / Qatar / Circulation: 30,000

DOHA FILM INSTITUTE SUPPORTS QATARI TALENTS AT 70TH FESTIVAL DE CANNES

Qatar Tribune / 10.05.2017 / Qatar / Circulation: 20,000



Training & Development

19 Projects & Workshops

15 Education Partners

238 Participants

IN NUMBERS

158 Qatari Participants

How we do, What we do

We implement

an extensive programme of workshops and labs - from beginners to advanced levels, including scriptwriting, short filmmaking, acting, Qatar Film Fund practical labs, animation, and special programmes for youth.

We host

year-round creative development programmes of short films and feature films.

We foster

relationships with a growing family of distinguished mentors and award-winning guest filmmakers, who invest their skills in local talent.

We deliver

creative and logistical support to emerging filmmakers from Qatar through our foundation programme, by supporting them with mentorship, the supply or equipment, etc.



We establish

initiatives that enrich the industry, such as the launch of the region's first Producers Lab.

We promote

DFI-supported/Qatari films and filmmakers in the international film industry through festival submissions, talent campuses and internships.

We launch

prestigious partnerships and working relationships with world-renowned entities in the likes of Torino Film Lab, Sarajevo, CalArts, La Femis, etc.

We develop

partnerships with local entities such as Qatar Animation Centre, Northwestern University in Qatar, establishing mutually beneficial relationships, collaborations and knowledge sharing at multiple levels.

We extend

opportunities for regional filmmakers to develop their skills by opening up labs to filmmakers in the region, increasing collaboration and exchange.

Labs

DFI's Workshops and Labs are carried out in an atmosphere that encourages curiosity and ensures inclusivity. Our mentors are drawn from among the world's most respected and recognised professionals and provide tangible knowledge in all areas of the filmmaking process.



8 Animated short films produced

6 Short films produced

Short Scriptwriting Lab

January/February

Working in partnership with Torino Film Lab, the Doha Film Institute's Short Scriptwriting Lab assisted new and emerging screenwriters and writer-directors to develop and write a screenplay from an original idea with the support of international mentors.

55 Celcius

by Muhammed Refaat

Selected and won at the Rotterdam Film Festival.

Toon Boom Animation Workshops

This certified course equipped animators by taking them through the core concepts of Harmony and Storyboard Pro. The course introduced participants to the two main animation techniques. Harmony is used for traditional paperless animation and cut-out animation.

Short Documentary Lab

This intensive lab introduced participants to the world of documentary filmmaking, transferring knowledge and skills on development, research, pre-production, filming and recording of images and sounds, editing and post-production.

Mentors: Pablo Iraburu & Miguel Garcia

Practical Lab: Colour Grading

This practical course provided an introduction to colour grading and the popular grading software, DaVinci Resolve, and was open to editors, digital imaging technicians, directors of photography, visual-effects technicians, aspiring colourists and those exploring colour correction.

Mentor: Tashi Treu

“

Our Training and Development Initiatives are exceptional opportunities for young filmmakers to learn from masters of cinema. We are committed to extending all possible support to nurture our emerging filmmakers and to provide them with access to knowledge and training to fortify their skill.

Fatma Hassan Al Remailhi

”

15 Participants
5 Qatari

Practical Lab: Lighting

September

Working in collaboration with the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg, DFI delivered this lab, geared towards improving participant's skills in creatively working with light.

Mentor: Marcus Zaiser

Practical Lab: Grip

September

Continuing our collaboration with the Filmakademie, we trained a group of aspiring filmmakers on skilful grip. Participants learnt complex camera movements with the help of grip tools like dollies, jibs and car mounts, among other utilities.

Mentor: Marcus Zaiser



Practical Lab: Cinematography

September

This lab transferred advanced knowledge of cinematography from the preparation and planning of a project through to shooting and post-production. Participants gained skills and insight on how cinematographers lead departments like camera, grip and lighting, how to communicate with the director and the other departments, as well as visual language and visual storytelling, how to block a scene, how to get from script to film and how to create a visual concept and cinematic look that corresponds to the story. This lab was delivered in collaboration with the Filmakademie.

Mentor: Marcus Zaiser



Practical Lab: Editing

October

Working in collaboration with the Filmakademie, over the course of 5 days we trained a team of aspiring professional editors. Using a combination of lectures, curated film clips and practical exercises, participants learned to recognise and evaluate the creative considerations behind the editing of both fiction and non-fiction films.

Mentor: Alex Bushe

Hezayah Screenwriting Lab

October

Working in collaboration with the Torino Film Lab, Hezayah was designed to assist emerging screenwriters and writer-directors in developing and writing an original feature-length screenplay. The participants worked in small groups with the support of experienced mentors. The lab consisted of four sessions of four-day workshops, which took place intermittently over a period of six months. During each session, participants worked on agreed assignments and reached key milestones as they built their screenplays.

Mentors: Marietta von Hausswolff von Baumgarten and Antoine Le Bos

Producers Lab

November

This first-of-its-kind lab was held in recognition of the emerging talent in the region, and as an acknowledgement of the fundamental role producers play in defining, supporting and influencing the voice of filmmakers. The lab paved the way for local and MENA-based producers to develop their skills. The intensive 7-day programme focused on the creative, artistic and strategic aspects of producing feature-length documentaries and fiction films. The content included intensive training exercises, group tutorials, tailor-made one-on-one meetings and master classes led by noted industry experts.

Mentors: Jovan Marjanovic, Violeta Bava, Dora Bouchoucha, Jad Abi Khalil, Jana Wehbe, Raquel Cabrera Simón, Aranka Matits and Jani Thiltges

6 Short Films Made at the Documentary Lab



The Fishermen

Director: Obada Jarbi
Camera/Editing: Ibrahim Nashat

Zekreet

Director: Oussama Aeq
Script/AD: Idris Alhassan



Chaos Antidote

Directors: Idris Alhassan, Hadeer Omar

Domestic Acoustics

Director: Majid Al-Remaihi
Producer/DOP: Hadeer Omar

Voices from the Urban Scapes

Directors: Mariam Salim, Shaima Al Tamimi



Adam and the Butterfly

Collective Project
Team: Maryam Al Ali, Fatma Al Ghanim,
Husam Rohy Abdalwahab



INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION IN 2017

Several films made through the various Training and Development programmes were screened at international film festivals.



and many more...



VCUQ Production Design Class

Nurturing Tomorrow's Talent

In 2017, we organised a number of workshops specially designed for our youth.

Our Youth Programmes empower young people, equipping them to make films on issues that are important to them. The participants gain film production skills, while having fun and creating films that represent their experiences and their opinions about the world.

Featuring film appreciation, acting classes, filmmaking and storytelling workshops the Youth Programme is a journey into the process of creative collaboration and an opportunity for youth to speak up about the changes they want to see in their lives, their community and the world.

Youth Animation Workshop: Cut-Out Animation

7 May - 18 May

This beginner level Animation Workshop was a hands-on introduction covering all elements required to create and produce a stop-motion animated film. During the workshop participants were given the opportunity to experience the filmmaking process, depending on their interests and strengths.

Mentor: Mohammed Al-Suwaidi

Youth Acting Workshop

7 March - 10 May

This beginners workshop transferred acting skills through improvisation, encouraging participants to play in public without a predefined text or prior direction. The workshop also developed creativity and listening skills, inspiring participants to imagine and share.

Mentor: Afef Ben Mahmoud

Once Upon A Time: How To Tell A Story

18 June - 22 June

Held in collaboration with Maktaba, this workshop developed skills in storytelling. During the workshop, participants were introduced to the Pixar storytelling formula and engaged in interactive exercises to help generate ideas, write characters, and create interesting plots and narratives.

Mentor: Fahad Al-Kuwari, Aya Al Blouchi

Award-Winning VCUQ Production Design Class

3 January - 18 April

Through this advanced design programme, we introduced participants to production design and art direction, equipping them with design tools necessary for film production. The programme also opened up potential freelance and internship opportunities for QFF productions. Winning a Merit Award for Excellence from the US-based Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) for a project called, "Exploring Space through the Lens-Production Design".

Mentors: Ben Robinson, Fahad Al-Kuwari

Make Your Own Short Film

6 August – 24 August

Using a non-thematic approach this training programme helped participants through their film projects covering artistic, technical and practical considerations of making a short documentary film. Participants gained the skills needed to produce HD film, from concept to shooting.

Mentor: Allegra Hamilton, Guy Brooksbank

Qatar Foundation Summer Camp

9 July and 24 July

Doha Film Institute was invited by Qatar Foundation to participate as a guest lecturer at their Annual Summer Camp. This year's participation was through a 2-session 'Introduction to Visual Storytelling' workshop. The workshop covered the basics of narrative structure, plot devices, character archetypes, camera language and visual storytelling.

Mentor: Dawood Al-Anwari



VCUQ Summer Course

24 August

Mentor: Jaser Alagha, Aya Al Blouchi

Every year, DFI participates in the VCUQ summer camp aimed at the youth to introduce them to arts, culture, and visual communication. This year, DFI presented two sessions including a screening of a selection of 'Made in Qatar' short films, along with a film appreciation session. The second session revolved around creating motion arts by introducing the students to stop-motion techniques. Students produced two short stop-motion experiments during the workshop.

Al Henzab Workshop

25 July – 31 July

This workshop marked the beginning of a collaboration with Al Henzab Centre. DFI joined forces with the Islamic youth centre and conducted a workshop exposing participants to the concept of film analysis and understanding through a screening of 'Made in Qatar' shorts followed by a discussion. Participants were encouraged to write and express themselves through an introduction to storytelling, character building, and plot structure. The workshop was delivered to 3 different age groups.

Mentor: Jaser Alagha, Nagham Dahleh

Vision International School Collaboration

September 10, 2017 – June 2018

This collaboration included the building of a filmmaking curriculum. The partnership entailed delivering a 1-year class, twice a week to introduce the students to filmmaking, writing, acting, camera, editing. Students were also given the opportunity to make their own short films.

Mentors: Aya Al Blouchi, Jaser Alagha, Ben Robinson, Falah Hanoun, Dawood Al Anwari

Hands-on Training Through Internships

DFI provides film production internships for aspiring filmmakers with a passion for filmmaking and an ambition to build a career in the film and television industry.

During 2017, our internship programme offered opportunities for 49 interns to receive training in a variety of capacities.

Including;

PRODUCTION

ON SET

TECHNICAL

POST PRODUCTION



ACCREDITED INTERNS

In 2017, DFI trained a total of 20 interns from Northwestern University in Qatar and Qatar University for accredited internship programmes that spanned the entire year.

Our Education Partners

Qatar University

Qatar Foundation

**Northwestern University
in Qatar**

**Virginia Commonwealth
University in Qatar**

La Femis

France

TorinoFilmLab

Italy

Beirut Cinema Platform

Lebanon

Sundance Institute

USA

EAVE

Luxembourg

IFP

USA

Toon Boom Animation

Canada

Filmakademie

Germany

Goethe Institute

Germany

CineKid

The Netherlands

Eye Institute

The Netherlands



DFI's film funding initiatives offer creative and financial support to filmmakers based in Qatar and around the world. Helping them unlock their artistic ability, manage their productions effectively and deliver high-quality films.

FUNDING

DFI's funding initiatives support emerging voices, enabling talented filmmakers to translate their stories into viable film projects. DFI's funding places a high emphasis on projects that have regional relevance in order to contribute to a diverse slate of engaging films and enrich the international industry.

DFI's funding is delivered through three distinct mechanisms; the Qatari Film Fund, DFI's Grants Programme, and Co-Finance.

"Joining the Qatari Film Fund crew has allowed me to work on various sets and departments that have made me appreciate filmmaking from every aspect." - Rawda Al-Thani

Qatari Film Fund

The Qatari Film Fund (QFF) was established to support the furtherance of the skills and accomplishments of Qatari filmmakers.

The fund permits financing of up to 8 short films per year for development and production support. In the feature film category, Qatari Film Fund supports up to 4 feature films per year, investing in their development. Launched in February 2015, the fund has surpassed expectations and received more than 60 applications to date.



Short Film Fund Awardees



1001 Days

Directed by Aisha Al-Jaidah

A mysterious storyteller trapped in a forbidding palace, sweeps us away everyday on a magical journey in order to bravely fight for her life every night!

Sh'hab

Written and directed by Amal Al-Muftah

Upon hearing a myth about falling stars, a young girl's curiosity is sparked. When night falls on Al Wakrah village, she sets out in her father's boat to chase the fabled comets.

World is Blue

Written and directed by Amna Al-Binali

During her sister's engagement party, Hend comes to terms with the contradiction between how she wants her life to unfold and the inevitability of how it has been drawn for her.

Ya Hoota

Written and directed by Latifa Al-Darwish

A little girl attempts to save the moon from a gigantic whale along with her cousin. Will she succeed?

Elevate

Written and directed by Hamida Al-Kuwari

Latifa is a young Qatari lady in her 20s who is always accompanied by Rosie, her Filipino maid. One day they both get stuck in Latifa's elevator and find that, while they are isolated from the material world, they are liberated from social constraints.

Fragile

Written and directed by Kholood Al-Ali

A woman looks out of her car window and makes her first spontaneous decision. The writer/director was mentored by screenwriter Will Collins, whose film 'Song of the Sea' was nominated for an Oscar.

End of the Road

Written and directed by Ahmed Al-Sharif

Always trust your senses, except when they are wrong.



Amphitheater

Written and directed by Mahdi Ali Ali

A young girl rebels against her family's tradition in front of a professional photographer's lenses.

Nasser Goes to Space

Written and directed by M Al-Mahmeed

Nasser is a highly imaginative seven-year-old boy who copes with his parents' divorce by escaping to a magical world that he has created.

Pastimes

Written and directed by Majid Al-Remaihi

'Pastimes' interrogates the repetition of traditional scenery in painting practice in Doha, and the factors that sustain as well as complicate it.

Feature Film Development Fund Awardees

Qatari Film Fund Projects in Numbers

// QFF Films Produced

/ QFF Film in Development

/ QFF Feature Film in Production



The DNA of Love

Co-written and directed by Hafiz Ali Abdulla and Tom Abrams

After the death of his Qatari wife, a retired engineer visits the United States to find his estranged daughter, while the same daughter travels to Doha to find answers to her late mother's past.

Khuzama

Director: AJ Althani

A Bedouin girl dreams of exploring the desert – until she discovers it is not what she had imagined it to be.



Grants Programme

The Grants Department contributes to the development of a vibrant film industry by providing financial, creative, and logistical support to filmmakers from Qatar, the region and the rest of the world.



DFI's Grants Programme particularly focuses on cultivating emerging talent from the region, supporting filmmakers to develop short and feature films. The programme facilitates exchanges of creativity, knowledge and professional collaborations among local filmmakers and our family of grantees through our Qumra, Ajyal, and Training Programmes.

Grantee films garner numerous awards in festival circuits. In 2017, more than 35 granted films participated at some of the most prestigious festivals in the world including Cannes Film Festival, International Family Film Festival, Berlin International Film Festival, Venice International Film Festival, Busan International Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, International Film Festival of Rotterdam, Sundance Film Festival and Festival International du Film de Marrakech.

64
Grants in 2017

DFI MAKING HEADLINES

Cannes Film Festival

Diverse films supported by Doha Film Institute were selected for the 2017 Cannes Film Festival that was held May 17 to 28. All films are recipients of the Institute's Grants Programme. Three of the films were further fine-tuned under the eyes of Master filmmakers at the DFI Qumra industry event.

The films supported by Doha Film Institute and screened in Cannes were 'Beauty and the Dogs' directed by Kaouther Ben Hania, 'Until the Birds Return' by Karim Moussaoui, 'Plot 35' by Eric Caravaca, 'Wallay' by Berni Goldblat and 'Ali, the Goat and Ibrahim' by Sherif El Bendary.

DFI-BACKED MOVIES TO BE SCREENED AT CANNES

Qatar Tribune / 16.05.2017 / Qatar / Circulation: 20,000

FILMS SUPPORTED BY DFI SELECTED FOR CANNES

Gulf Times / 16.05.2017 / Qatar / Circulation: 40,000

“

To have films supported by the Doha Film Institute repeatedly selected at Cannes Film Festival is a strong testament to the high quality of projects we nurture through our financing and mentoring initiatives. We are delighted that the works of talented young filmmakers from the region and beyond have once again made the cut to the premier film event vying, with films from around the world. Through our grants programme, we will continue to focus on identifying new voices and powerful stories that have the potential to shape new trends in world cinema.

Fatma Hassan Al Remeihi, CEO of Doha Film Institute

Toronto International Film Festival

Films supported by the Doha Film Institute were screened at the 42nd Edition of the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). One of the largest selections of films backed by the Institute, the 12 films screened at TIFF included six world premieres, five North American premieres and a Toronto premiere.

The films supported by the Doha Film Institute Grants Programme that marked their world premiere at TIFF were 'The Journey', 'Of Sheep and Men', 'The Seen and Unseen', 'The Other Side of Everything', 'Ava' and 'The President's Visit'.

“

The 12 films present fascinating perspectives on life that reflect human hopes, aspirations and challenges. Each film is an inspiring take on the world we live in, and demonstrates how film has the power to drive social change.

Fatma Hassan Al Remeihi, CEO of Doha Film Institute

TORONTO FILM FEST KICKS OFF WITH STRONG DFI PRESENCE

Qatar Tribune / 09.10.2017 / Qatar / Circulation: 20,000

12 DFI-SUPPORTED FILMS TO PUT SPOTLIGHT ON ARAB TALENT AT 2017 TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Qatar Tribune / 07.10.2017 / Qatar / Circulation 20,000

12-DFI SUPPORTED FILMS AT TORONTO FILM FEST

Gulf Times / 06.10.2017 / Qatar / Circulation: 40,000

CO-FINANCING

Co-Finance provides strategic financial participation in a diverse slate of films. The goal of Co-Finance is to support and advance the development of Qatar's film industry and further its cultural objectives. Co-Finance focuses on compelling regional storytelling and projects that have the weight to reach wide audiences and shed a positive light on the region.

CO-FINANCE PROJECTS

Loving Vincent

Directors: Dorota Kobiela, Hugh Welchman
Producer: Ivan Mactaggart

In a story depicted in oil painted animation, a young man comes to the last hometown of painter Vincent van Gogh to deliver the troubled artist's final letter and ends up investigating his final days there.



AWARDS

Shanghai International Film Festival 2017
 Golden Goblet | Best Animation Film

Vancouver International Film Festival 2017
 Most Popular International Feature

Indiana Film Journalists Association, US 2017
 Original Vision Award

Golden Trailer Awards 2017
 Best Foreign Animation | Family Trailer

European Film Awards 2017
 European Animated Feature Film

Byron Bay International Film Festival 2017
 Best Animation

Annecy International Animated Film Festival 2017
 Audience Award | Feature

Ajyal Youth Film Festival 2017
 Audience Award | Jury Prize, Bader | Best Feature Film

NOMINATIONS

Austin Film Critics Association 2017
 Austin Film Critics Award | Best Animated Film

Awards Circuit Community Awards 2017
 Best Animated Feature Film

Boston Society of Film Critics Awards 2017
 Best Animated Film

Chicago Film Critics Association Awards 2017
 Best Animated Film

Dallas-Fort Worth Film Critics Association Awards 2017
 Best Animated Film

Detroit Film Critics Society, US 2017
 Best Animated Feature

Florida Film Critics Circle Awards 2017
 Best Animated Film

Indiewire Critics' Poll 2017
 Best Animated Feature

International Film Music Critics Award 2017
 Best Original Score for an Animated Feature Film

Jameson CineFest - Miskolc International Film Festival 2017
 International Ecumenical Award | Best Film

Melbourne International Film Festival 2017
 People's Choice Award | Best Narrative Feature

National Board of Review, US 2017
 Top Ten Independent Films

Online Film Critics Society Awards 2017
 Best Animated Feature

Phoenix Critics Circle 2017
 Best Animated Film

Phoenix Film Critics Society Awards 2017
 Best Animated Film

Polish Film Festival 2017
 Golden Lion | Best Film

San Diego Film Critics Society Awards 2017
 Best Animated Film

San Francisco Film Critics Circle 2017
 Best Animated Feature

Satellite Awards 2017
 Best Motion Picture | Animated or Mixed Media

Seattle Film Critics Awards 2017
 Best Animated Feature

Southeastern Film Critics Association Awards 2017
 Best Animated Film

St. Louis Film Critics Association, US 2017
 Best Animated Film

Washington DC Area Film Critics Association Awards 2017
 Best Animated Feature

Women Film Critics Circle Awards 2017
 Best Animated Female

The Salesman

Director: Asghar Farhadi
Producers: Asghar Farhadi, Alexandre Mallet-Guy

While both participating in a production of 'Death of a Salesman', a teacher's wife is assaulted in her new home, which leaves him determined to find the perpetrator over his wife's traumatised objections.

AWARDS

Academy Awards® 2017 | Oscar®
Best Foreign Language Film of the Year | Iran

Cannes Film Festival 2016
Best Actor | Shahab Hosseini
Best Screenplay | Asghar Farhadi

Chicago International Film Festival 2016
Silver Hugo | Special Jury Prize

World Cinema Amsterdam 2016
Audience Award | Best Film | Asghar Farhadi

Satellite Awards 2016
Best Motion Picture, International Film | Iran

Munich Film Festival 2016
ARRI/OSRAM Award | Best International Film | Asghar Farhadi

National Board of Review, US 2016
NBR Award | Best Foreign Language Film

Asian Film Awards 2017
Best Screenwriter | Asghar Farhadi



NOMINATIONS

Golden Globes 2017
Best Motion Picture | Foreign Language

Awards Circuit Community Awards 2016
Best Foreign Language Film | Asghar Farhadi | Iran

Broadcast Film Critics Association Awards 2016
Critics Choice Award | Best Foreign Language Film

Dallas-Fort Worth Film Critics Association Awards 2016
Best Foreign Language Film

Denver Film Critics Society 2017
Best Foreign Language Film

Florida Film Critics Circle Awards 2016
Best Foreign Language Film

Las Vegas Film Critics Society Awards 2016
Sierra Award | Best Foreign Film

Melbourne International Film Festival 2016
Most Popular Feature Film | Asghar Farhadi

North Texas Film Critics Association 2017
Best Foreign Language Film

Online Film & Television Association 2017
Best Foreign Language Film | Iran

Online Film Critics Society Awards 2017
Best Film Not in the English Language | Iran

San Francisco Film Critics Circle 2016
Best Foreign Language Picture

Valladolid International Film Festival 2016
Golden Spike | Best Film | Asghar Farhadi

Vancouver International Film Festival 2016
Most Popular International Feature | Asghar Farhadi

Washington DC Area Film Critics Association Awards 2016
Best Foreign Language Film

Grain

Director: Semih Kaplanoglu
Producer: Nadir Operli

This film was inspired by a chapter from the Quran. It is a post-apocalyptic story set in a world where those that survive, are divided between the remnants of cities and agricultural zones. Both of these factions are ruled by corporations and populated by elites. In the areas called Dead Lands, genetically incompatible immigrants suffer from drought and epidemics.

AWARDS

Tokyo International Film Festival 2017
Tokyo Grand Prix | Best Film

NOMINATIONS

Adana Film Festival 2017
Golden Boll | Best Film

Malatya International Film Festival 2017
Crystal Apricot Award | Best Film

Sarajevo Film Festival 2017
Heart of Sarajevo | Best Film

Birds Like Us

Directors: Faruk Sabanovic, Amela Cuhara
Producer: Adnan Cuhara

The story follows a group of birds on a journey where they try to find a better life for themselves and the ones they love.

FESTIVALS

- The Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film (ITFS)
- The World Festival of Animated Film - Animafest Zagreb
- Sarajevo Film Festival
- IFF Juniorfest - Czech Republic
- Cinanima's 41st Anniversary - Portugal
- International Young Audience Film Festival - Poland
- Ajyal Youth Film Festival
- 20th International Children's Film Festival - India

Looking for Oum Kulthum

Directors: Shirin Neshat, Shoja Azari
Producers: Roman Paul, Antonin Svoboda, Gerhard Meixner, Bruno Wagner

A film within a film, 'Looking for Oum Kulthum' is the plight of an Iranian woman artist/filmmaker living in exile, as she embarks on capturing the life and art of the legendary female singer of the Arab world, Oum Kulthum. Through her difficult journey, not unlike her heroine's, she has to face the struggles, sacrifices and the price that a woman has to pay if she dares to cross the lines of a conservative male dominated society.

FESTIVALS

- Arabisches Film Festival
- FilmFest Hamburg
- Ajyal Youth Film Festival
- BFI London Film Festival
- Sao Paulo International Film Festival
- International Film Festival of Kerala
- Lo Schermo Dell'Arte Film Festival
- Toronto International Film Festival
- Venice Days Associazione Culturale Giornate Degli Autori
- Reykjavik International Film Festival

AWARDS



AWARDS



SELECTION



AWARDS

65

Total Awards (All festivals) Approx.



SELECTION

250

Total Selection (All festivals) Approx.

GRANTS & CO-FINANCE

Academy Awards®

1

1

Cannes Film Festival

3

6

Berlin Film Festival

1

7

Toronto International Film Festival

2

10

International Film Festival Rotterdam

1

10

Sarajevo Film Festival

—

4

Venice International Film Festival

4

5

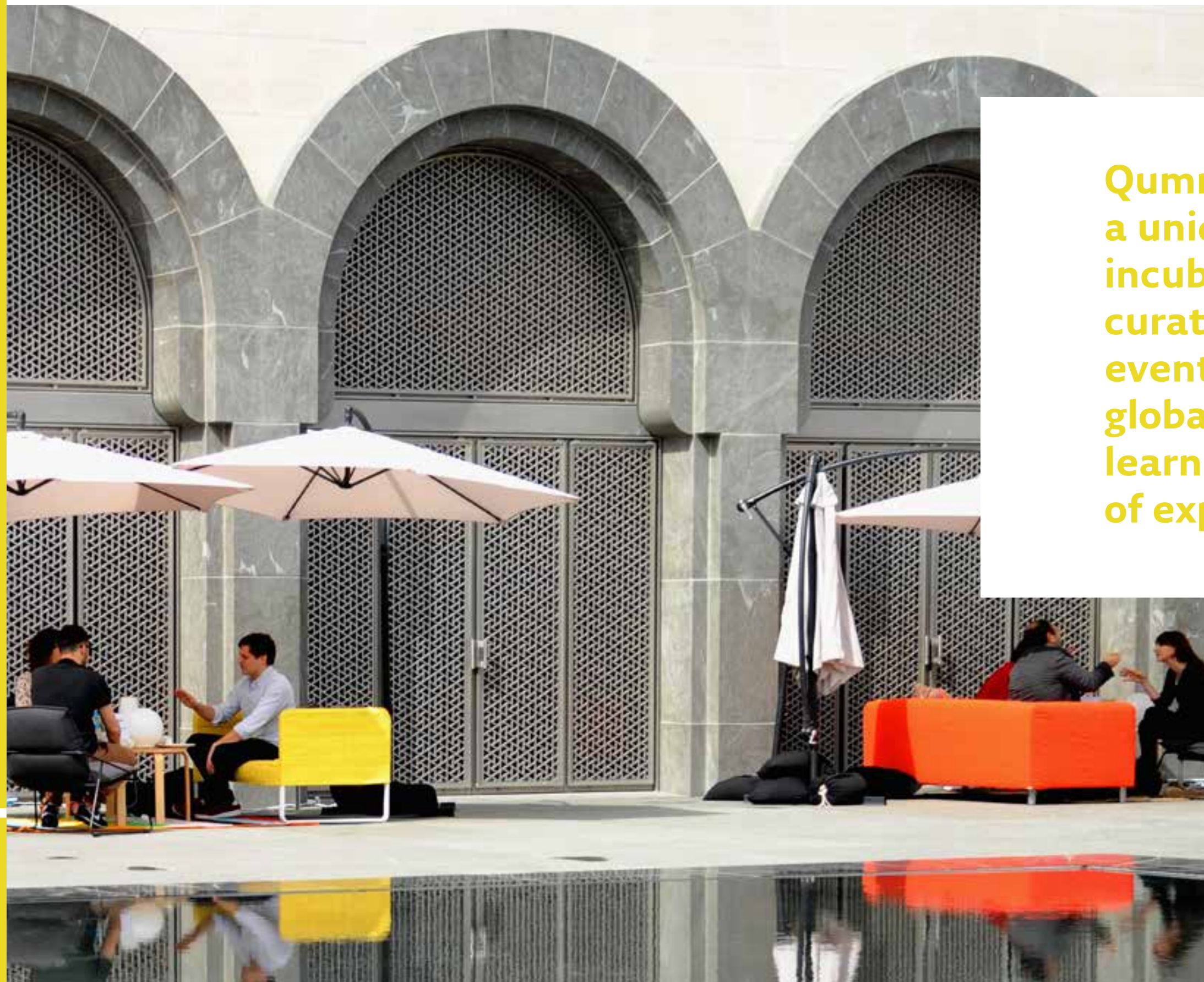
QUMRA

Today, as a one-of-a-kind film event in the region, Qumra continues to contribute to the development of emerging filmmakers, with a special focus on first and second-time directors.

3 March — 8 March 2017

Qumra is DFI's international gathering of creative film professionals. Since its inception, Qumra ushered in a new formula for the development of emerging talent in the film industry.

In 2017, DFI hosted its 3rd Annual Edition of Qumra, where 25 feature-length and 9 short films at various stages of production were selected to benefit from mentorship labs and business meetings with leading industry experts.



Qumra is recognised as a unique, modern, project incubator and a specially curated industry matchmaker event that brings together global film experts for learning and sharing of experiences.

As a film initiative, Qumra represents the culmination of DFI's diverse funding, training and development programmes. As an event, Qumra cultivates the exchange of knowledge, ideas, creativity and inspiration, and creates a nurturing and productive space for projects by emerging filmmakers. This year, among the selected group of directors and producers invited to participate in Qumra were a number of rising filmmakers from Qatar and recipients of DFI's Grants Programme.

Qumra's 2017 programme featured industry meetings with influential names in international cinema, work-in-progress screenings, mentorship labs, bespoke matchmaking sessions and tailored workshops with film industry and media experts. Each initiative was carefully designed to offer an invaluable boost to film projects in development or post-production, in order to propel the projects to their next stage.



2017 saw Qumra proudly conclude its third edition. Boldly imagined at its inception and meticulously executed since, this year Qumra continued its quest to mentor and support a new generation of local, regional and international filmmakers.

The 3rd Annual Edition of Qumra was a celebration of Modern Masters and New Voices in cinema. Rising steadily in its significance as a leading film industry talent development event, Qumra 2017 hosted Masters Paulo Branco, Bruno Dumont, Asghar Farhadi, Lucrecia Martel and Rithy Panh as the 3rd edition's Qumra Masters. 30 filmmakers were given the opportunity to develop their skills and progress their projects by drawing on the expertise and mentorship of these Qumra Masters.



In addition to inspirational and instructive Master Classes and tutorials, Qumra 2017 also offered a rich environment of collaboration by bringing together over 100 international industry professionals for a series of consultations, matchmaking meetings and project screenings. The encounters were designed to benefit the filmmakers, by creating a prime environment to foster emerging talent and pave the way for introducing their work to the world.



PAULO BRANCO

5 Masters of Qumra 2017

Honoured by the European Parliament as one of the 'Greatest European Producers' Paulo Branco is one of the most important figures of independent production in the world.

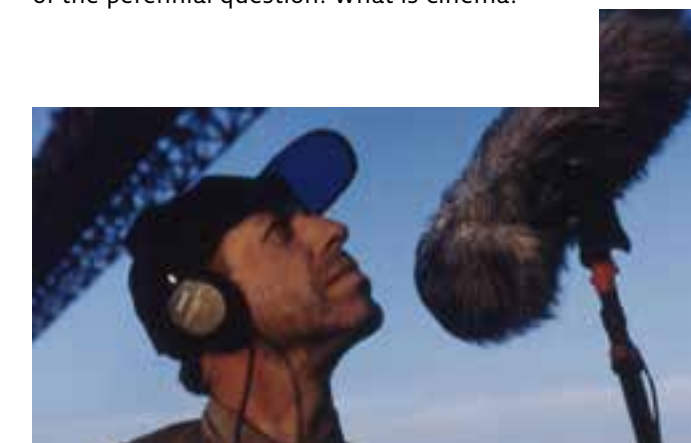
He has the largest number of films selected at the Cannes Film Festival (60 films with 36 in Official Selection) and to have competed for the Golden Palm. The producer of more than 300 films, he is recognised for providing aspiring filmmakers with the opportunity to make their directorial debuts.

Master's Selection

Lisbon Story

Director/Screenwriter:
Wim Wenders
Producers: Ulrich Felsberg,
Paulo Branco
Germany, Portugal |
German, English, Portuguese |
1994 | 100 mins

An exquisitely gentle film, on its surface Wim Wenders's 'Lisbon Story' is the simple, meandering tale of Philip Winter, a sound recordist who travels to Lisbon to work on a film. But the film is a complex, powerful pain to filmmaking and a consideration of the perennial question: What is cinema?



5 Masters of Qumra 2017

BRUNO DUMONT



Hovering on the border between realistic drama and the avant-garde, the films of Bruno Dumont have defined a new narrative idiom in world cinema.

Known for writing complete novels that form the basis of his films, Dumont is deeply influenced by the fine arts that are reflected in the visual richness of his cinema.

Master's Selection

Li'l Quinquin

Director/Screenwriter:
Bruno Dumont
Producers: Jean Bréhat,
Rachid Bouchareb,
Muriel Merlin

France | French | 2014 | 54 mins

Li'l Quinquin is a story built around the murder of a farmer's wife but the circumstances of her demise are as ridiculous as they are horrendous. The title character, an incorrigible, mouthy and racist youngster, is surrounded by adult figures who are not so much dysfunctional as they are non-functional.



5 Masters of Qumra 2017

As a two time Academy® Award-winner and a major figure of contemporary Iranian filmmaking, Asghar Farhadi first gained international prominence in 2003 with his first feature film. He has gone on to critical and popular acclaim with films including 'A Separation' and the Academy® Award-winning 'The Salesman'.

ASGHAR FARHADI



Master's Selection

About Elly

Director/Screenwriter: Asghar Farhadi
Producers: Asghar Farhadi, Simaye Mehr, Mahmoud Razavi

Iran | Persian | 2009 | 119 mins

The film's title is, appropriately, both enigmatic and something of a double entendre. Elly, who is the unknown, new friend among a group, occupies the centre of the narrative. She is by definition the primary character. And yet, the others revolve around her, never quite able to ascertain who she is. 'About Elly' is a deeply incisive and moving look at the failings and foibles of human nature.





5 Masters of Qumra 2017

Lucrecia Martel's debut feature 'La Ciénaga' was heralded the arrival of an astonishingly vital and original voice in Argentine cinema.

It went on to be voted the greatest Latin American film of the decade in a poll of New York film critics, and is seen as an important development in the New Argentine Cinema.

Master's Selection

La Ciénaga

Director / Screenwriter:

Lucrecia Martel

Producer: Lita Stantic

Argentina, France, Spain, Japan

Spanish | 2001 | 102 mins

A moment of helpless tragedy sets the tone for La Ciénaga, in which a decayed bourgeois family is hopelessly trapped in a morass of nonchalant lethargy. The story revolves around Mecha, a middle-class, middle-aged mother of five. 'La Ciénaga' simmers with claustrophobic dread as it moves inexorably forward to its shocking conclusion.



5 Masters of Qumra 2017

Rithy Panh is a Cambodian-French filmmaker, writer and producer. He is one of the most acclaimed documentary filmmakers and the most famous Cambodian filmmaker worldwide.

Rithy has created a unique body of work consisting of documentaries and feature films that mostly deal with modern Cambodia and the traumatic legacy of the Khmer Rouge regime.



Master's Selection

The Missing Picture

Director: Rithy Panh
 Producer: Catherine Dussart
 Cambodia, France |
 French | 2013 | 91 mins

The Missing Picture employs an almost astonishing device to describe the horrors of life for prisoners under the Khmer Rouge: painstakingly handcrafted miniature human figures that are used in tableaux of the various scenes the film describes. The film brilliantly revives the memory of those who disappeared, giving them an image that can be remembered, if not a voice.



Qumra Shines Brighter Than Ever

6 Days

34 Projects

*18 Feature
Documentaries*

*9 Short
Films*

*11 Projects by
Qatar-based talent*

25 Countries

*18 Narrative
Feature Films*

29 MENA Projects

5 Non-MENA Projects



Enriching and Nurturing a Vibrant Film Culture in Qatar

Qumra is proud of the contribution it makes towards the development of a sustainable film industry in Qatar.

In order to inspire widespread film appreciation and nurture a vibrant film culture in Qatar, Qumra recognizes the importance of investing in, developing and elevating local talent. At this year's edition, we were proud to watch the ever-growing body of work developed by local filmmakers capture the attention of the international industry.



The Other Wife

Meriem Mesraoua



Hitch 60

(working title)

Sara Al-Obaidly

iPhone Memory

Mahdi Ali Ali

Azooz, the Bully Slayer

Mohammed Al-Hamadi

The DNA of Love

Hafiz Ali Ali



Qumra Shorts by Qatari Talents



Sh'hab

Amal Al-Muftah

Ya Hoota

Latifa Al Darwish and
Abdulaziz Yousif Ahmed

Reem Planted a Flower

Rawda Al-Thani

Angels, Spiders and Other Miserable Creatures

Fahad Al-Kuwari

Awakenings

Fahad Al-Obaidly

Selective Mutism

Khalifa Al-Marri



“

I made a short film at DFI Short Filmmaking Lab, which allowed me to go through the process of filmmaking from development, production and festival strategy. This experience has provided me with a better understanding of films; which is to keep making them.

Rawda Al-Thani, Filmmaker

”

Each night Qumra opened its screening venues, offering the public the opportunity to enjoy the works of Qumra Masters and a selection of finished projects of New Voices in Cinema.

Qumra Public Screenings

10 Screenings

1189 Audience Members



I Have Been Watching You All Along

Rawda Al-Thani

Kashta

A.J. Al-Thani

Qumra's 5 New Qatari Voices in Cinema

Our Time Is Running Out

Meriem Mesraoua

RED

Kholood Mohammed Al-Ali

Turtles Are Always Home

Rawane Nassif

Public Screenings at Qumra 2017

Dogs

Director/Screenwriter: Bogdan Florian Mirică

Producers: Elie Meirovitz, Marcela Ursu

Romania, France, Bulgaria, Qatar | Romanian | 2016 | 100 mins

Young Roman gets a whole lot more than he bargained for when he inherits a large tract of land on the Romanian border with Ukraine from his late grandfather.

Holy Cow

Director/Screenwriter: Imamaddin Hasanov

Producers: Andra Popescu, Veronika Janatková, Stefan Kloos

Azerbaijan, Germany, Romania, Qatar | Azerbaijani, Persian | 2015 | 80 mins

'Holy Cow' brilliantly highlights some of the arguments that so often buttress the many nonsensical claims that accompany xenophobia, overlaying naturalistic settings, sequences and performances with a truly absurd – yet all-encompassing – judgement that is based on the unfounded fear of change.

Mimosas

Director: Oliver Laxe

Producers: Lama Chraïbi, Nadia Turinev, Felipe Lage Coro

Spain, Morocco, France, Qatar | Arabic | 2016 | 93 mins

An elderly sheikh, nearing death, seeks to travel to his birthplace in the Atlas Mountains so he may find final rest among his family and loved ones, but the road is treacherous and more than the caravan that accompanies him can manage.

Tramontane

Director/Screenwriter:

Vatche Boulghourjian

Producers: Caroline Oliveira, Georges Schoucair

Lebanon, France, UAE, Qatar |

Arabic | 2016 | 100 mins

In 'Tramontane', director Vatche Boulghourjian tells a tale of a blind, extremely talented singer and tablah player named Rabih. Through Rabih's life, the film parallels Lebanon's experience of delving into the turmoil of its recent history.



Films by Qatar's 5 New Voices

I Have Been Watching You All Along

Director/Screenwriter/Cinematographer/Editor:

Rawda Al-Thani

Production: Doha Film Institute

Qatar | No dialogue | 2016 | 10 mins

A young woman wanders about an abandoned cinema, rummaging through its storerooms and curiously exploring the mechanical and celluloid detritus that has been left behind.

Kashta

Director/Screenwriter: A.J. Al-Thani

Producer: Jaime Siordia

Qatar | Arabic | 2016 | 12 mins

Out in the beautiful quiet of the desert, a man teaches his young sons how to track and hunt, when a sudden disaster strikes.

Our Time Is Running Out

Director: Meriem Mesraoua

Producer: Nadine Toukan

Production: Doha Film Institute

Qatar | Arabic | 2017 | 15 mins

With 'Our Time Is Running Out', director Meriem Mesraoua creates a compelling and disturbingly blissful alternate universe in which a society of children live according to strict and absolute rules.

Red

Director/Screenwriter: Kholood Al-Ali

Production: Doha Film Institute

Qatar | No dialogue | 2017 | 9 mins

A shy and lonely boy trudges through the snowy streets of a desolate, abandoned urban landscape, where he sees an abandoned pair of red trainers hanging from a telephone wire.

Turtles Are Always Home

Director/Cinematographer/Editor: Rawane Nassif

Production: Doha Film Institute

Qatar, Lebanon, Canada | Arabic | 2016 | 13 mins

Lebanese-Canadian filmmaker Rawane Nassif considers the feelings of displacement and otherness that come with being an expat – a situation that gives rise to a contradictory sensation of transient belonging.

“

There are hidden gems of talent all over

Anick Poirier,
Senior Vice President Seville International

”

Qumra carefully curated all industry events to ensure the right opportunities were created for the filmmakers.

Through a wide variety of planned encounters, Qumra provided one-on-one attention, group interactions and networking opportunities, leading to a rich exchange of ideas and expertise designed to energise viable film projects.



Working Breakfasts

4 moderated Working Breakfasts were organised for 540 participants and industry executives in an informal atmosphere. Qumra's Working Breakfasts created an opening for producers, representatives of labs and festivals, sales agents, distributors and financiers to share their expertise and insights and discuss current industry trends.



Preparatory Meetings

To ensure that project delegates gained the maximum insight from every industry encounter, Qumra held a series of briefing meetings with moderators and mentors to prepare delegates for their screening and feedback sessions and consultations with Qumra experts.



Meet the Masters

Participants at Qumra with projects in development received individual consultation sessions with one of the Qumra Masters.

One-on-One Tutorials

Qumra's individual advisory sessions were tailored to the needs of the project at hand. Industry experts who shared their expertise covered a broad range of subjects, from financing strategies and legal considerations for co-productions, to festival strategies and sales.



Rough Cut Consultations

These intensive sessions with industry experts offered individual consultation opportunities to grantees with projects in post-production. They provided bespoke advice for post-production, editing and seeking finishing funds.

Script Consultations

Qumra offered individual Script Consultations with expert script advisors for projects in the early stages of development. In order to benefit participants and ensure continuity, Qumra also established a mechanism for online follow-up.

Qumra Talks

Working in partnership with Northwestern University in Qatar, Qumra Talks gathered leaders from the film, television, technology and online worlds to weigh in on diverse topics that significantly impact the future of filmmaking.



TOPICS

International Digital Distribution and Marketing

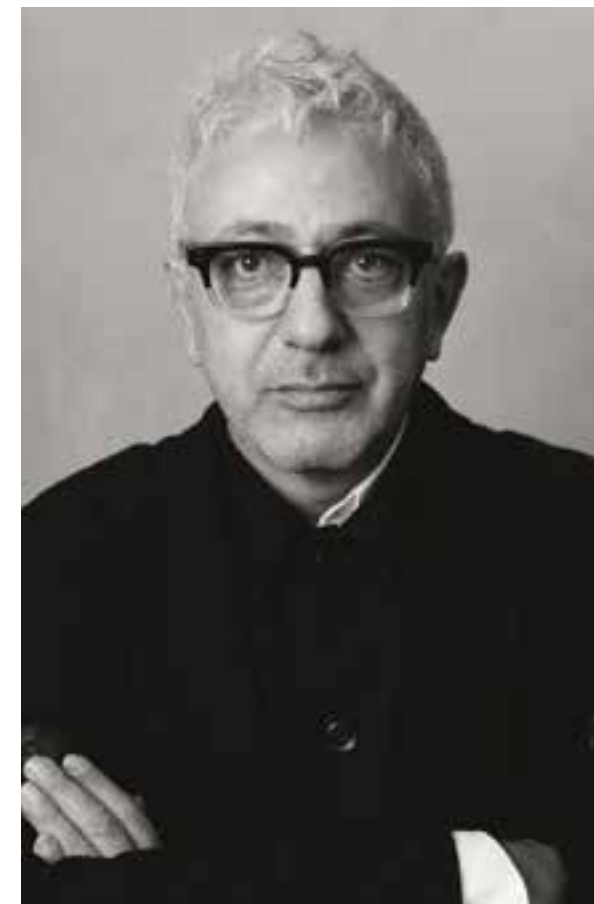
On Writing and Producing Animation with Mike Reiss

Al Jazeera's Strategic Pivot to Digital

“

It is to DFI's credit that they remained determined to keep Qumra a small, intimate event.

Matt Mueller, Editor Screen International



“

We don't want to expand horizontally, only vertically, so Qumra has depth. Otherwise the intimacy will be lost.

Elia Suleiman, Artistic Advisor



Qumra in Pictures



Qumra Partners

CULTURAL PARTNERS



سوق واقف
SOUQ WAQIF

SUPPORTED BY



بطاقتك إلى الثقافة
CULTURE PASS



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College of Humanities & Social Sciences
Translation & Interpreting Institute

FRIENDS OF QUMRA



23
Sarajevo
Film Festival
11-18 August 2017



REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
Ambassade de France
au Qatar



vivre
les
cultures



Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Doha



GOETHE
INSTITUT
German Cultural Center

MEDIA PARTNER





PRODUCTION

The Production Department is equipped to deliver the functions of a full-service production house, offering creative development, production, post-production, edit suite rentals, media duplications, transfers and equipment rentals.

Central to DFI's mission is the creation of original and compelling multi-platform content. DFI's Production Department was established to enhance the film industry in Qatar by creating content for DFI's projects and contribute towards meeting the filming and editing needs of local filmmakers, businesses, government bodies and NGOs in the country.

During the year under review, DFI made a significant contribution through its film production capabilities and expertise in film, commercials, television and online videos.

Leveraging its knowledgeable in-house team of film production specialists, DFI's Production Department offered essential creative, logistical and operational support to local filmmaking talent through its various education and training initiatives.

The department also created content for DFI and a variety of companies based in Qatar, including leading local and international businesses, government bodies and NGOs.

Serving Local Filmmakers

Local filmmakers benefited from the experience of the in-house film production team in support of their own self-created and commissioned projects, together with invaluable access to the Institute's haul of professional equipment and support teams.

Fostering Partnerships & Creating Multi-platform Content

As in previous years, in 2017, DFI's Production Department continued to work in collaboration with filmmakers, artists and professionals in the industry, creating original and engaging content across multiple media platforms.

Supporting the Government Sector

In 2017, DFI's Production Department continued its mandate to cater to the requirements of a number of Qatar's government agencies in support of national projects.



Production Support for Qatari Film Fund



The Qatari Film Fund offers support for the furtherance of the skills and accomplishments of Qatari filmmakers.

In 2017 the Production Department directly produced many Qatari filmmaking projects in conjunction with the Qatari Film Fund (QFF). By working with each filmmaking writer and director, DFI's Production Department helped them transform their creative visions into authentic and visually-appealing cinematic works.

The Production Department invested its financial, technical, and logistical filmmaking knowledge and skill, to help guide and support each project, helping filmmakers navigate the complex realities of the industry. The support offered ranged from film production mentoring to assisting filmmakers to transform their screenplays into realistic and manageable film budgets, general production management, legal and regulatory supervision and financial oversight.

By directly producing these projects, DFI created the optimum environment for these creative works to thrive. The film production mentoring ensured that creative works and creative individuals were able to sustain themselves throughout the production process.

National Blockade Films

Immediately following the blockade of Qatar by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain and the UAE, Qatar's creative community came together like never before in a unified showcase of filmmaking solidarity and resilience.

Under the guidance and with the support of DFI, the films that were produced stood as a testament to the creativity of Qatar's filmmakers. They showed that art (in its many forms) can and does, play a significant and important role in identifying, interpreting, showcasing, championing and proliferating the mood of a nation as a whole.

During 2017, more than 90 short films were made. Each representing an element of the national sentiment at that moment, all made in support of the country, in support of its leadership and in support of the voices of all people who live in and who wholeheartedly support the State of Qatar. The Institute's Film Production facilities, equipment, expertise and support, were made freely and universally available to these pioneering filmmakers.



A photograph of a cinema audience, featuring a woman in the foreground on the left and a man in traditional Arab attire on the right, both looking towards the screen. The image is overlaid with a teal color filter.

FILM SCREENINGS

We deliver an extensive and diverse cultural film programme that engages different audiences and offer an exemplary film experience to the public.

DFI's Film screenings include a varied selection of new releases, classics, retrospectives and special events.

A Glance at Our Screening Events & Activities

The DFI Cinema series provide an opportunity to local audiences to watch films that have set standards for their craft and narrative strength, and have pushed boundaries to turn stories into brilliant and inventive cinema. The screenings are part of Doha Film Institute's year-round initiatives to offer varied cinema experiences, making a valuable contribution to the diversity of screen culture in Qatar, while providing cultural and creative discoveries for audiences in Doha.

- **Thematic Series**
- **Hekayat Khaleejiyah**
- **Focus on Qatar**
- **Cinema Under the Stars**
- **Youth Screenings**
- **Special Screenings**



DFI's Screenings in Numbers

27,788 Audience Members

Over 375 Screenings

150 Titles

2017's Year Round Screenings

DFI's commitment to foster a love for film and increase film appreciation is supported by a robust calendar of year round screenings.

January Cinema Under The Stars

21 January

Museum of Islamic Art Park

Film:

Dari Qatar - A film by all of us

by Ahmad Al-Sharif

Qatar | 2016 | Feature Documentary

A year in the making. Throughout 2016, people across our great nation have been submitting video clips for the Dari Qatar project, and we at the Doha Film Institute have been weaving them together to create a tapestry of daily life in Qatar.

Hekayat Khalejiya

26-27 January

Museum of Islamic Art Auditorium

Film:

Abdullah

by Humaid Al-Suwaidi

UAE | 2015 | Feature Narrative - Drama

Growing up in a very conservative family where many things are 'haram' (forbidden in Islam), Abdullah struggles over the years to hide his love for music.



February

German Film Week

2-10 February

Museum of Islamic Art Auditorium

In celebration of the Qatar Germany Year of Culture 2017, the Doha Film Institute, the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region and Qatar Museums proudly presented the German Film Week; a curated series of eight Classic and Contemporary German Films. DFI invited film critic Dr. Claus Löser to present the films in the programme. Dr. Löser held a Master Class on 'German Film History'.

Films:

Run Lola Run

by Tom Tykwer

Germany | 1998 | Feature Narrative - Crime, Thriller

After a botched money delivery, Lola has 20 minutes to come up with 100,000 Deutschmarks

My Friend Raffi

by Arend Agthe

Germany | 2015 | Feature Narrative - Adventure, Family

An 8-year-old boy has to rescue his hamster after a crook nabs it for its special talents.

Wings of Desire

by Wim Wenders

Germany, France | 1987 | Feature Narrative - Drama,

Fantasy, Romance

An angel tires of overseeing human activity and wishes to become human when he falls in love with a mortal.

Sophie Scholl: The Final Days

by Marc Rothemund

Germany | 2005 | Feature Narrative - Biography, Crime, Drama

A dramatization of the final days of Sophie Scholl, one of the most famous members of the German World War II anti-Nazi resistance movement, The White Rose.



The Murderers Are Among Us

by Wolfgang Staudte

Germany | 1946 | Feature Narrative - Drama,

Romance, Thriller

After returning from a concentration camp, Susanne finds an ex-soldier living in her apartment. Together the two try to move past their experiences during WWII.

Fitzcarraldo

by Werner Herzog

Germany, Peru | 1982 | Feature Narrative - Adventure,

Biography, Drama

Fitzcarraldo is an obsessed opera lover who wants to build an opera in the jungle. To accomplish this he first has to make a fortune in the rubber business and his cunning plan involves hauling an enormous river boat across a small mountain with aid from the local Indians.

The Adventures of Prince Achmed

by Lotte Reiniger

Germany | 1926 | Feature Narrative - Animation,

Adventure, Fantasy

A handsome prince rides a flying horse to far-away lands and embarks on magical adventures, which include befriending a witch, meeting Aladdin, battling demons and falling in love with a princess.

Hördur

by Ekrem Ergün

Germany | 2015 | Feature Narrative - Drama, Youth

After a run in with the Law, Aylin a 17 year old Muslim girl part of the Turkish diaspora in Germany finds herself sentenced to community service at an out-of-town horse stable.

Sponsors:

Goethe Institut - Qatar Germany Year of Culture

National Sports Day

DFI hosted a Master Class inviting Filmmakers Anders Helgeson and Karin af Klintberg to discuss their process and approach in the making of Nice People. The filmmakers presented clips and specific examples that shared the story of the creation of the film.

March Francophonie Spotlight

18 March

Katara Drama Theatre

In association with the Embassy of Belgium in Qatar, DFI presented contemporary cinema from the French-speaking world.

L'économie du couple (After Love)

by Joachim Lafosse

France, Belgium | 2015 | Feature Narrative – Comedy, Drama

After 15 years of living together, Marie and Boris decide to get a divorce. Marie had bought the house in which they live with their two daughters, but it was Boris who had completely renovated it. Since he cannot afford to find another place to live, they must continue to share it.



Creators of Horror

20-24 April

Museum of Islamic Art

Creators of Horror was a thrilling series of films that put audiences on the edge of their seats. Our Creators of Horror series celebrated the craft of eclectic filmmakers who have redefined the genre.

Films:

Psycho

by Alfred Hitchcock

USA | 1960 | Feature Narrative – Horror, Mystery, Thriller

A Phoenix secretary embezzles \$40,000 from her employer's client, goes on the run and checks into a remote motel run by a young man under the domination of his mother.

Jumanji

by Joe Johnston

USA | 1995 | Feature Narrative – Action, Adventure, Family, Fantasy

When two kids find and play a magical board game, they release a man trapped for decades in it and a host of dangers that can only be stopped by finishing the game.

The Orphanage

by J.A. Bayona

Spain | 2007 | Feature Narrative – Drama, Horror, Mystery, Thriller

A woman brings her family back to her childhood home, which used to be an orphanage for handicapped children. Before long, her son starts to communicate with an invisible new friend.

April Cinema Under the Stars

30 March – 7 April

Qatar Food Festival Film Screening

Films:

Dari Qatar - A film by all of us

by Ahmad Al-Sharif

Qatar | 2016

Shorts Programmes:

A Day in India by Daniel Klein, Mirra Fine

Yum Yum Yummy by Gwendoline Gamboa

Riceballs by Shingo Usami

Alimation by Alexandre Dubosc

The Heart Followers by Tord Theodor Olsen

Making Za'atar by Leen Al Zaben

The Palm Tree by Jassim Al-Rumaihi

Rain by Rahab Elewaly

Hero and the Message by Pawel Borowski

Makh'bz by Aisha Al-Muhannadi

Shishbarak by Bayan Dahdah

Vampyr

by Carl Theodor Dreyer

Germany, France | 1932 | Feature Narrative – Fantasy, Horror

A drifter obsessed with the supernatural stumbles upon an inn where a severely ill adolescent girl is slowly becoming a vampire.

The Host

by Bong Joon-ho

South Korea | 2006 | Feature Narrative – Drama, Science-Fiction, Thriller

A monster emerges from Seoul's Han River and focuses its attention on attacking people. One victim's loving family does what it can to rescue her from its clutches.

Night of the Living Dead

by George A. Romero

USA | 1968 | Feature Narrative – Horror

After several atomic experiences, the dead get out of their tombs to devour the living. Barbara locks herself up in an isolated house with five other people. There will only be one survivor.

Made in Qatar Thriller Programme

Qarar by Ali Al-Anssari

Asfoora by Mayar Hamdan

I by Ali Al-Ansari

Man of the House by Khalifa Al-Marri



Special Screenings

MIA Exhibition Series: Imperial Threads

27-28 April

As part of the Museum of Islamic Art's Imperial Threads: Motifs and Artisans from Turkey, Iran and India exhibition, DFI presented contemporary films that connect to the exhibition's main theme.



Gabbah

by Mohsen Makhmalbaf

France, Iran | 1996 | Feature Narrative – Drama

A nomadic tribe in South-East Iran, whose speciality is weaving gabbah (Persian carpets) is dying out... On the banks of a river, an old woman who is washing one of these carpets seems to be conversing with it. The motifs of this gabbah relate the love story of a young girl whose parents refuse to let her marry the man she loves. And the tribe starts the long journey in the steppe, the lover following on horseback far behind...

The Cabinet of Dr. Calligari

By Robert Wiene

*Part of Qatar-Germany Year of Culture 2017

DFI presented this wonderful film with live accompaniment by the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra. The event was organized by Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra and the Doha Film Institute in partnership with Qatar Museums, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region.



May A Window on Contemporary Arab Cinema

10-12 May

Katara Drama Theatre

DFI presented A Window on Contemporary Arab Cinema, featuring films that have been recipients of DFI Grants. The series focused on emerging talent from the Middle East and featured the Qatar premieres of four ground-breaking works by young artists, alongside a compilation of short films from across the region.

Films:

Eyes of a Thief

by Najwa Najjar

Palestine, Algeria, France, Iceland, Jordan, Qatar | 2014 |

Feature Narrative – Based on a True Story

Inspired by real events, ‘Eyes of a Thief’ is a rare glimpse into Palestinian society from the inside. At the height of the 2002 Palestinian Uprising, Tareq, an enigmatic man bearing fresh wounds, is tended to by local nuns, who help him to escape.

Dégradé

by Arab Abunasser, Tarzan Abunasser

Palestine, France, Qatar | 2015 | Feature Narrative – Comedy,

Drama, Social Issues, Women

Gaza, nowadays. Twelve women are stuck in a hair salon during a whole afternoon, witnessing a violent confrontation across the street.

The Dark Wind

by Hussein Hassan

Iraq, Germany, Qatar | Feature Narrative – Drama, Politics,

Social Issues, War, Women

Radical Islamists attack a village in Iraq where two young Ezidis prepare for marriage. From that moment onwards their lives are turned into a nightmare.

Ali, The Goat and Ibrahim

by Sherif El Bendary

Egypt, UAE, France | Qatar | 2016 | Feature Narrative –

Comedy, Drama

Ali, his goat and Ibrahim embark on a surreal journey looking for hope; but the answers will only come from within.

Short Film Programme:

Maqloubeh by Nicolas Damuni

Selma by Mohamed Ben Attia

Waves ’98 by Ely Dagher

The Desert Fish by Alaa Eddine Aljem

The Wall by Odette Makhlouf Mouarkech



MIA Exhibition Series: Imperial Threads

18-19 May 2017

The Poot

by Elham Asadi

Iran | 2009 | Short Documentary

Carpet-weaving is one of the oldest trades in the Persian world but, as with so many traditions, the craft is under fire these days. Many of the carpets that end up on the European market are manufactured mechanically in China or India, and the handicraft itself is becoming less attractive because people can earn more money in other occupations. The Iranian documentary ‘The Poot’ reveals how, in some places, carpets are still woven by hand; it follows the production process from start to finish, without explanation or comment, in a film that has the same visual magic as the Persian carpets it depicts.



September MIA Exhibition Series: Imperial Threads

14-15 September

Gabbeh

by Mohsen Makhmalbaf



A Symphony of Films

21-26 September

Katara Drama Theatre

DFI celebrated some of the works of great film composers who have collaborated with remarkable filmmakers from all over the world for a 2nd edition of 'A Symphony of Films'.

Films:

Score: A Film Music Documentary

by Matt Schrader

USA | 2016 | Feature Documentary – Documentary, Music

This documentary brings Hollywood's premier composers together to give viewers a privileged look inside the musical challenges and creative secrecy of the world's most widely known music genre: the film score.

Batman

by Tim Burton

USA, UK | 1989 | Feature Narrative – Action, Adventure

The Dark Knight of Gotham City begins his war on crime with his first major enemy being the clownishly homicidal Joker.

Azur & Asmar: The Princes' Quest

by Michel Ocelot

France, Belgium, Spain, Italy | 2006 | Feature Narrative – Animation, Children

Once upon a time there were two children nursed by the same woman, Jenane. Jenane's son, dark-haired, dark-eyed Asmar and Azur, the blonde, blue-eyed son of a nobleman, were as close as brothers. They grew up with Jenane's tales of the Djinn-fairy awaiting release by a heroic prince, before Azur's father brutally separated the boys.

Bicycle Thieves

by Vittorio De Sica

Italy | 1948 | Feature Narrative – Drama

Set in Post-WWII Italy, a working-class man's bicycle is stolen. He and his son set out to find it.

Stalker

by Andrei Tarkovsky

Russia | 1979 | Feature Narrative – Drama, Mystery, Science-fiction

A guide leads two men through an area known as the Zone to find a room that grants wishes.

Pather Panchali

by Satyajit Ray

India | 1955 | Feature Narrative – Drama

Impoverished priest Harihar Ray, dreaming of a better life for himself and his family, leaves his rural Bengal village in search of work.

A Symphony of Films Events: Music from Britain and Qatar

*Part of Qatar-Germany Year of Culture 2017

Celebrated film composer Deborah Mollison introduced her music including acclaimed the title 'East is East' with her personal comments. The following selection of scores by Dr. Deborah Mollison was presented.

Opening Titles from 'The Boys of Sunset Ridge'

'The Irish Empire'

'East is East'

'Infinite Justice'

'Tied to a Chair'

End Theme from 'Heather's Painting'

'Wild Weather'

The Qatari half of the program included no fewer than three world premieres from Dana Al-Fardan, Nasser Nasseb and Wael Binali.

Dana Alfardan: Necromancer

Dana Alfardan: Intertwined

Nasser Nasseb: Four Seasons

Wael Binali: Earth

Wael Binali: Niramaya

DFI also hosted a Master Class with Dr. Deboarah Mollison titled Becoming a film composer.

Metropolis – Film & Concert

Directed by Fritz Lang

The Complete Metropolis (2010 release) silent film by director Fritz Lang was presented with live accompaniment by the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra who played the original film score by Gottfried Huppertz.

Sponsors / Partners:

Qatar Museums, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Doha, Goethe Institut Gulf Region, Qatar Germany Year of Culture, Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra.



October Special Screenings

MIA Exhibition Series: Imperial Threads

12-13 October

The Pool

by Elham Asadi

Iran | 2009



The Pool

November Cinema Under the Stars

1-4 November

Museum of Islamic Art Park

Presented as part of
Discover America Festival

Films:

Turbo

by David Soren

USA | 2013 | Feature Narrative - Animation

A freak accident might just help an everyday garden snail achieve his biggest dream: winning the Indy 500.

Big Dream

by Kelly Cox

USA, Belgium, Costa Rica, Kenya, Oman |

Feature Documentary

Big Dream follows the intimate stories of seven young women who are breaking barriers and overcoming personal challenges to follow their passion in science, math, computing and engineering.

Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron

by Kelly Asbury and Lorna Cook

USA | 2002 | Feature Narrative - Animation, Family

A wild stallion is captured by humans and slowly loses the will to resist training. Yet throughout his struggles for freedom, the stallion refuses to let go of the hope of one day returning home to his herd.

Alive Inside

by Michael Rossato-Bennett

USA | 2014 | Feature Documentary

Dan Cohen, founder of the nonprofit organization Music & Memory, fights against a broken healthcare system to demonstrate music's ability to combat memory loss and restore a deep sense of self to those suffering from it.



Alive Inside



Big Dream

December Human Rights Day Screening

9 December 2017

Museum of Islamic Art Auditorium

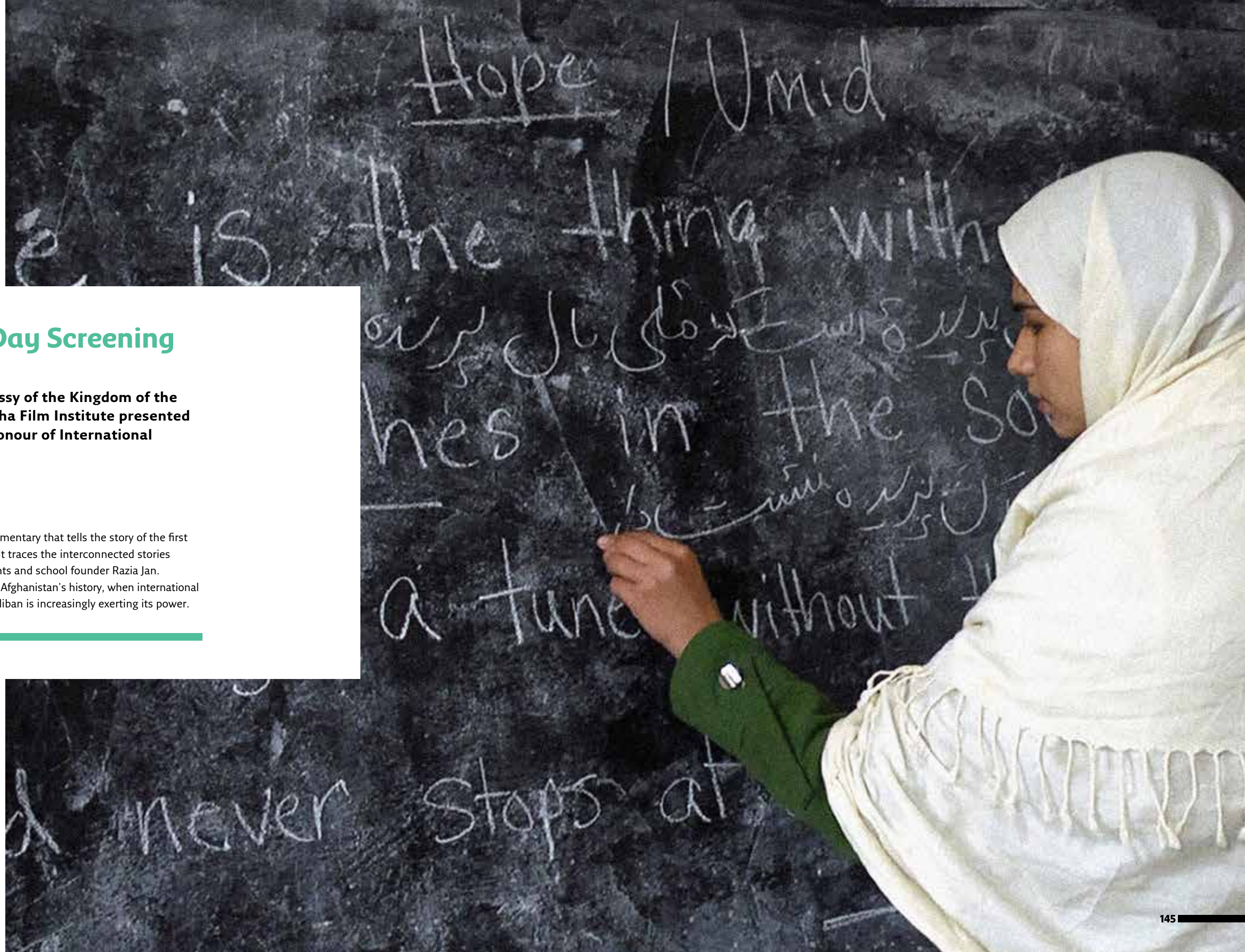
In association with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Qatar, the Doha Film Institute presented 'What Tomorrow Brings' in honour of International Human Rights Day.

What Tomorrow Brings

by Beth Murphy

Afghanistan, USA | 2015 | Feature Documentary

'What Tomorrow Brings' is a feature documentary that tells the story of the first all-girls' school in a small Afghan village. It traces the interconnected stories of students, teachers, village elders, parents and school founder Razia Jan. The story plays out at a critical moment in Afghanistan's history, when international security forces are pulling out, and the Taliban is increasingly exerting its power.



AJYAL



أجيال

مهرجان أجيال السينمائي
Ajyal Youth Film Festival

29 November — 4 December 2017

Ajyal engages Qatar's youth, families and educators through an annual celebration of the best in international youth cinema, and year-round activities that enrich film appreciation.

Ajyal proudly invests in the future of Qatar by empowering the nation's youth, giving them the skills and knowledge to express themselves through cinema.

By bringing generations together through events that inspire creative interaction, Ajyal opens up an environment where youth can express their views on the complex issues they face today.

Ajyal's Mission

To inspire and enrich the lives of youth through the power of film and media and to mobilize local and international communities to join us in this movement.

Ajyal's Vision

Empowered and Informed Youth for a Better Tomorrow.

This year, through the 5th Edition of Ajyal, the festival continued its mandate of preparing Qatar's youth to take on the challenges of the future, so they can become the artists and professionals of tomorrow.



Why We Seek to Inspire & Enrich the Lives of Youth...

Youth are the core target of our mission. That is why Ajyal strives to provide a real opportunity for them to develop their culture and to explore new worlds. Through the festival and all its activities, we encourage meaningful conversations about diverse topics. Our goal is to help develop their skills, to engage youth with educational and positive entertainment and to provide them with the tools to comprehend film and media. We are confident that Ajyal will give them a voice to express themselves on the complex issues they face today and to prepare them accordingly for the challenges of the future.

Why Film and Media...

Ajyal acknowledges that film isn't the sole medium with the power to reach our audience and realise our vision. We recognise that new media fills a crucial role in the complex contemporary framework of social, economic and cultural forces and that youth access information and entertainment through social media and new platforms of virtual interaction. That is why our festival remains current and relevant by engaging with them via their preferred platforms.

Why Community...

Ajyal is more than just a film festival. It is a catalyst for social change through film and media, a journey for young people and their communities to grow, learn, develop empathy, gain self-confidence and aspire to exemplary global citizenship. Ajyal exists to inspire and make a difference in young people's lives. We believe in our mission and we want our passion to be contagious, mobilizing others, locally and internationally. That is why community is an integral part of everything we do.

Aiyal at a Glance

6 Days
6 Pre-festival events

103 Films

62 Guest Filmmakers

22 Made in Qatar Filmmakers

575 Jurors

43 Countries

6665 Filmgoers

337 Volunteers

Our Pre-Festival Events and Promotions Set the Tone for Ajyal's 2017 Success



13th November Pre-Ajyal Press Conference

Al Jazeera Media Café hosted local and International media who were empowered to inform the community. Attended by more than 70 members of the media.

14th November Artists Night

A dinner for local artists from every field, engaging them to spread the word about Ajyal's 5th Edition.



16th November Ambassador's Reception

A special event to promote Ajyal and reach the full diplomatic community.

16th, 17th and 18th November Volunteer Orientation

3-day orientation at Al Jazeera Media Café, for 337 Volunteers.



22nd November Ajyal Jury Orientation

Orientation for jurors' and families to share the overall schedule, inform them of their responsibilities as film critics and requirements as a member of the Ajyal Jury.

28th November Ajyal Jury Opening Ceremony

The Jury Opening Ceremony kicked off the program.





The Ajyal Competition

"I enjoyed every second. I feel very lucky to have been a part of such an amazing event. I made new friends and met some very famous people! I loved it! Thank you DFI and Ajyal!" - Mohammed



Ajyal encourages young people to participate in the festival as jurors. These jurors select the Festival's award winners.

The 5th Edition of Ajyal continued to provide young people from the ages of 8 to 21 with access to international cinema and filmmakers from around the globe, helping them develop their understanding of how the world tells its stories in a spirit of cultural exchange.



Ajyal Jury

Our Juror Groups

1200 Applicants

Ajyal's Jury convened in 2017 with 575 registered jurors working in three age groups; Mohaq, Hilal and Bader. Our jurors enjoyed a great mix of feature and short film screenings, workshops, panels and Meet The Talent sessions with Pirates of the Caribbean's Kaya Scodelario and actress/activist Sophia Bush.

Ajyal's offered our jurors a fun, rich, multifaceted educational experience centred around quality film and media. The festival exposed them to different worlds, perspectives and cultures in order to widen their horizons, empowering them to take action and become active global citizens.

The festival gave them the space to create meaningful friendships and enjoy a sense of accomplishment. Ajyal will continue to engage them year-round, in order to continue the conversations we began with them.

MOHAQ

Ages 8 to 12 | 215 jurors

Ajyal's youngest jurors enjoyed one program of short films, four feature films, three workshops and two Meet the Talent sessions.

HILAL

Ages 13 to 17 | 277 jurors

Hilal jurors enjoyed one programme of shorts, four feature films, two workshops, two Ajyal Talks, two Meet the Talent sessions and one Meet the Filmmakers session.

BADER

Ages 18 to 21 | 83 jurors

As the young adults of the Festival, Bader enjoyed a full schedule including two programmes of shorts, four feature films, four Ajyal Talks, two Meet the Talent sessions and one Meet the Filmmakers session.

friendship





“

There's no festival like Ajyal. Compared to the big festivals like TIFF, Ajyal really had a positive and hopeful energy. It's not run by adults for adults, it's totally for the kids.

Saara Chaudry

”

Ajyal Film Program

Over six days, Ajyal's film programme screened some of the best in international family-friendly cinema, bringing film-goers of all ages together to absorb and appreciate an inspirational experience.

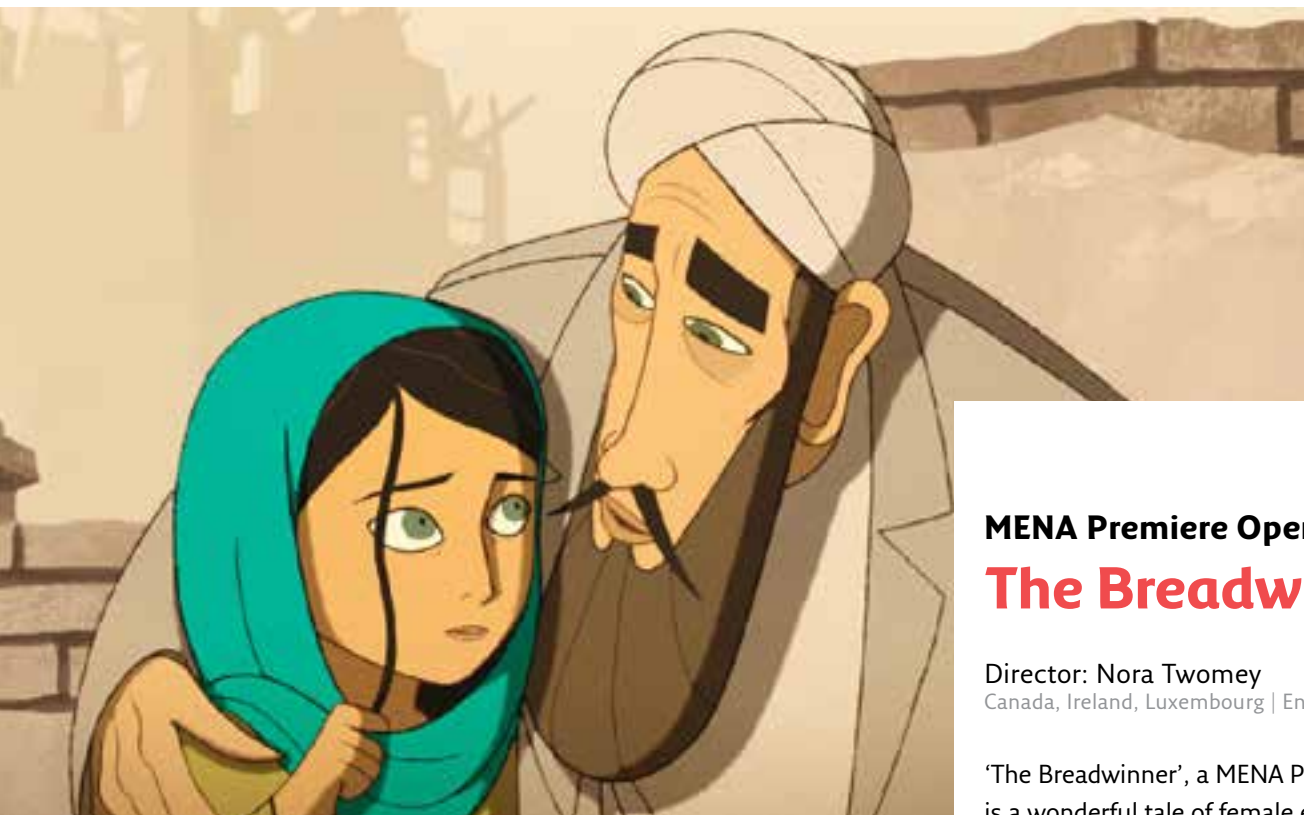
Film



Film

Feature Films

The schedule included the Ajyal Competition as well as public screenings of family-friendly short and feature-length films, spanning the genres of fiction, documentaries, animated films and a series made right here in Qatar.



MENA Premiere Opening Night The Breadwinner

Director: Nora Twomey
Canada, Ireland, Luxembourg | English 2017 | 93 mins

'The Breadwinner', a MENA Premiere, is a wonderful tale of female empowerment and imagination in the face of oppression – and a celebration of the culture, history and beauty of Afghanistan. Executive-produced by Angelina Jolie, this film screened at Ajyal, took the top prize at the Animation Is Film Festival in Los Angeles.

At Eye Level

Directors: Joachim Dollhopf, Evi Goldbrunner
Germany | German | 2016 | 98 mins

The Big Bad Fox and Other Tales

Directors: Benjamin Renner, Patrick Imbert
France | French 2016 | 83 mins

Birds Like Us *

Directors: Faruk Šabanović, Amela Cuhara
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey, UK, USA, Qatar | English | 2017 | 84 mins

Disappearance *

Director: Ali Asgari
Iran, Qatar | Persian | 2017 | 88 mins

Even When I Fall

Director: Kate McLarnon, Sky Neal
UK | Nepali | 2017 | 88 mins

Everyday Heroes

Director: Anne-Dauphine Julliand
France | French 2016 | 79 mins

House in the Fields *

Director: Tala Hadid
Morocco, Qatar | Amazigh 2017 | 86 mins

In This Corner of the World

Director: Sunao Katabuchi
Japan | Japanese 2016 | 129 mins

Listen to the Silence

Director: Mariam Chachia
Georgia, Qata | Georgian 2016 | 80 mins

Liyana *

Directors: Aaron Kopp, Amanda Kopp
Swaziland, Qatar, USA | English, Siswati 2017 | 75 mins

The Seventh Summit

Director: Elia Youssef
Lebanon, Nepal, Qatar, USA, UAE | Arabic, English 2016 | 65 mins

The Smurfs

Director: Raja Gosnell
USA | English 2011 | 103 mins

Step

Director: Amanda Lipitz
USA | English 2016 | 85 mins

Walking Out

Directors: Alex Smith, Andrew J. Smith
USA | English 2017 | 95 mins

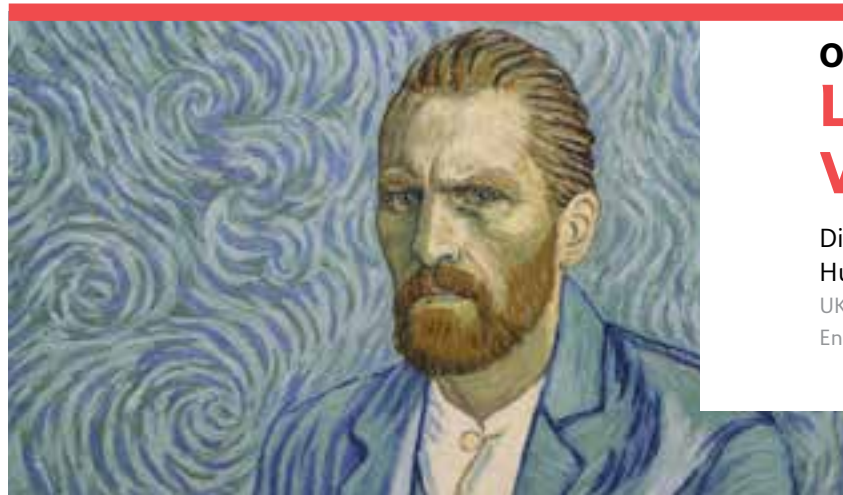
Wallay *

Director: Berni Goldblat
France, Burkina Faso, Qatar | Dioula, French 2017 | 84 mins

Walls

Directors: Pablo Iraburu, Miguelxo Molina
Spain | Afrikaans, Arabic, Bengali, English, Spanish 2015 | 80 mins

* Supported by DFI



Oscar® Nominee Loving Vincent *

Directors: Dorota Kobiela, Hugh Welshman
UK, Poland, Qatar | English 2017 | 95 mins

Ajyal screened the world's first fully-painted feature film, 'Loving Vincent', sharing it with audiences as it brought Vincent van Gogh paintings to life in a unique way. 'Loving Vincent' went on to be nominated for Best Animated Feature Film at the 2018 Oscars®. DFI was proud to support the production of this film.

Looking For Oum Kulthum *

Director: Shirin Neshat
Germany, Austria, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar | Arabic, English, Persian 2017 | 90 mins

It would be difficult to find an icon of modern Arab culture to surpass the status of singer Oum Kulthum. Ajyal screened Iranian director Shirin Neshat's work as she examined the "Star of the East" from a distance, creating a film that is more than just standard bio-pic reportage.

Theeb *

Director: Naji Abu Nowar
Jordan, UAE, UK, Qatar | Arabic, English 2014 | 100 mins

This year's Ajyal featured director Naji Abu Nowar's affecting coming-of-age story inflected with the epic scope of a classic Western. The film employed a cast of non-professional Bedouin actors.



Ajyal Film Programme in Numbers

103

Total Number of Titles

43

Countries Represented

20

Feature-length Films

83

Short Films

Screenings & Events

37

Public screenings

/

Opening Night Ceremony

4

Red carpet screenings

4

Outdoor screenings

8

School screenings

16

Ajyal Competition Jury screenings

4

Ajyal Jury screenings

(screenings for Jurors of films not included in their official programme)

/

Made in Qatar Jury screening

4

Press and industry screenings

/

Ajyal Jury Opening Ceremony

5

Ajyal Jury Panels/Workshops

4

Ajyal Talks

/

Closing Night Ceremony & Awards



Made in Qatar

During 2017, this special film showcase proudly unveiled the work of Qatari filmmakers and those who call Qatar home.

Over the course of the festival, Ajyal screened two programmes of shorts, including narratives, documentaries and thoughtful essays. The films were made independently or with the support of the Doha Film Institute's workshops and funding programmes.

Made in Qatar Programme 1

Dreams That Stayed

Director: Noor Al-Nasr
Qatar | Arabic | 2017 | 7 mins

Elevate

Director: Hamida Issa
Qatar | Arabic, English, Tagalog | 2017 | 14 mins

I Have Been Watching You All Along

Director: Rawda Al-Thani
Qatar | No dialogue | 2017 | 10 mins

Red

Director: Kholood Al-Ali
Qatar | No dialogue | 2017 | 9 mins

Smicha

Director: Amal Al-Muftah
Qatar | Arabic | 2016 | 15 mins

There Be Dragons

Director: Suzannah Mirghani
Qatar | No dialogue | 2017 | 3 mins

Treasures of the Past

Directors: Rawan Al-Nassiri, Nada Bedair
Qatar | Arabic | 2017 | 8 mins

Voices from the Urbanscape

Directors: Shaima Al-Tamimi, Mariam Salim
Qatar | Arabic, English, Spanish, Bengali | 2017 | 6 mins

Made in Qatar Programme 2

1001 Days

Director: Aisha Al-Jaidah
Qatar | Arabic | 2017 | 10 mins

Chaos Antidote

Directors: Hadeer Omar, Idris Elhassan
Qatar | No dialogue | 2017 | 5 mins

Embodiment

Director: Khalifa Al Marri
Qatar | No dialogue | 2017 | 5 mins

The Fishermen

Director: Obada Jarbi
Qatar | Arabic, English | 2017 | 15 mins

Khurshid

Directors: Mazen Shafea, Mohamed Elamin
Qatar | Arabic | 2017 | 8 mins

The Noble Tree

Directors: Ghassan Kairouz, Pascale Abou Jamra
Qatar | Arabic | 2017 | 3 mins

Our Time Is Running Out

Director: Meriem Mesraoua
Qatar | 2017 | Arabic | 14 mins

Walls

Director: Nibu Vasudevan
Qatar | No dialogue | 2017 | 12 mins

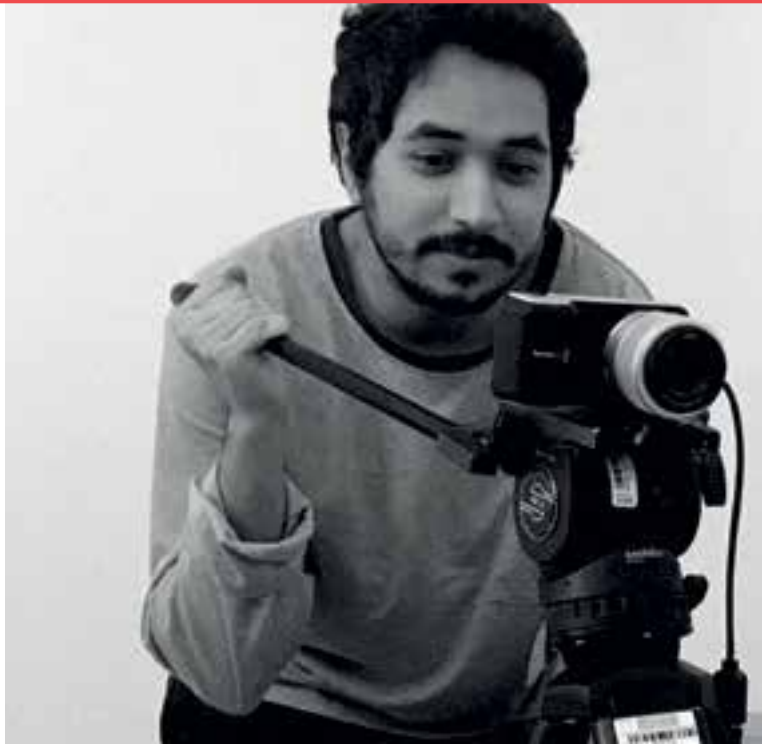


“

Having worked closely on a few projects of my own under DFI, I've come to realize that within the Institute there is a keen desire to create a space of opportunity for most of us filmmakers to not only be financially supported, but also to allow us to grow within and through our work and the industry at large.

Majid Al-Remaihi - Qatari filmmaker

”



This Year at Made in Qatar

"DFI has been instrumental in my journey as a filmmaker."
- Al-Thani

3 Animations

5 Experimental Films

5 Narrative Films

3 Documentary Films



I Have Been Waiting You All Along
Director: Kunda Al-Thani



Elende
Director: Hamida Issa



Dreams That Stayed
Director: Noor Al-Nasr



There Be Dragons
Director: Saadunah Mughni



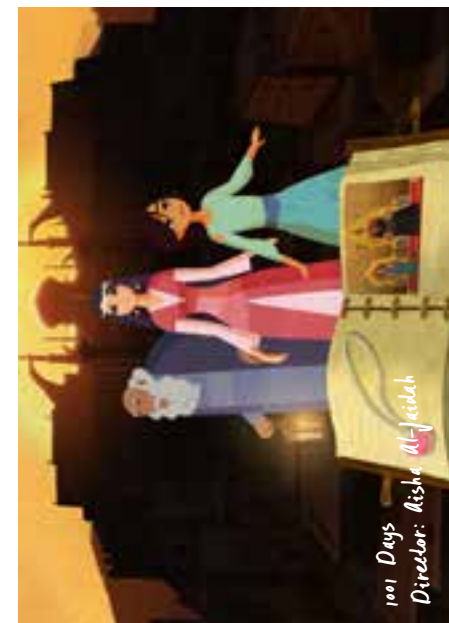
Smitha
Director: Amal Al-Mufleh



Red
Director: Kholod Al-Ali



Elchos Anikide
Director: Hadeer Omar
Idris Elhassen



1001 Days
Director: Aisha Al-Jaidh



Voices from the Urbanscape
Director: Shaima Al-Tamimi, Mariam Salim



Treasures of the Past
Director: Rawan Al-Hassiri



Khurshid
Directors: Mazen Shifaa,
Mohamed Elamin



The Fishermen
Director: Obada Jarbi



Emboisement
Director: Khalifa Al-Marri



Walls
Director: Nibu Vasudevan



Our Time is Running Out
Director: Mariem Mismena



The Noble Tree
Directors: Ghassan Kairouz,
Pascale Abou Janna

MENA Premieres at Ajyal

11 MENA Premieres



Liyane



The Big Bad Fox and Other Tales



Even When I Fall



Disappearance



Walking Out



Wetley



Sleep



Birds Like Us



Everyday Heroes



Looking for Om Khalidun



The Breadwinner



Sandarah

Director: Yousef Al-Bagshi
Kuwait | No dialogue | 2014 | 7 mins

Ajyal screened Sandarah, a story woven around the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. A detachment of soldiers is sent to arrest a family. Deep with the emotions brought about by conflict, 'Sandarah' is a tribute to human benevolence.

The Best Life

Director: Meqdad Al Kout
Kuwait | Arabic, English | 2016 | 6 mins

Bird Watch - Health

Director: Zahra Al-Mahdi
Kuwait | Arabic | 2017 | 3 mins

I Wasn't Cheating

Director: Mousaed Khaled
Kuwait | Arabic | 2016 | 15 mins

Muneera

Director: Oscar Boyson
Kuwait | Arabic | 2014 | 20 mins

A Picture

Director: Dawood Shuail
Kuwait | Arabic | 2014 | 15 mins

Made in Kuwait

Ajyal 2017 introduced a new programming strand dedicated to highlighting creative uniqueness of countries of focus. The inaugural edition focused on Kuwaiti cinematic voices in Made in Kuwait, which featured a wide-ranging selection of short films that highlight the unique perspectives of the country's filmmaking talents.

Inclusive Screening

Ajyal partnered with the Translation and Interpreting Institute of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Hamad Bin Khalifa University and proudly created an inclusive cinema experience.

Visually impaired audiences at Ajyal were able to view the film through sound alone, with audio description of those visual elements that could not be understood through voice, music or sound effects. Deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers, as well as those who had difficulty understanding speech, benefited from subtitles enriched with information about sound effects and music.

This year featured two compelling works by Qatari filmmakers. Nora Al-Subai's 'Al-Johara' and A.J. Al-Thani's 'Kashta' drew on traditionally contemporary elements of Qatari society to tell two very different stories. The films were accompanied by Arabic audio descriptions, sign language interpretation and enriched sub-titles in both Arabic and English.

Al-Johara

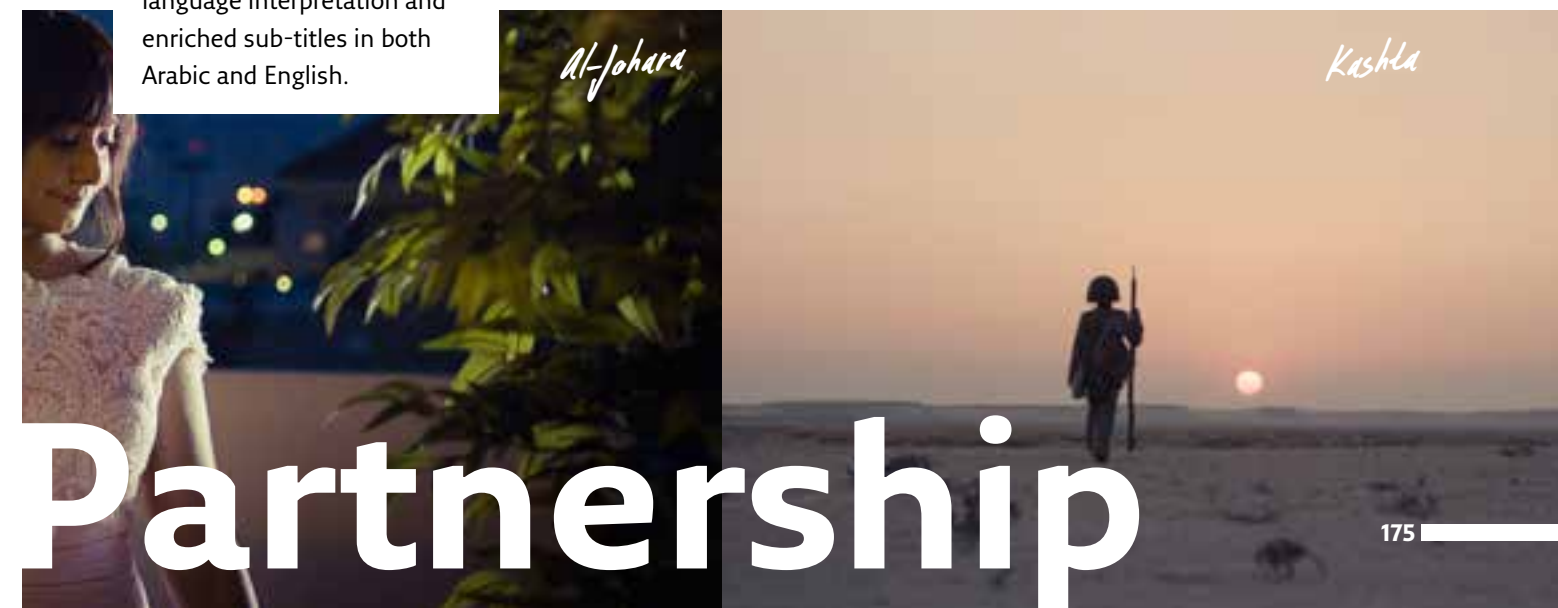
Director: Nora Al-Subai
Qatar | Arabic | 2016 | 26 mins

Al-Johara is a story about a girl forced to be a servant in her own home by her evil step-family. Al-Johara receives a wedding invitation from an old childhood friend. With the help of a neighbour, an eccentric, traditional old woman, Al-Johara might be able to attend her very first wedding – and finally be like her beautiful sisters.

Kashta

Director: A.J. Al-Thani
Qatar | Arabic | 2016 | 11 mins

Out in the beautiful quiet of the desert, a man teaches his young sons how to track and hunt. Frustration leads to an apparently harmless struggle between the two brothers – but their carelessness brings about sudden disaster. Qatari filmmaker A.J. Al-Thani's film strikes just the right balance of calm and calamity, adolescence and adulthood.





Family Weekend

Ajyal's Family Weekend offered delightful activities for the whole family. From November 30th to December 2nd, Ajyal and its official festival partners hosted a packed programme of fun at Katara Cultural Village.



Sony Cinema Under the Stars

Sony Cinema Under the Stars was a free outdoor screenings programme of family-friendly films.

10%

Director: Yousef Al Moadhadi

Qatar | Arabic | 2014 | 7 mins

Charlie

Director: Ali Ali

Qatar | English | 2015 | 7 mins

dRAIN

Directors: Papanapattu Ganesh, Imad Hashem

Qatar | No dialogue | 2014 | 3 mins

Immortalizing Memories

Director: Mostafa Sheshtawy

Qatar | Arabic | 2015 | 17 mins

Kashta

Director: A.J. Al-Thani

Qatar | Arabic | 2016 | 11 mins

Al-Kora

Director: Amal Al-Muftah

Qatar | Arabic | 2013 | 2 mins

Light Sounds

Director: Karem Kamel

Qatar | English, Sinhalese | 2015 | 14 mins

Makh'bz

Director: Aisha R. Al-Muhannadi

Qatar | No dialogue | 2015 | 4 mins

My Hero

Director: Nora Al-Subai

Qatar | Arabic | 2013 | 5 mins

The Palm Tree

Director: Jassim Al-Rumaihi

Qatar | No dialogue | 2015 | 14 mins



Joy



Kids Blue Carpet

Ajyal gave children a treat by incorporating some elements of a Smurf Village, including a blue carpet, oversized mushroom props and Smurf characters Papa Smurf and Smurfette. Kids loved getting the blue-carpet treatment at a special screening of 'The Smurfs'.

My Little Beasts

Ajyal was delighted to work with the Forum des Images to present 'My Little Beasts', a world-premiere cine-concert.

'My Little Beasts', featured short animated films with live musical accompaniment. The series was accompanied by live music by Anthony Boulc'h and Fanch Minou's.

Zoo Story

Director: Veronika Zacharová

Czech Republic | 2015 | 4 mins

A fearless little girl visiting a zoo decides to befriend a gorilla.

The Boy and the Snow Goose

Director: Gayle Thomas

Canada | 1984 | 10 mins

Change in the Weather

Director: Amelia Lorenz

USA | 2010 | 3 mins

The Girl and the Fox

Director: Tyler Kupferer

USA | 2011 | 5 mins

Happy Fluffy Time

Director: Kazushige Toma

Japan | 2013 | 5 mins

Rain and Fish

Director: Risa Kimpara

Japan | 2010 | 5 mins

The Song for Rain

Director: Yawen Zheng

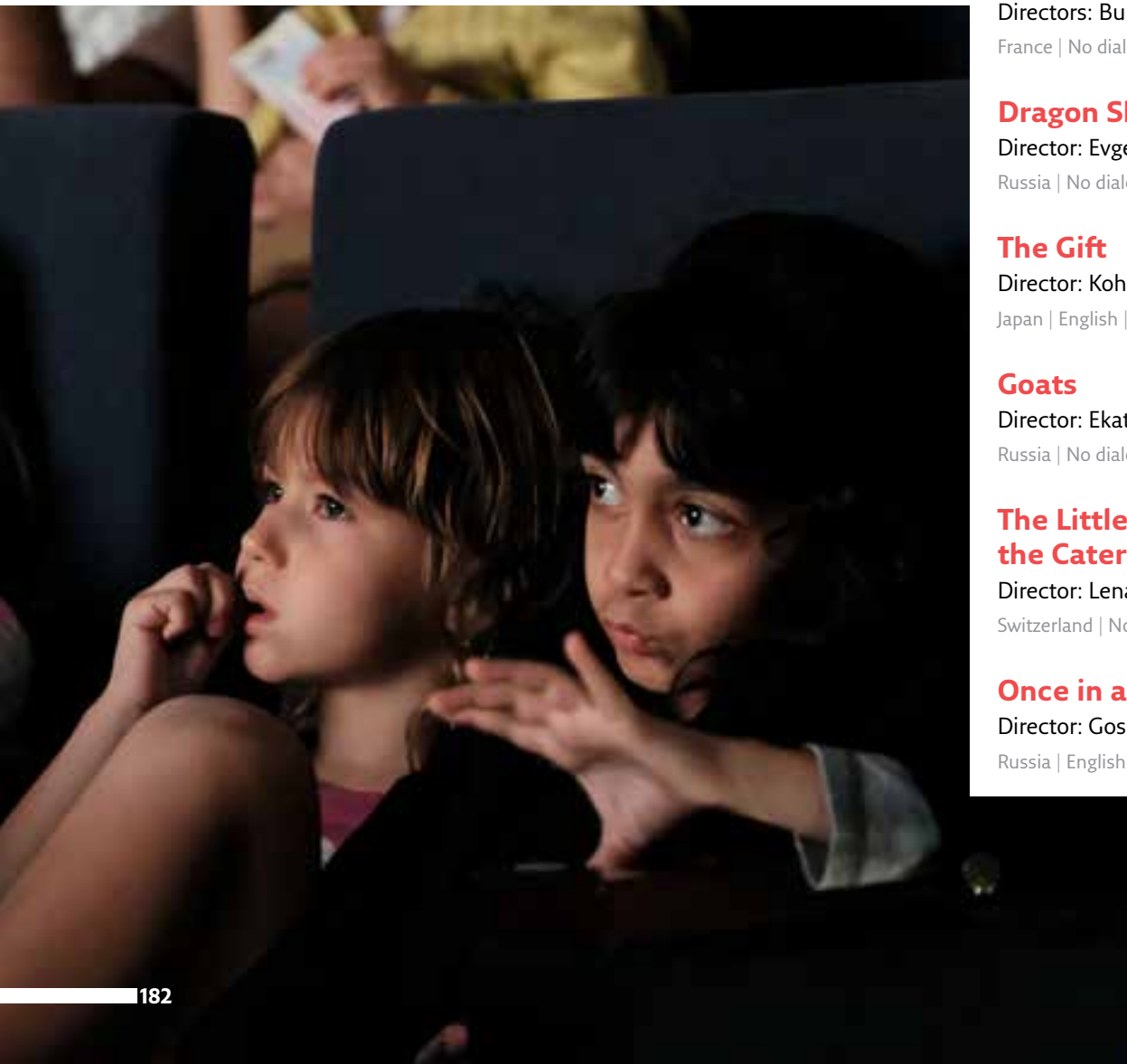
Japan | 2012 | 8 mins



Bariq Short Film Programme

Ajyal screened a selection of films especially for our youngest audiences.

While being appropriate for the whole family the films in this section were selected to satisfy the excitement and curiosity of children from the age of four upwards.



In a Cage

Director: Loïc Bruyère
France | No dialogue | 2016 | 6 mins

Casse-croûte

Directors: Burcu Sankur, Geoffrey Godet
France | No dialogue | 2016 | 1 min

Dragon Sledge

Director: Evgeniya Jirkova
Russia | No dialogue | 2017 | 3 mins

The Gift

Director: Kohei Kajisa
Japan | English | 2016 | 5 mins

Goats

Director: Ekaterina Filippova
Russia | No dialogue | 2016 | 2 mins

The Little Bird and the Caterpillar

Director: Lena von Döhren
Switzerland | No dialogue | 2017 | 4 mins

Once in a While

Director: Gosha Loshadkin
Russia | English | 2017 | 5 mins



Mr Night Has a Day Off

Director: Ignas Meilūnas
Lithuania | No dialogue | 2016 | 2 mins

Aamer

Director: Amira Bhargava
India | No dialogue | 2016 | 15 mins

Dreams That Stayed

Director: Noor Al-Nasr
Qatar | Arabic | 2017 | 7 mins

Hamlet. Comedy

Director: Eugeny Fadyev
Russia | No dialogue | 2016 | 5 mins

A Hole

Director: Maribel Suárez
Mexico | English | 2016 | 4 mins

The House of Colors

Director: Nicolás Villarreal
Argentina | English | 2017 | 9 mins

Our Wonderful Nature – The Common Chameleon

Director: Tomer Eshed
Germany | English | 2016 | 4 mins

The Penguin

Director: Pascale Hecquet
France | French | 2016 | 5 mins

The Pocket Man

Director: Ana Chubinidze
France, Georgia, Switzerland | No dialogue | 2016 | 7 mins

Red

Director: Kholood Al-Ali
Qatar | No dialogue | 2017 | 9 mins

Sing

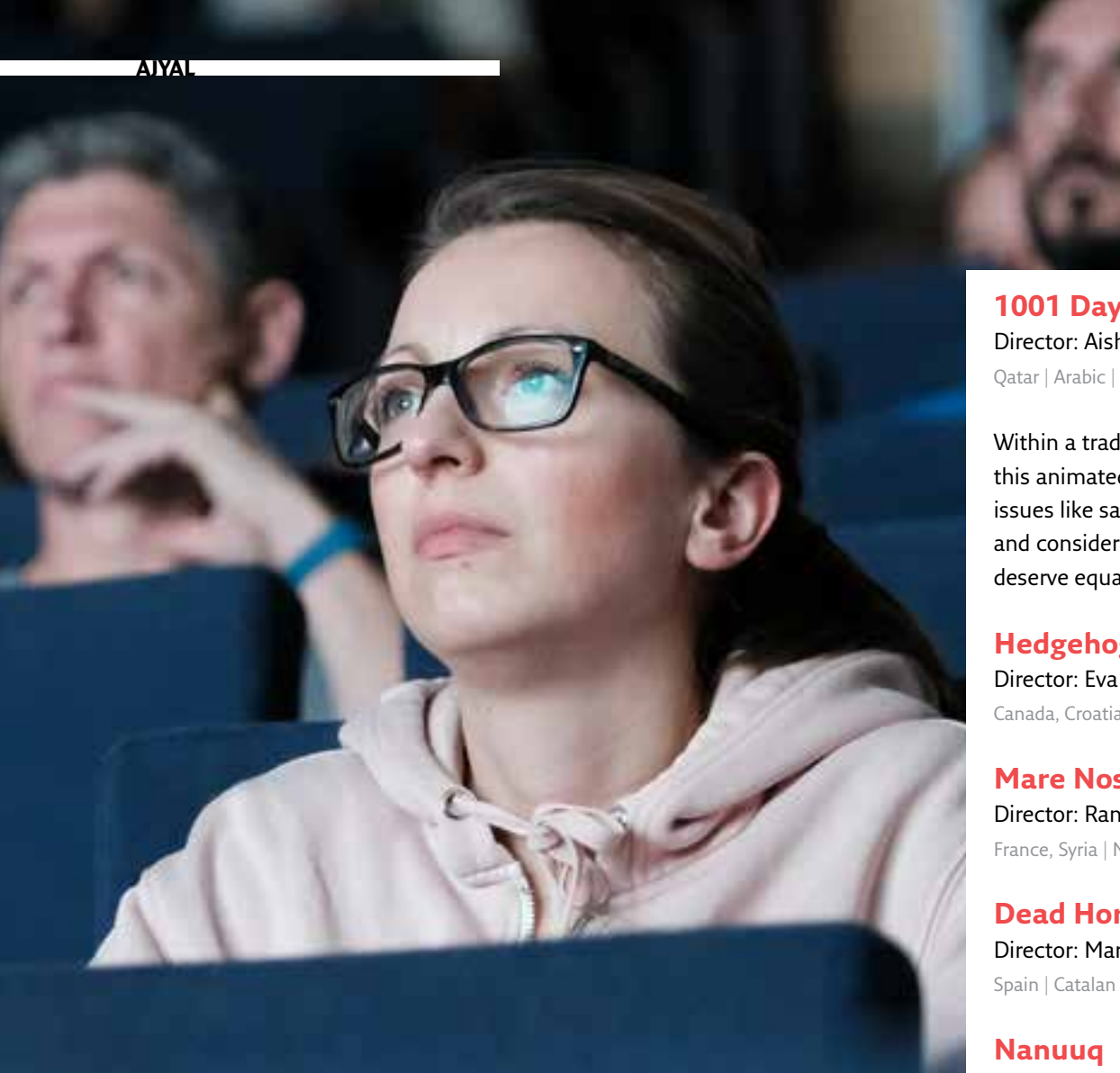
Director: Kristóf Deák
Hungary | Hungarian | 2016 | 25 mins

Yaman

Director: Amer Al-Barzawi
Syria | Arabic | 2016 | 4 mins

Journey Into Life

Journey into Life segment explored stories from far-flung nations meeting some exceptional characters.



Home

This collection of international short films explored the concept of what makes a ‘Home’, navigating its challenges and its relevance to our lives today.

1001 Days

Director: Aisha Al-Jaidah

Qatar | Arabic | 2017 | 10 mins

Within a traditional fairy-tale structure, this animated short addresses eternal issues like sacrifice, equality and bravery, and considers how today’s women deserve equal treatment and privileges.

Hedgehog’s Home

Director: Eva Cvijanović

Canada, Croatia | English | 2017 | 10 mins

Mare Nostrum

Director: Rana Kazkaz, Anas Khalaf

France, Syria | No dialogue | 2016 | 13 mins

Dead Horses

Director: Marc Riba, Anna Solanas

Spain | Catalan | 2016 | 6 mins

Nanuuq

Director: Jim Lachasse

France | No dialogue | 2016 | 3 mins

Our Time Is Running Out

Director: Meriem Mesraoua

Qatar | Arabic | 2017 | 14 mins

Perched

Director: Liam Harris

UK | No dialogue | 2016 | 11 mins

Scrambled

Director: Bastiaan Schravendeel

The Netherlands | No dialogue | 2017 | 7 mins

The Switchman

Director: Mehdi Khorramain

Iran | No dialogue | 2016 | 10 mins

When I Hear the Birds Sing

Director: Trine Vallevik Håbjørg

Norway | French | 2016 | 7 mins

Abstract Visions

Through Abstract Visions, Aiyal showcased a programme of international short films presenting a collection of unique, daring and truly original voices in cinema today.



My Second Eye

Director: Ahmad Saleh

Germany, Jordan, Palestine | Arabic |

2016 | 11 mins

When their family is displaced by conflict, two young boys rely on their mother’s strength to rebuild their lives and forge ahead. But the many dangers of war are never far from home.

Cargo

Director: Karim Rahbani

Lebanon, Cyprus, France | Arabic |

2017 | 20 mins

Banned Bodies

Director: Jérémie Reichenbach

France | Arabic, English | 2016 | 13 mins

The Burden

Director: Niki Lindroth von Bahr

Sweden | Swedish | 2017 | 14 mins

Embodiment

Director: Khalifa Al-Marri

Qatar | No dialogue | 2017 | 5 mins

I Have Been Watching You All Along

Director: Rawda Al-Thani

Qatar | No dialogue | 2017 | 10 mins

Totems

Director: Paul Jadoul

France, Belgium | No dialogue | 2016 | 9 mins

Another Reality

Ajyal invited audiences to the other side(s) of storytelling through this programme of international short films, which questioned our 'realities'.

Tracks

Director: Elina Fessa
Greece | Greek | 2017 | 12 mins

Adele

Director: Mirene Igwabi
Australia | English | 2016 | 15 mins

All of Us

Director: Katja Benrath
Germany, Kenya | Swahili | 2017 | 22 mins

Chaos Antidote

Directors: Hadeer Omar, Idris Elhassan
Qatar | No dialogue | 2017 | 5 mins

Silence

Director: Chadi Aoun
Lebanon | No dialogue | 2016 | 15 mins

Tough

Director: Jennifer Zheng
UK | Mandarin, English | 2016 | 5 mins

Train to Peace

Directors: Jakob Weyde, Jost Althoff
Germany | Arabic | 2016 | 10 mins

Geekdom



Geekdom is Ajyal's creative community engagement platform.

It is a cross-generational communal interactive space that offers diverse and unique experiences for the pop culture savvy to showcase their passion for motion arts and visual storytelling through art, film, games, animation and television.

This year at Ajyal, Geekdom returned with a celebration of all things pop culture, from comics, movies and television series to video games, artwork and cosplay. The schedule was packed with activities like lively tournaments, a comic-a-thon competition, cosplay day and more.

DFI and Virtuocity brought together the local gaming community, giving them an opportunity to compete at six professional eSport Tournaments. We also hosted three special Talks with Sammy Cleark (Gredizer), Eman Hayel (Maroco) and Suhair Fahd (Captain Majid) in 'Voices From Our Childhood'.

leBlockade Exhibition

The exhibition showcased the power of art and media during a crisis. In the midst of the current blockade many great artists created works that are both inspiring and unifying for locals and expats alike, a selection of which were displayed as part of the exhibition. The works also highlighted the importance of film as a powerful medium that raises awareness, clears misconceptions and counters the phenomena of fake news. The exhibition was kept open till the 19th of December as part of the National Day celebrations. DFI was delighted to offer these artists a perfect platform at Ajyal to express themselves.



One of the most inspiring elements of the Festival this year was the leBlockade Exhibition.



Abdulaziz Yousef Ahmed and Shaima Al Tamimi - Co-curators of Le Blockade Exhibition at 5th Ajyal Youth Film Festival- a multimedia exhibit of films, digital artworks and installations showcasing the creative movement that emerged in Qatar as a reaction to the blockade.



Ajjal Talks focused on an impactful collection of discussions with influential speakers. The talks were designed to inform, inspire and engage those who attended each session.

Curiosity



Perceptions: Media Influences on our Daily Lives

During this panel discussion, world-renowned social media personalities shared their views on the current state of the media and how it impacts our daily lives. Following their short presentations, the panel engaged in an insightful group discussion and a moderated Q&A session with the audience.

Speakers

- Ahmed Shihab-Eldin
- Dana Mado
- Ali Bin Tower
- Sophia Bush

Moderator

- Mohammed D. Fakhro

In Conversation with Shirin Neshat

Ajjal talks held a fascinating discussion with acclaimed Iranian visual artist and filmmaker Shirin Neshat. The conversation was moderated by Fatma Al Sehlawi. Shirin discussed her life and art, which spans photography, film and video work. Her latest film, 'Looking for Oum Kulthum' was featured as an Ajjal Special Screening this year.

Speaker

- Shirin Neshat

Moderator

- Fatma Al Sehlawi



Overcome: How Art Beats Adversity

History has proven that times of struggle can often ignite social movements and inspire compelling works of art. In challenging situations, unique voices emerge that can provide perspective, using their craft to pave the way to progress. This panel invited members of the young Qatari film community and the director of the Sarajevo Film Festival to share their stories and draw parallels between their experiences.

Speakers

- Shoug Shaheen
- Abdulaziz Yousef
- Mirsad Purivatra

Moderator

- Moeed Ahmad



Not For Sale: A Focus On Child Trafficking

This talk was a poignant discussion moderated by UN representative Jenna Dawson-Faber with Professor of Law at Qatar University, Dr. Mohamed Y. Mattar, a legal expert in the field of human trafficking. This talk followed the screening of 'Even When I Fall' with the panel joined by filmmakers Sky Neal and Elhum Shakerifar, and two of the trafficking survivors who are profiled in their film.

Speakers

- Dr. Mohamed Y. Mattar
- Sky Neal
- Elhum Shakerifar
- Sunita Sunar
- Bijay Limbu

Moderator

- Jenna Dawson-Faber

Curiositu

Ajyal in our Partners' Words

“

Just like every year, this year's Ajyal festival was just as great. We are pleased to have been associated with Ajyal since its launch and will definitely continue in the future.

Darwish Holding

On behalf of Oxy, congratulations on the most memorable Ajyal 5th Anniversary Festival ever. And what a gracious visit by H.H. The Emir -congratulations! Happy 5th Anniversary and keep up the great work.

Occidental Petroleum

Congrats on the very successful 5th Edition of Ajyal Film Festival! We all enjoyed it greatly.

British Council

I would like to express my deep gratitude to everyone who was involved. Thanks for all the efforts and the work. It was a great pleasure working with you.

Goethe Institut

Congratulations on a successful Ajyal. We look forward to continuing our work with you in the future.

Qatar Tourism Authority

”

Ajyal 2017 closing ceremony



Visit by His Highness The Emir of Qatar



A highlight of the 5th Ajyal Youth Film Festival was the visit of His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar.



His Highness spent time at Geekdom and interacted with artists at the LeBlockade exhibition. He also met with the young jurors who reviewed a selection of the festival's films in order to pick the winners of Ajyal's Awards.



The presence of His Highness the Emir, was an affirmation of the value of DFI's work and Ajyal's contribution towards achieving our mission.



Ajyal Winners

The awards ceremony was a memorable event and a fitting finale to a wonderful Ajyal 2017.

"As filmmakers, we have fantasies, ideas and stories that we need to tell. DFI helps us bring all of that to life, with no strings attached!" - Amal Al-Muftah



Mohaq

- **Best Feature - At Eye Level**
Directed by Joachim Dollhopf and Evi Goldbrunner
Germany | 2016
- **Best Short - Sing**
Directed by Kristóf Deák
Hungary | 2016

Hilal

- **Best Feature - The Breadwinner**
Directed by Nora Twomey
Ireland, Luxembourg, Canada | 2017
- **Best Short - Mare Nostrum**
Directed by Rana Kazkaz and Anas Khalaf
France, Syria | 2016

Bader

- **Best Feature - Loving Vincent**
Directed by Dorota Kobiela and Hugh Welchman
UK, Poland, Qatar | 2017
- **Best Short - All of Us**
Directed by Katja Benrath
Germany, Kenya | 2017

Bariq Award

- **Little Bird and the Caterpillar**
Switzerland | 2017

Best Narrative

- **Amal Al-Muftah's Smicha**
Qatar | 2017

Best Documentary/Experimental

- **Rawan Al-Nassiri and Nada Bedair's Treasures of the Past**
Qatar | 2017

Special Jury Award

- **Aisha Al-Jaidah's 1001 Days**
Qatar/2017
and
Nibu Vasudevan's Walls
Qatar/2017

Special Jury Documentary/Experimental Award

- **Rawda Al-Thani's I Have Been Watching You All Along**
Qatar | 2017

Attendances and Volunteers

Attendance at Screenings and Talks

Made in Qatar Programme II: *360 81% capacity*
 Bariq Shorts Film Programme: *354 80% capacity*
 'The Smurfs': *314 71% capacity*
 Made in Qatar Programme I: *313 71% capacity*
 'The Breadwinner' - Opening Night: *310 70% capacity*

Ticket Sales and Attendance

Total tickets sold and reserved: *6,621*

Attendance at Galas,
Public Screenings and Events

Total attendance: *6,665* (excluding press and industry screenings)
 Average attendance per screening/event: *163*
 Paid ticketed screenings: *3,785*
 Free screenings and events: *1,976*
 Free non-ticketed screenings: *665*

Record-Breaking Statistics

1. Highest number of impressions during Ajyal:

4.9 million impressions

2. Highest number of Twitter views:

1.85 million views

3. Highest number of social media posts during Ajyal:

675 posts

4. Highest number of social media followers gained:

4,000 new followers

5. Highest number of total video views on DFI, Ajyal social media & YouTube:

600,000

6. Highest number of Twitter video views:

*100,000 video views -
a 500% jump from the
previous year*

7. Highest number of days in which the Ajyal hashtag (#ajyal17) trended:

3.5 days trending on Twitter

8. Highest number of social media likes during Ajyal:

40,000 likes in 8 days

Congratulations!!

Thank You to Our Partners

كتارا
katara

ooredoo

QATAR
جدول الفعاليات
Events Calendar

ST REGIS
DOHA

جامعة حمد بن خليفة
HAMAD BIN KHALIFA UNIVERSITY
College of Humanities & Social Sciences
Translation & Interpreting Institute

مؤسسة قطر
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READING
CAMPAIGN
THE POWER OF READING
An Initiative of Qatar Foundation
الحملة الوطنية
للقرأة
في القراءة قوة
من مبادرات مؤسسة قطر

ALKA
LINE

FIFTY
ONE
EAST

fnac

مطار حمد الدولي
Hamad International Airport
QATAR
قطر

QATAR
AIRWAYS
القطرية

MD
MAKEUP DISTRICT

NAZIH
WHERE BEAUTY BEGINS

VIRTUOCITY

OXY
Occidental Petroleum
أوكسيدنتال للبترول

SONY

ALJAZEERA

DOHA Family
THE GUIDE FOR FAMILIES IN QATAR

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23
Sarajevo
Film Festival
11-18 August 2017

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سوق واقف
SOUQ WAQIF

