



# A REEL OF ACHIEVEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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مؤسسة الدوحة للأفلام

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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

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DOHA FILM INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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# Message from the Chair

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

Photograph by Brigitte Lacombe



If 2017 was Qatar's year of resilience, 2018 has been our year of courage. As a nation, we have found the courage to define our place in the world and our bold vision for the future – of which art forms a vital part.

Throughout history, artistic expression has been used to articulate ideas and address injustice, inequality, oppression, and many other issues plaguing societies. This has been especially effective through engaged cinema.

For film is the ultimate truth teller. It has a powerful ability to captivate the senses and transport us into another world, allowing us to transcend the boundaries of our communities and nations, provoking us to reflect on the stories of people we would not otherwise encounter,

and ideas we would not otherwise consider. Through film, we can discover new perspectives on what it means to be human.

Since Doha Film Institute's inception, we have drawn on the power of film to create a world of diverse narratives. Through its various initiatives, DFI enables our region's filmmakers and aspiring talents to find their voice through cinema and contribute to a fairer, equitable society that respects fundamental human rights and upholds shared values. Year after year, it is this power of film, that DFI sets out to harness. And it is this very power that DFI has used, to fuel its journey forward.

From its earliest moments, the Institute has been a true champion of Arab talent and creativity and has never turned away from bold ideas. Instead,

# From its earliest moments, the Institute has been a true champion of Arab talent and creativity and has never turned away from bold ideas. Instead, we stepped forward and embraced them.

we stepped forward and embraced them.

In 2018 we once again welcomed a diversity of people and perspectives from every corner of the globe and held courage in creativity as our most cherished value.

An important part of the Doha Film Institute's programme are our training and development initiatives. In 2018, over 800 aspiring creatives took part in our professional development programmes, which gave them unprecedented access to industry heavyweights, who are as passionate as us about nurturing young talent and welcoming new voices into the world of cinema.

We have also supported the production of 75 new film projects from over 30 countries through our Grants Programme and co-financing initiatives.

I am especially proud that we have been able to support a further 7 films through the Qatari Film Fund last year, bringing the total to 26 Qatari projects to date that highlight the breadth of our nation's creative talents. Building a film industry here in Qatar is one of the Doha Film Institute's founding goals and supporting home-grown talent is vitally important to us.

At the 2018 Ajyal, we celebrated the triumph of resilience in the face of adversity with great conviction and a strong sense of urgency because we believe that honest storytelling is the only antidote to the current global prevalence of misinformation and misrepresentation. The Festival continues to play a significant role in the advancement of Qatar's thriving creative community through

programming and dialogue that impacts and shapes our filmmakers and our communities.

And at Qumra 2018, we once again opened doors to insightful discussions and mentoring sessions with master filmmakers – the Qumra Masters – and provided networking opportunities with professionals representing the full spectrum of the film industry. Qumra enables participants to refine their approach to cinema and build long-term industry relationships that will catalyse their growth.

In increasingly uncertain times, film is more important now than ever before. Filmmakers have the capacity to elevate or diminish, to illuminate or confuse. At the Doha Film Institute, we are conscious of our duty to break down prejudices and shape the values of generations to come through film.

This spirit of resilience is what motivates and inspires us as we continue to support original voices and stories from around the world. Together through film, creative industries, and with our emerging filmmakers, we will continue to push the boundaries of public discourse, truth and liberty.

As Doha Film Institute's Chairperson, I invite you all to join me in celebrating our exceptional achievements in 2018. Looking towards the year ahead, I can confidently reiterate our unwavering support of film and have no doubt of our continued success in bringing important stories to life.

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

# Message from the CEO

**Fatma Hassan Al Remaihi**

Chief Executive Officer, Doha Film Institute

diverse films drawn from distinctive milieus from around the world, to demonstrate the power of cinematic voices to help transform minds, people and communities.

We were excited to see some truly exceptional projects make their journey from script to screen last year, with a special showcase of Made in Qatar films screened to international audiences at leading global film events – as well as at home through screenings at Qumra and Ajyal. It is important to us that, through film, we can present a window to our world for others, but also to hold up a mirror for ourselves.

Another platform for helping filmmakers take their projects from script to screen is Qumra, our annual talent incubation event that provides holistic industry support to emerging filmmakers through the participation of international experts in cinema. All of the selected 35 projects at Qumra last year represented diverse points of view and amplified authentic voices that transcend cultures, bringing our stories to the world, and with the help of mentors and masters, I am sure they will go on to achieve great success.

For me, the test of a great film is the reaction from its audiences in their communities. That is why

According to Academy Award-winning filmmaker Alejandro González Iñárritu, “Good directors don’t answer questions with their work. They generate debate and create discussion.” I am reminded of these words as I reflect on the achievements of the Doha Film Institute over the last year. For me, our success is measured not only by the number of filmmakers we support, but also by the ability of their films to challenge audiences’ core beliefs and values. In this way, I believe that films can bring about real social change.

In 2018 we supported some exceptionally bold projects that have sparked global conversations

about some of the most important issues of our time. Among them is ‘Capernaum’ by Nadine Labaki, which was co-financed by the Doha Film Institute. The film has won 21 awards internationally and scooped an Academy Award nomination for its devastating portrayal of child poverty in Lebanon.

The Doha Film Institute remains a proud champion of Arab cinema and Capernaum’s critical and box office success is evidence of our role in bringing stories from our region to a global audience. In 2018, we worked with 71 filmmakers from the region and internationally, to support

Photograph by Brigitte Lacombe



# In 2018 we supported some exceptionally bold projects that have sparked global conversations about some of the most important issues of our time.

Ajyal Film Festival – our flagship event – is such an important initiative for the Doha Film Institute. After six editions of celebrating film with the community, Ajyal 2018 continued to build on what our festival has always stood for: to demonstrate the power of cinematic voices to bring about change and to foster respect and value the global outlook of today's citizens. With each passing year, Ajyal has risen to meet the challenge of its purpose: to entertain, yet spark dialogue around social change and transformation through the powerful medium of film.

The continued success of Ajyal – and all our many other initiatives – highlights the growing strength of

the film industry in Qatar and the increasing demand of audiences for content that challenges them and provokes discussion. We have been honoured to work with each of these talented filmmakers, grow alongside them and amplify their cinematic voices, not only presenting a window to our lives and stories, but also showcasing our region's creativity.

The Doha Film Institute has had the privilege to extend our support to courageous filmmakers that have endured incredible hardships in bringing their script to screen and making their dreams come true. We are honoured to recognise their determination and commitment to beat all odds

in accomplishing their goals and we offer them our appreciation for being with us on this important and inspiring journey.

As I invite you to revisit and celebrate all we achieved together in 2018, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Board of Trustees for their invaluable guidance and support and all our Partners – without them so many of our achievements would not have been possible. I look forward to working with you again in 2019, to continue in our important work of supporting talented filmmakers to tell powerful and thought-provoking stories.

**Fatma Hassan Al Remaihi**  
Chief Executive Officer, Doha Film Institute

# Acknowledgements

**Our heartfelt gratitude and sincere thanks to everyone who partnered with us on our journey through 2018. Thank you for contributing your time and talent to raise DFI higher.**

The accomplishments listed in this Annual Report were made possible due to your ceaseless hard work and unwavering dedication. All of us at DFI look forward to strengthening our partnership with you and working in close collaboration to ensure that in 2019 will achieve even more, together.

- 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
- The Cultural Village Foundation
- Sarajevo Film Festival
- Giffoni Film Festival
- Sponsors
- Masters
- Mentors
- Filmmakers
- Jurors
- Volunteers
- Audiences

# Trustees



H.E. Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani



H.E. Sheikh Thani bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani



H.E. Salah bin Ghanem bin Nasser Al-Ali Al Maadheed



H.E. Nasser bin Ghanem bin Abdullah Al-Khelaifi



H.E. Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad bin Jassim bin Hamad Al-Thani



H.E. Sheikh Saif bin Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani



Mansour Ibrahim Al-Mahmoud



H.E. Issa bin Mohammed Al Mohannadi

**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 Al Maadheed**

Qatar's Minister of Culture and Sports

**H.E. Nasser bin Ghanem bin Abdullah 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**

Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, Managing Director Barwa Real Estate



# Executive Directors

**Abdulla Al Mosallam**

Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Director of Ajyal 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



# Our Mission

**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

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

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**To pave the way to a sustainable film industry in Qatar and the wider Arab region, spanning all of its relevant elements.**

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**To support and advance Qatari and Arab film and cultural objectives by positioning Qatar and the wider Arab region in a leading role in the international film industry.**

# About DFI

**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.**

DFI supports the growth of the local and regional 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 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 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

FILM SCREENINGS	2014	43
	2015	38
	2016	45
	2017	43
	2018	58

# Awards

	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
GRANTS & CO-FINANCE	AWARDS	SELECTION	AWARDS	SELECTION	AWARDS	SELECTION	AWARDS	SELECTION	AWARDS	SELECTION

20 THEATRICALY RELEASED DFI GRANTS & CO-FINANCED FILMS

5 FESTIVAL DE CANNES Selections

5 BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL Selections

5 VENICE FILM FESTIVAL Selections

Academy Awards®	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	5 Official Submissions	
Festival De Cannes	1	2	2	5	5	6	3	6	1	5
Berlin Film Festival	-	1	-	4	2	6	1	7	1	5
Dubai Film Festival	2	8	5	13	3	15	6	15	-	-
Toronto International Film Festival	-	3	-	6	-	7	2	10	1	10
Rotterdam Film Festival	-	1	-	1	-	3	1	10	-	2
Sarajevo Film Festival	-	1	2	3	2	7	-	4	2	8
Venice Film Festival	1	2	-	3	3	2	4	5	6	6
Total Awards (All Festivals)	52		68		117		60+		70+	
Total Selections (All Festivals)	144		224		410		250		200	



# Achievements

## DFI Grants

7 Qatari Filmmakers

35 Women Filmmakers

39 1st or 2nd-time Feature Filmmakers, MENA Region

14 1st or 2nd-time Feature Filmmakers, Non-MENA Region

4 TV and Web Filmmakers, MENA Region

10 Short Filmmakers, MENA Region

5 Short Filmmakers Qatar

72 Overall Grants

## DFI GRANTS REACHING THE WORLD

69 Number of countries supported through Grants from 2011 to date

### MENA REGION COUNTRIES SUPPORTED DURING 2018

Algeria

Iraq

Jordan

Kuwait

Lebanon

Libya

Morocco

Palestine

Qatar

Sudan

Syria

Tunisia

### NON-MENA REGION COUNTRIES SUPPORTED DURING 2018

Afghanistan

Bolivia

Brazil

Bulgaria

China

Iran

Lesotho

Mexico

Montenegro

Russia

Serbia



# Achievements

## FILM TRAINING

**22** Workshops

**227** Participants  
(53 Qataris)

**116** Projects  
Supported

**28** Shorts Films  
Produced

**15** Educational  
Partners

## 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	2018
------	------	------	------	------

12	9	13	10
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4	1	1	4
---	---	---	---

63	65	58	64	72
----	----	----	----	----

4	6	5	3
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# Berlin

Fatma Hassan Al Remaihi,  
CEO of Doha Film Institute





# TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT



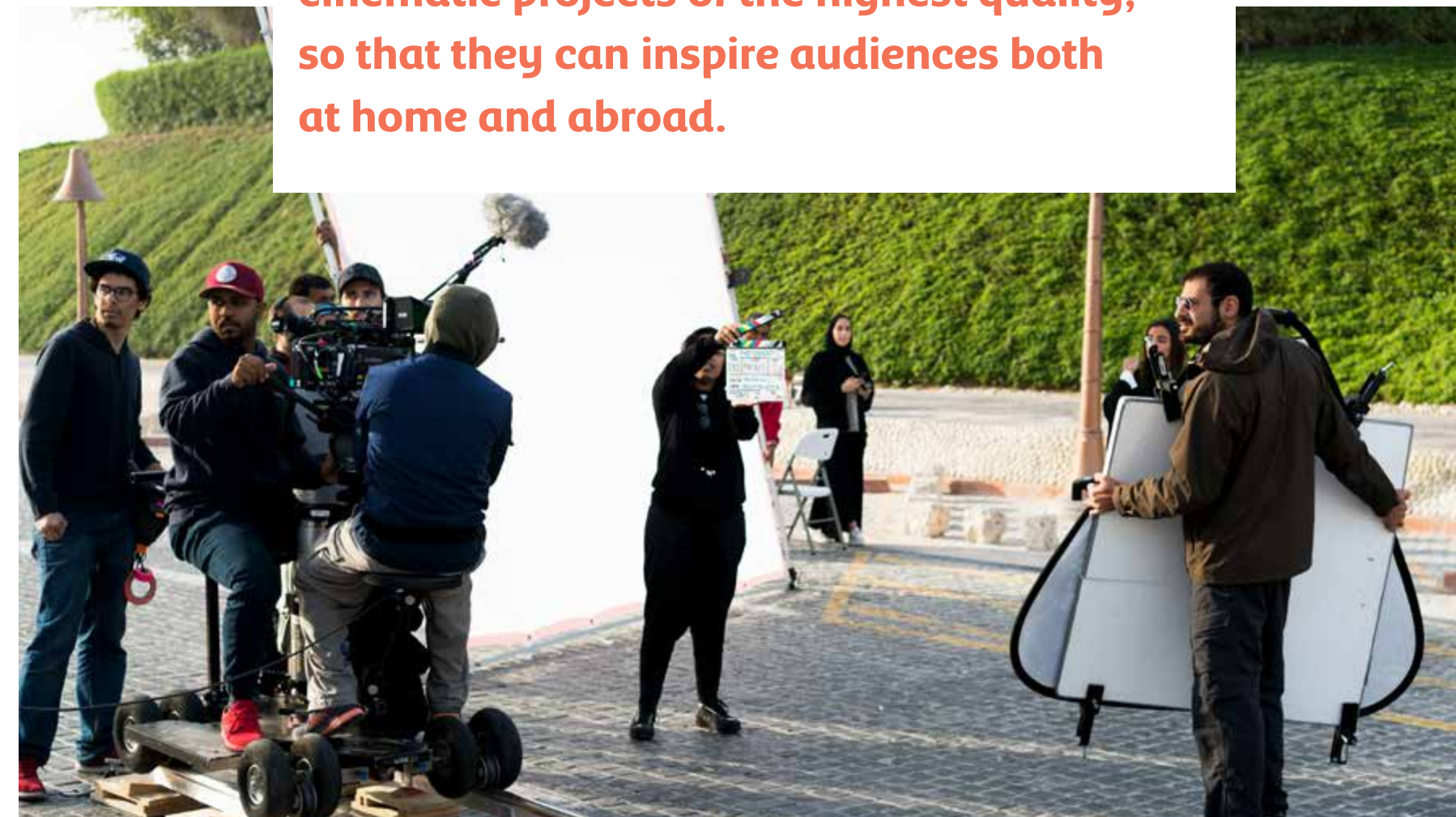
DFI's Training and Development Initiatives nurture filmmakers by immersing them in an atmosphere of professionalism, curiosity and inclusivity.

**As an integral part of its mandate, DFI hosts distinguished educational platforms and takes pride in leading programmes that develop and nurture filmmakers and professionals in Qatar and the region.**



# Committed to Equipping, Enhancing and Elevating Talent

DFI is unwaveringly committed to creating a dynamic and sustainable film industry that transcends borders. To support our mission, we collaborate with filmmakers and the wider industry. We establish pathways and equip filmmakers to craft cinematic projects of the highest quality, so that they can inspire audiences both at home and abroad.





# Training & Development

## IN NUMBERS

**22** Workshops

**Ajyal Workshops**

**227** Participants  
(53 Qataris)

**6** Ajyal  
Jury Workshops

**116** Projects  
Supported

**586** Jurors

Number of Qataris

**28** Shorts Films  
Produced

**133** Participants

**15** Educational  
Partners



# Our Training & Development Programme

DFI's Training & Development Programme is built on the belief that filmmaking is a journey of self-discovery, and our workshops, labs and consultations offer a safe haven for the creative development of an authentic personal voice.

Our aspiration is to expose filmmakers to the full range of cinematic styles, ideas and approaches in order to position their work within the broader context of the art of cinema. Our approach has many facets, and we utilise a full toolbox to equip and inspire tomorrow's filmmakers today.



## Hosting

Our Training & Development Programme hosts year-round creative development programmes of short films and feature films.

## Implementing

DFI implements 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.

## Fostering

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

## Establishing

Our approach is to establish initiatives that enrich the industry, such as the launch of the region's first Producers Lab.

## Delivering

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

## Promoting

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

## Launching

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

## Developing

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

## Extending

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





# Labs

Training & Development Programme 2018



**The Workshops and Labs hosted by Doha Film Institute are conducted in an environment that encourages curiosity and ensures inclusivity. DFI ensures that 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.**

**11** Animated short films  
in production

## 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. This year's lab produced a rich harvest of 10 Script Projects.

**Project Coach:** Matthieu Darras

**Script Editors:** Francois Pirot and Leonardo Staglianò

### HITCH 60

By Sara Al Obaidly

### CONNECT

By Maha Abdulla Al Jufairi

### A VORTEX

By Om Elmomenine Cheibani

### IN A BOX

By Hadeer Omar

### OUR FUNERAL

By Reem Saad

### ROOM WITH A VIEW

By Abi Green

### IN THE SHADOW OF A PALM TREE

By Ana Ivanovic

### THE CAN

By Muhammed Refaat

### UNTITLED

By Nadia Al-Khater & Fahad Al-Khater

### AL-SIT

By Suzannah Mirghani



## Series Lab 2018

January/February

In collaboration with IFP, the oldest and largest non-profit in the United States dedicated to storytelling in all its forms, DFI's Series Lab was a weeklong intensive boot-camp for directors, writers and producers working in serialized content in Qatar and other MENA countries. The Lab focused on teams developing both scripted and non-fiction series projects created for distribution on television, digital and app-based platforms.

### CYCLOPS

By Danielle Ellen

### DUNAI AND BADRA

By Maysaa Al-Mumin

### KAWKABANI

By Amal Al-Shammari & Hossein Heydar

### TAKEAWAY

By Kareem Kamel

### SALADIN

By Abdullah Al-Arian

### UNTITLED

By Patricia Donohue

### UNTITLED

Abdulaziz Alnasser

**28** Short films  
produced



**53** Qatari  
Participants

## Short Documentary Lab with Rithy Panh

May to July

This intensive, 7-week 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. The Lab developed 10 projects and produced 5 short films.

**Mentors:** Rithy Panh and Socheat Cheng



## Hezayah Screenwriting Lab

June/October '18, January '19

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 on agreed assignments and reached key milestones as they built their screenplays developing 8 projects.

**Mentors:** Marietta von Hausswolff von Baumgarten and Matthieu Taponier

### INTERPRET

By Ali Kareem

### NO WOMAN, NO DRIVE

By Amal Al Mufta

### VISA

By Dima Al Joundi

### IN WHITE

By Dania Bdeir

### SUKKAR AND AL MAAMUR

By Mohamad Hanafi

### QUEEN OF HOGGAR

By Mohannad Alamin

### EVERY WAKING MOMENT

By Mansi Jain

### ARSAL THRONE OF GOD

By Pascale Abou Jamra Kairouz



## Practical Lab: Acting for Camera

September

Working in collaboration with La Femis Film School, the Institute Francais Qatar, the French Embassy in Doha, FNAC, and Fifty-One East, DFI held this six-day lab training participants in the art of screen acting, giving them insight into the relationship between directors and actors. Hands-on camera classes were part of the programme with discussion and critical analysis.

**Mentors:** Brice Cauvin and Afef Ben Mahmoud



227  
Participants

## Practical Lab: Directing Actors

September

Conducted in partnership with La Femis Film School, the Institute Francais Qatar, the French Embassy in Doha, FNAC, and Fifty-One East, DFI hosted this lab to improve the directing skills of filmmakers. The importance of adapting scripts for shooting, contextualizing and preparing scripts for directing, improving casting skills, approaching a shoot and directing actors were among the topics covered.

**Mentors:** Brice Cauvin and Afef Ben Mahmoud

## Short Film Marketing and Distribution Lab

October

This lab was an intensive programme for the producers and directors of the 2018 Qatari Film Fund and Documentary Lab film projects. The participants were equipped with skills to promote a short film from Marketing, Distribution, and Packaging, to building a festival strategy, and sharing a project with an audience.

**Mentors:** Marcin Luczaj, Alice Kharoubi and Wouter Jansen

## Practical Lab: Sound Editing and Mixing

October

Held in collaboration with La Femis Film School, the Institute Francais Qatar, the French Embassy in Doha, FNAC, and Fifty-One East the lab developed skills in mastering post-shooting soundtrack production line technically and artistically. The program covered methodologies used in a professional workflow and equipped trainees with tools to understand artistic issues in film soundtracks.

**Mentors:** Séverin Favriau and Falah Hannoun



## 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 on the creative, artistic and strategic aspects of producing feature-length documentaries and fiction films.

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

## Short Scriptwriting Lab

December 2018 to January 2019

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.

**Lead Advisor:** Matthieu Darras  
**Script Editors:** Britta Krause and Bassem Breish  
**Short Film Advisor:** Wim Vanacker

### WATER

By Abdulla AlHor

### MADI

By Ali Al-Hajri

### THE PENGUIN

By Hazim Ali

### UNTITLED

By Lana Al Zaidi

### THE TIME SPACE DIMENSION PORTAL

By Sarah Yousef

### SADIE

By Abdelaziz Mohamed

### AL AZZA/IN BLOOM

By Eiman Mirghani

### GUERILLA

Emna Najjar

### GUERILLA

By Jemina Legaspi

### 6 MONTHS AND ONE DAY

By Yassine Ouahrani



# 5 Short Films from Documentary Lab



## The Bleaching Syndrome

Selected at Ajyal Film Festival - MIQ Program  
Director: Eiman Mirghani

## One in 50 Million

Selected at Ajyal Film Festival - MIQ Program  
Director: Luciana Farah

## Just Another Memory

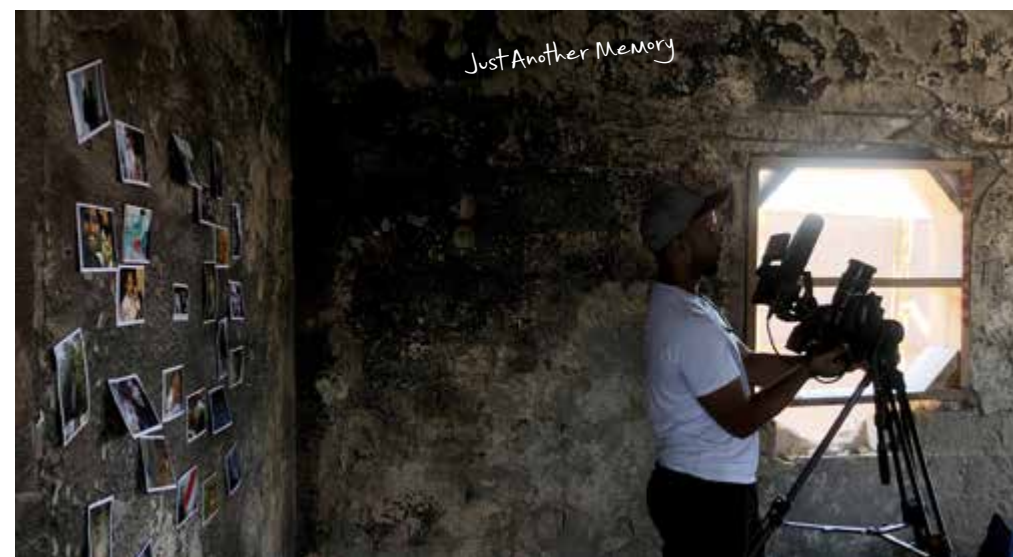
Won at Ajyal Film Festival - MIQ Program/Best  
Short Documentary  
Director: Mariam Al-Dhubhani

## Adrift

Director: Meriem Mesraoua

## Of A Piece

Director: Rawda Al-Thani



# INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION IN 2018

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



**Berlin International Film Festival  
Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival  
Muscat International Film Festival  
Cannes International Film Festival  
Giffoni Film Festival  
Sarajevo International Film Festival  
Kazan International Muslim Film Festival  
Kisakes Short Film Festival  
Qatar Contemporary: Art and Photography  
US Road Show  
Qatar Airways In-flight Entertainment  
QM Art Exhibition (Qatar-Russia YOC)**





# Nurturing Tomorrow's Talent

**Investing in youth, is a priority for DFI. During 2018 we held several workshops designed to develop the skills and capabilities of our young people.**

Our Youth Programmes empower the next generation of filmmakers, equipping them to make films on issues that are important to them. The energetic, enthusiastic and talented young people we attract to be part of our workshops gain film production skills, while having fun and creating films that represent their experiences and opinions about the world. Our workshops develop film appreciation, acting skills, filmmaking and storytelling capabilities.

DFI's Youth Programme is a journey into the process of creative collaboration where we provide young people a platform from which they can speak up about the changes they want to see in their lives, their community and the world.

## Youth Storytelling Workshop

18 - 24 March

This workshop introduced participants to the 3-act story structure, and focused on idea generation, character development and narrative and plot creation.

**Mentor:** Ana Chubinidze

## Youth In-School Workshops and Screenings

April - July

DFI implemented a Short Film Programme for Schools and youth organizations, especially curating an experience based on young people and their needs. Working closely with Vision International School DFI also conducted a workshop that covered the basics of filmmaking.

## Youth Animation Workshop

15 - 21 April

This workshop inspires participants through a presentation of short stop-motion animated films, which is followed by a theoretical discussion of animation complete with practical exercises. Given the opportunity to make a one-minute animated film this year, our youth produced 'Home Spooky Home'.

**Mentor:** Fadi Syriani

## Year-round Youth Screenings in Katara - Hekayat Ajyal

12 April, 21 June & 18 October

Through the Hekayat Ajyal programme, DFI keeps the spirit of Ajyal films alive throughout the whole year. As in previous years in 2018, our year-round screenings for youth focussed on films that spark curiosity, bring joy, create friendships, and empower the voices of generations to come.

## Youth Film Analysis Workshop

1 - 3 July

Inspired by a presentation of different genres and types of films, this workshop explored film review tips, allowing for critical thinking and analysis of cinema while teaching participants about film terminologies and film techniques.

**Mentors:** Aya Al Blouchi and Yassmine Hammoudi

## Qatar Foundation Youth Summer Camp

15 - 19 July

Using a presentation of short stop-motion animated films for inspiration, we led a theoretical discussion on animation followed by practical exercises. Having been given the opportunity to create a one-minute animated film, the participants produced 7 animated films at the end of the camp.

**Mentor:** Fadi Syriani

## Giffoni Film Festival

18 - 28 July

Four of our Ajyal 2017 jurors participated as members of the youth jury at the 2018 Giffoni Film Festival. The opportunity exposed them to international film festivals and allowed them to share their cultures with a group of their international peers.

## Youth Make Your Own Short Documentary Film Workshop

25 July - 15 August

This was a well-rounded introduction to the different elements of photography, film and filmmaking where we led our young participants and helped them make their first one-minute short films. The group produced 10 short documentary films.

**Mentors:** Ida Gron & Alex Bushe

## Youth Animation Workshop

23 September - 6 October

Inspired by a presentation of 2D Illustrated short animated films, this workshop held a theoretical discussion on animation followed by a series of practical exercises. At the



end of the workshop participants were able to make a one-minute animated film. The group produced 7 animated films.

**Mentor:** Nathan Otaño

## Youth Puppet Workshop

7 - 20 October

Participants at this workshop learnt the theoretical basis of shadow animation, gained insight into other types of puppetry featured in film, and engaged in hands-on activities teaching puppetry techniques through storytelling.

**Mentor:** Arab Puppet Theatre Foundation

## 2D Animation Training Programme with Gobelins

24 April - 8 May & 14-29 October 2018

In a first-of-its-kind partnership with Gobelins - the world's number one animation school - DFI held a series of 2 workshops on animated filmmaking. The training offered invaluable hands-on skills development through the full production cycle of short animation resulting in the delivery of 14 short-animated projects at the conclusion of the workshop.

**Mentors:** Aïda Del Solar, Louis Thomas and Xavier Ramonède

## Ajyal Jury Workshops

28 November - 3 December

## Documentary Filmmaking Workshop

This session covered how a story is created through a combination of elements, including voiceover, editing, music, and graphics.

**Moderators:** Pablo Iraburu & Miguel Iraburu

## History of Cinema Workshop

The jurors were led through the history of cinema, starting from the rise of the film industry right through to present-day.

**Moderator:** Marcus Zaiser

## Documentary Filmmaking Workshop

The workshop focused on introducing jurors to documentary filmmaking, giving them a solid grounding to be able to carry out their responsibilities at Ajyal.

**Moderators:** Pablo Iraburu & Miguel Iraburu

## Animation Workshop

The workshop introduced the jurors to the world of shadow puppeteering, gave them exposure to a screening of short films produced at the workshop, and a live demonstration of shadow puppeteering.

**Moderator:** Mahmoud Al Hourani

## Introduction to Storytelling Workshop

The workshop took the jurors through an introduction to storytelling, character archetypes, an interactive story-writing exercise, setting up the December 1st performance.

**Moderator:** Fadi Syriani

## Cinematography Workshop

This part theoretical, part practical workshop covered the transition from still to moving images, camera parameters, cameras & lenses, the concept of visual storytelling, lighting, and colour dramaturgy.

**Moderator:** Marcus Zaiser



# Hands-on Training Through Internships

DFI's Internship Programme offers training in:

**PRODUCTION**

**ON SET**

**TECHNICAL**

**POST-PRODUCTION**



“

My internship with DFI helped me get on the right track before graduation; to discover my capabilities, points of interests and how far I can go. Who I am today is because I started the journey early as an intern with DFI.

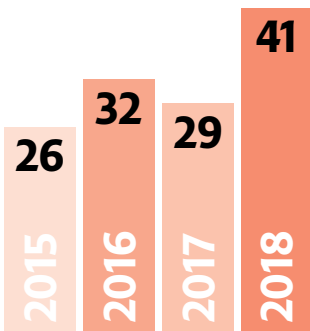
Maram Hanafi  
Assistant Producer,  
The Edge Picture Company

”

Accredited Interns

In 2018, DFI trained the highest number of interns we have accommodated to date. During the year, we had 41 Accredited DFI interns from 35 countries take up roles in various aspects of the filmmaking process, gaining valuable experience and exposure.

Number of interns per year from 2015-2018



## DFI Internships – An Entry Point into a Career in Film

Since its launch in 2010, DFI's Internship Programme has maintained a steady trajectory of growth. Strengthened by the establishing of the Qatari Film Fund in 2015, today our Internship Programme has become a robust entry point into a career in the film industry for many.

The programme provides training and builds a multidisciplinary skillset in our interns. It equips interns with the knowledge required for a variety of job functions and trades in film and paves the way for them to step into a field they are passionate about.





# Our Education Partners

## Local

**Qatar University**  
**Qatar Foundation**  
**Northwestern University in Qatar**  
**Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar**

## International

**TorinoFilmLab**  
 Italy

**La Femis**  
 France

**Beirut Cinema Platform**  
 Lebanon

**EAVE**  
 Luxembourg

**IFP**  
 USA

**Les Gobelins**  
 France

**FID Marseille Lab**  
 France

**Royal Film Commission of Jordan**  
 Jordan

**Centre Cinematographique Marocain**  
 Morocco

**Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Tunisien**  
 Tunisia

**Sundance Institute**  
 USA





# FUNDING

DFI's funding initiatives were launched with the aim to drive the creation of original and compelling content and strengthen emerging voices in cinema so that they can be seen and heard. Our funds have enabled talented filmmakers from all across the globe to translate their stories into viable film projects. However, a top priority for DFI is to support projects that have regional relevance in order to contribute to a diverse slate of engaging films that contribute to a more balanced global storytelling landscape.

Our film funding initiatives offer creative and financial support to filmmakers in Qatar and from across the globe. Our support results in filmmakers receiving the practical assistance they need to manage their productions effectively, bringing high-quality films to the audiences they hope to reach.



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

# Qatari Film Fund

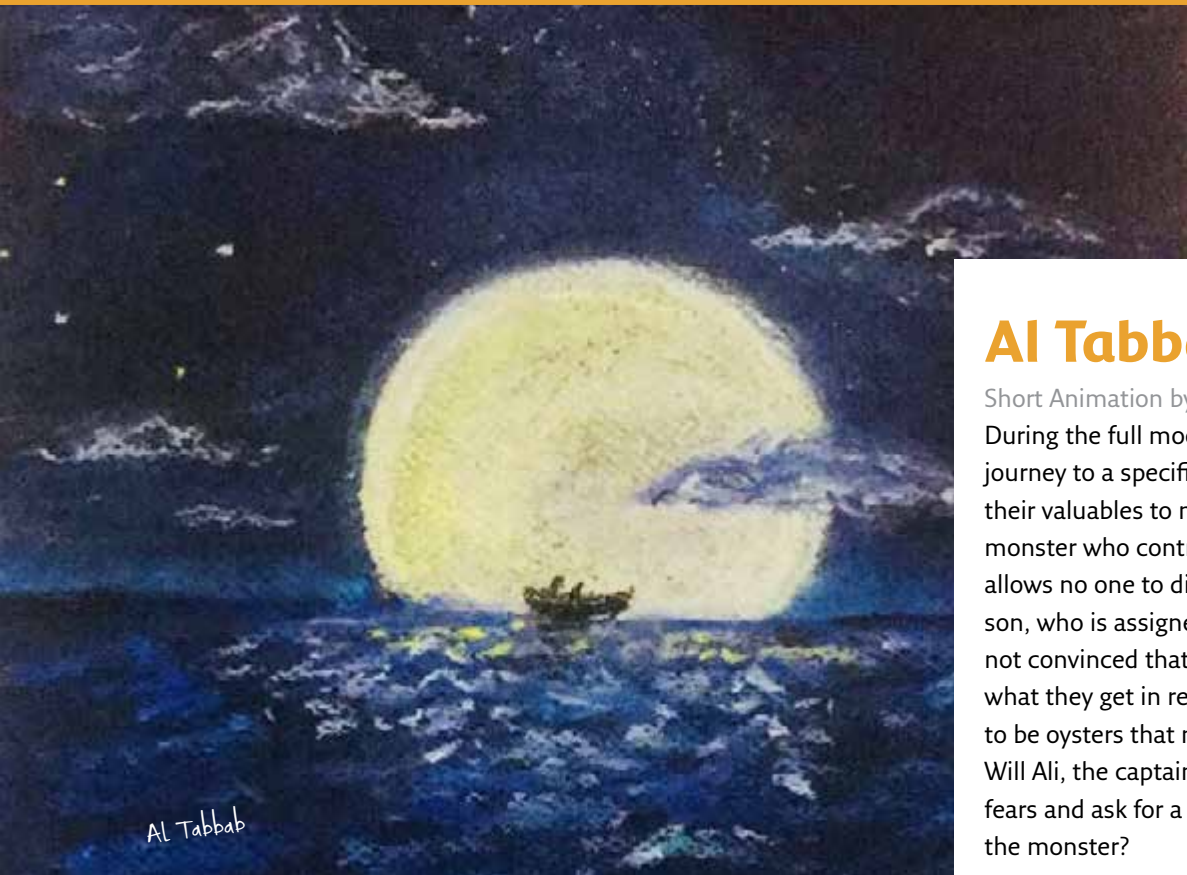
**The Qatari Film Fund (QFF) was established to invest in the development of national talent and to elevate the skills and accomplishments of Qatari filmmakers.**

The fund supports financing of up to 8 short films per year for development and production support. In the feature film category, the 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 has nurtured a new cadre of filmmakers who have enriched the local industry.





# Short Film Fund Awardees



## Al Tabbab

Short Animation by Khalifa Al-Mana

During the full moon of every month, sailors journey to a specific spot in the ocean along with their valuables to make a pearl trade with a sea monster who controls the waters. The monster allows no one to dive into the sea. Ali, the captain's son, who is assigned as Al Tabbab on this trip is not convinced that the trade is fair, especially since what they get in return from the monster happens to be oysters that may or may not contain pearls. Will Ali, the captain and the crew overcome their fears and ask for a fair trade or fight back against the monster?

## Connect

Short Narrative by Maha Al-Jefairi

A young mother tragically dies but is brought back to life inside a robotic body. Given a second chance at life, she has an emotional reunion with her husband and son. As she adjusts to her new artificial body, she starts to enjoy life again until her son, uncomfortable with her new inhuman form, begins to distance himself from her. Disheartened, she must come to terms with her new reality and find ways to bond with her son again.



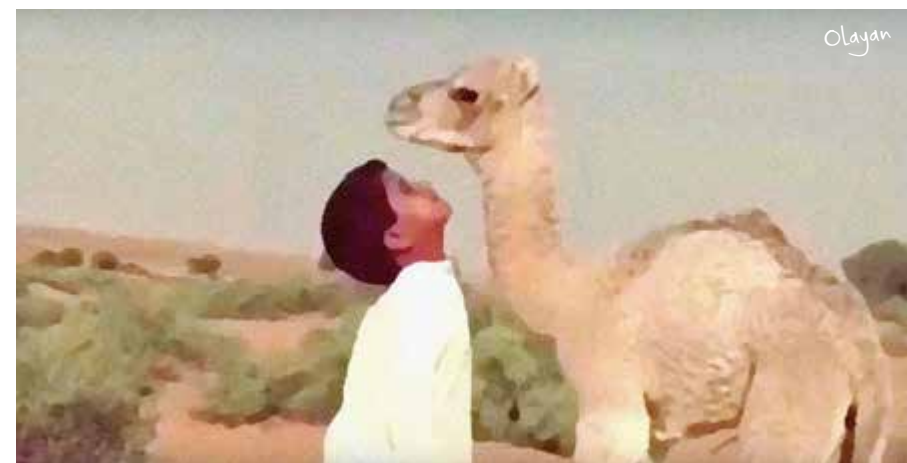
"Being in the film environment during Qatari Film Fund really opened doors for me and expanded my vision as a director"

Amal Al Muflih, Qatari Filmmaker

## Olayan

Short Narrative by Khalifa Al Marri

Hamad is a 6-year-old boy who lives with his parents and their camels in the desert. When one of their camels gives birth to a baby calf, Hamad's reclusive life changes and the two become fast friends. Needing the money, his father decides to sell the calf in the market, which makes Hamad go to extreme lengths to free his friend and bring the calf back home.



## The Pearl Banks

Short Documentary by Ahmed Alkhulaifi

The Arabian Gulf is internationally famous for diving and trading of natural pearls, with the historical practice forming an integral part of the regions unique cultural heritage. Qatar owns the lion's share of the Gulf's pearl banks, however, after the exploration of oil in the 1930s, the pearl diving industry has all but collapsed. Today, 80 years later, a question arises; what happened to the pearl diving sites named "Hair"? This documentary is a contemporary journey to explore the depths of the Qatari sea and to discover the present state of the "Hair". Are the famous pearl banks still in existence and are they still preserving the treasures of their illustrious past?



The great thing about the Qatari Film Fund is that it gives us the space to think, research and learn with industry experts.

Jassim Al Remaihi, Qatari Filmmaker

Qatari Film Fund  
in Numbers

10 QFF Films Produced

4 QFF Films in Development

6 QFF Films in Production





# Grants Programme

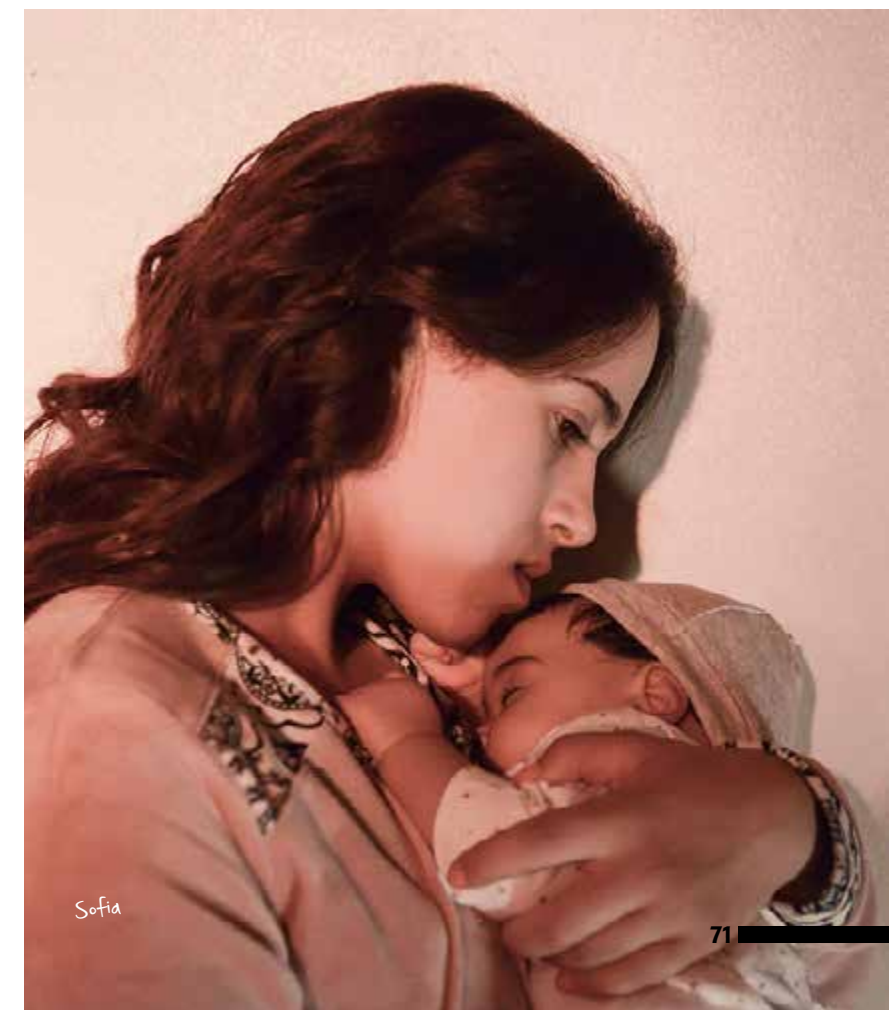
DFI's Grants Programme focuses on discovering and supporting emerging talent and first-and-second time filmmakers from Qatar, the wider Arab region, and around the world.

DFI's Grants Programme focuses on discovering and supporting emerging talent from Qatar, the wider Arab region, and around the world. The programme centres on offering support to up-and-coming filmmakers to develop short and feature films-expanding in 2018 to include TV and web series. Through these grants, DFI facilitates exchanges of creativity, knowledge and professional collaborations among filmmakers. The Grantees also have the opportunity to interact further and connect with each other through DFI's annual events of Qumra and Ajyal and the diverse Training and Development programmes held year-round.

We are pleased to say that our Grantee films receive recognition at leading festival circuits and are recipients of notable awards and recognitions. In 2018, DFI granted films had over 20 theatrical releases, earned more than 70 awards at major international film events, in addition to several more at smaller festivals and exceeded over 200 festival selections. 49 granted films participated at some of the most prestigious festivals in the world including the Academy Awards, Sundance Film Festival, Berlin International Film Festival, Festival de Cannes, Sarajevo Film Festival, Locarno International Film Festival, Venice International Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, International Documentary Film Festival and the International Film Festival Rotterdam.

72 Grants in 2018  
20+ Theatrical Releases  
70+ Major Festival Awards  
20+ Festival Selections

Grants Programme in Numbers



Sofia



# DFI Making Headlines



## Cannes Film Festival

In a defining moment for Arab and regional cinema, Turkish auteur and 2014 Palme d'Or winner Nuri Bilge Ceylan's *'The Wild Pear Tree'* and multi award-winning Lebanese filmmaker Nadine Labaki's *'Caphernaum'* competed for the coveted Palme d'Or in Cannes at the Festival's official competition. In addition to these two new films, the Doha Film Institute marked an exceptional year at Cannes with 11 films taking part in the festival. Official selection titles included: *'Sofia'* by Meryem Benm'Barek and *'Long Day's Journey Into Night'* by Gan Bi selected to screen in Un Certain Regard; *'The Load'* by Ognjen Glavonić and *'Weldi'* by Mohamed Ben Attia screening in the Directors' Fortnight. In addition, seven short films by Qatari talents are being showcased at the Cannes Short Film Corner.

## DFI-supported films, shorts make it to Cannes Festival

Gulf Times / Qatar

## 6 Doha-supported films selected for Cannes Film Festival

The Peninsula / Qatar

“This is an exceptional honour for Qatar and the Doha Film Institute as we represent 13 films at Cannes, including the honour of having six films selected to prestigious sections of the Festival. This underlines the focus of Qatar to support authentic and compelling voices, especially given the times we live in, and our commitment to partner with visionary filmmakers who stand for their passion and exceptional craft in bringing humane stories to life. The selection of these films to a prestigious event like Cannes adds to our commitment and pride, and highlights the strong inroads we have made to contribute to a more diverse and richly curated global film landscape.”

Fatma Hassan Al Remaihi,  
CEO of Doha Film Institute

## Toronto International Film Festival

Continuing the track-record of presenting Arab and international talent to the world at major film festivals, 12 films supported by the Doha Film Institute screened at the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival. This builds on the strong show of films backed by the Institute at the 2018 Sarajevo and Venice film festivals. Among the 12 films, four marked their world premiere while eight had their North American premieres.

### 4 DFI Supported Films including a Short make their World Premiere at Toronto International Film Festival.

“We are truly delighted to present the works of our emerging talents as well as works by accomplished filmmakers that have been supported through our Grants and co-financing initiatives and nurtured through our annual industry event, Qumra. The 12 films at Toronto present distinctive narratives that celebrate the power of films to inspire and move audiences worldwide.”

Fatma Hassan Al Remaihi,  
CEO of Doha Film Institute

## Doha Film Institute showcases 12 films highlighting Arab and international talent

2018 Toronto International Film Festival

## The Doha Film Institute is presenting seven short films by Qatar-based talent under the theme, 'Shortcuts to Qatar'

The Peninsula / Qatar

# Co-Financing

DFI’s Co-Finance Programme was established to provide strategic financial participation in a diverse slate of films. The founding goal of the Co-Finance effort is to support and advance the development of the film industry and further Qatar’s cultural objectives. Co-Finance focuses on compelling regional storytelling and projects that have the potential to reach wide audiences and shed a positive light on the region.

## CO-FINANCE PROJECTS

### Capernaum

Director: Nadine Labaki  
 Producer: Khaled Mouzaner

While serving a five-year sentence for a violent crime, a 12 year-old boy sues his parents for neglect.

### AWARDS

Cannes Film Festival 2018  
 Jury Prize

Cannes Film Festival 2018  
 Prix de la Citoyenneté

Cannes Film Festival 2018  
 Prize of the Ecumenical Jury

Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival 2018  
 Golden Orange Best Actor

Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival 2018  
 Youth Jury Film Prize for Best Film

Asia Pacific Screen Awards 2018  
 Achievement in Directing

Calgary International Film Festival 2018  
 Best International Narrative Feature

Calgary International Film Festival 2018  
 Fan Favourite Award

Sarajevo Film Festival 2018  
 Audience Award for Best Feature Film

Festival International du Cinema Francophone en Acadie 2018  
 Best Feature Film

Festival International du Cinema Francophone en Acadie 2018  
 Public Choice Award

Ghent International Film Festival 2018  
 North Sea Port Audience Award

Melbourne International Film Festival 2018  
 Best Narrative Feature

Mill Valley Film Festival 2018  
 Audience Award for World Cinema

Montréal Festival of New Cinema 2018  
 Peace Award

New Mexico Film Critics 2018  
 Best Young Actor

Norwegian International Film Festival 2018  
 Audience Award for Best Film

### NOMINATIONS

Academy Awards, USA 2019  
 Best Foreign Language Film of the Year

Golden Globes, USA 2019  
 Best Motion Picture - Foreign Language

Cannes Film Festival 2018  
 Palme d’Or

BAFTA Awards 2019  
 Best Film Not in the English Language

Toronto International Film Festival 2018  
 People’s Choice Award Special Presentations

Adelaide Film Festival 2018  
 Best International Feature

Alliance of Women Film Journalists 2019  
 Best Non-English Language Film

Alliance of Women Film Journalists 2019  
 Best Woman Director

Asia Pacific Screen Awards 2018  
 Best Performance by an Actor

British Independent Film Awards 2018  
 Best International Independent Film

Broadcast Film Critics Association Awards 2019  
 Best Foreign Language Film



St. Louis International Film Festival 2018  
 Audience Choice Award for Best Film

Stockholm Film Festival 2018  
 Best Screenplay

São Paulo International Film Festival 2018  
 Audience Award for Best Feature Film

São Paulo International Film Festival 2018  
 Audience Award for Best Foreign Fiction Film

Camerimage 2018  
 Best Cinematography Debut

Chicago Film Critics Association Awards 2018  
 Best Foreign Language Film

Globes de Cristal Awards, France 2019  
 Best Foreign Film

Indiewire Critics' Poll 2018  
 Best Foreign Language Film 5<sup>th</sup> Place

North Carolina Film Critics Association 2019  
 Best Foreign Language Film

Stockholm Film Festival 2018  
 Best Film

Palm Springs International Film Festival 2019  
 Best Foreign Language Film

San Diego Film Critics Society Awards 2018  
 Best Foreign Language Film

St. Louis Film Critics Association, US 2018  
 Best Foreign Language Film

Washington DC Area Film Critics Association Awards 2018  
 Best Foreign Language Film





# The Wild Pear Tree

**Director:** Nuri Bilge Ceylan  
**Producer:** Zeynep Ozbatur Atakan

An unpublished writer returns to his hometown after graduating, where he seeks sponsors to publish his book while dealing with his father's deteriorating indulgence into gambling.

## NOMINATIONS

- Cannes Film Festival 2018**  
Palme d'Or
- Ghent International Film Festival 2018**  
Best Film
- Oslo Films from the South Festival 2018**  
Audience Award
- Oslo Films from the South Festival 2018**  
Best Feature
- Seville European Film Festival 2018**  
Best Film

# What Walaa Wants

**Director:** Christy Garland  
**Producer:** Anne Köhncke

Raised in a refugee camp in the West Bank, while her mother was in prison, Walaa is determined to survive basic training to become one of the few women on the Palestinian Security Forces - not easy for a girl who breaks all the rules. Following Walaa from 15 to 21, with an intimate POV and the exuberant energy of its subject, this is the story of a young woman navigating formidable obstacles, learning which rules to break and follow, and disproving the negative predictions from her surroundings and the world at large.

## AWARDS

- HotDocs, Canada**  
Special Jury Prize
- Margaret Mead Film Festival, USA**  
Margaret Mead Filmmaker Award
- Vancouver International Film Festival, Canada**  
Women in Film
- Vancouver International Film Festival, Canada**  
TV Artistic Merit Award
- Forest City Film Festival, UK**  
Best Documentary Feature
- Ajyal Film Festival, Qatar**  
Hilal Award for Best Film

## NOMINATIONS

- Berlinale Generations World Premiere, Germany**
- Dokfest München, Germany**
- Edinburgh FF - UK Premiere, UK**
- Festival Ciné-Palestine Paris, France**
- Cork Film Festival, Ireland**
- Margaret Mead Film Festival US Premiere, USA**
- Boston Palestine Film Festival Boston Premiere, USA**
- Bristol Palestine Film Festival, UK**
- Arabisches FF Tübingen, Germany**
- Der Neue Heimatfilm, Germany**
- Arab Film Festival, San Francisco, USA**
- Bertha House Hot Docs London, UK**
- IDFA, Best of Fest, The Netherlands**
- Göteborg IFF, Sweden**
- Tempo Doc Fest, Sweden**
- One World Prague, Czech Republic**
- Arab Film Days, Norway**
- Aswan International Women Film Festival, Egypt**
- Doc Lounge Malmö, Sweden**
- Hot Docs Canadian International Film Festival, Canada**
- Gimli Film Festival, Manitoba, Canada**
- Stronger Than Fiction Doc Festival Canberra, Australia**
- Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia**
- EIDF/EBS Film Festival, Korea**
- Toronto Palestinian Film Festival, Canada**
- Palestinian Film Festival, Australia, Australia**
- Vancouver International Film Festival, Canada**
- St. John's Women's Film Festival, Canada**
- Taipei Women Make Waves, Taiwan**
- Forest City Film Festival, Canada**
- RIDM Montreal, Canada**
- Marda Loop Justice Film Festival, Calgary, Canada**
- Ajyal Youth Festival, Doha Film Institute, Qatar**
- Dubai REEL Palestine Film Festival, UAE**
- Justice Film Festival, Sarnia, Canada**
- International Festival of Cartagena de Indias (FICCI), Columbia**





# Awards



AWARDS



SELECTION



AWARDS

**70+**

Total Awards  
(All festivals) Approx.



SELECTION

**200+**

Total Selection  
(All festivals) Approx.

## GRANTS & CO-FINANCE

Cannes Film Festival

1

5

Berlin Film Festival

1

5

Toronto International Film Festival

1

10

International Film Festival Rotterdam

-

2

Sarajevo Film Festival

2

6

Venice International Film Festival

6

6



# QUMRA

9 March —  
14 March  
2018

Launched on a winning formula aimed at developing talent in the film industry, DFI's Qumra connects the brightest and best film professionals, with emerging talent, creating valued interactions, exchanges and networking opportunities, casting itself in a unique role as a true industry catalyst.

Secure in its reputation of being a one-of-a-kind regional film event, Qumra prioritises the advancement of emerging talent, with a special focus on first and second-time filmmakers. Qumra contributes steadily to their growth by carving out pathways and opening up unparalleled opportunities for them.



**In 2018, DFI hosted its 4th Annual Edition of Qumra, where 23 feature-length and 11 short films at various stages of production were selected to benefit from mentorship labs and business meetings with leading industry experts.**

# Experience



**As a unique, modern, project incubator Qumra excels at its role of being a curated industry matchmaker event that brings together global film experts for learning and sharing of experiences.**

In 2018 DFI proudly presented the fourth annual edition of Qumra, our home-grown initiative that cultivates and celebrates a rich exchange of knowledge, ideas, creativity and inspiration. The nurturing and productive space Qumra created for new projects provided mentorship, and hands-on development guidance for emerging filmmakers from Qatar and around the world.

Continuing its tradition, Qumra 2018 opened countless doors to insightful discussions and mentoring sessions with master filmmakers – the Qumra Masters – and provided networking opportunities with professionals representing the full spectrum of the film industry. The sessions enabled delegates to refine their approach to cinema and build long-term industry relationships that will galvanise their growth.





**Fuelled by the ambition to support emerging filmmakers in furthering their creative journeys, and to equip them with the skills that will help them navigate the global film landscape with confidence, Qumra 2018 once again put the spotlight on emerging/rising talents through a comprehensive support platform.**

The fourth edition of Qumra built on the success of previous years and the foundations of the programme that resonated with both filmmakers and industry. There are few industry events globally, and arguably none in the region, that explicitly focus on providing first- and second-time filmmakers the opportunity to set up their projects for success with the guidance of global industry experts and masters of cinema craft.



Twenty-three feature-length and eleven short films at various stages of production were selected to benefit from mentorship labs and business meetings with experts. They include 11 emerging filmmakers from Qatar or based in Qatar, as well as recipients of funding from the Institute's Grants Programme. The robust programme featured industry meetings designed to assist with propelling projects to their next stages of development, including masterclasses, work-in-progress screenings, bespoke matchmaking sessions and tailored workshops with industry experts. This creative exchange took place alongside a programme of public screenings curated with input from the Qumra Masters.



This year, Qumra was headlined by six modern legends in cinema who mentored young filmmakers in their role as Qumra Masters – the internationally acclaimed Tilda Swinton, Bennett Miller, Andrey Zvyagintsev, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Gianfranco Rosi, and Sandy Powell. Each expert held their own masterclass, led by industry academics, and joined audiences following screenings of films from their repertoire for intimate question-and-answer sessions.





TILDA  
SWINTON

# Meet the Masters

**Oscar® winning actor Tilda Swinton,  
'Isle of Dogs', 'Michael Clayton',  
'We Need to Talk about Kevin'**

With 'Okja', director Bong Joon-ho continues the scathing critique of contemporary globalised society that led to the immense popularity of his previous films like 'The Host' (2006) and 'Snowpiercer' (2013). Here, the story of a little girl and her (gargantuan, genetically designed) pet pig immerses the viewer in what seems like a pleasant fairy tale – but just as we become comfortable, we are plunged into an intricate, extremely dark world of unbridled capitalism, flagrant corporate irresponsibility, slavery, and the wilful depletion of the world's natural resources – all packaged up in an ego-driven personal vendetta.

As the epicentre of the greed that is destroying the Earth, human dignity, and any sense of justice offered by the social contract, Tilda Swinton provides an unnervingly canny performance – her Lucy Mirando is a twisted, roiling, yet delicate personality made up of the injury of past slights, a blinding need to succeed, and a narcissism that has no bounds, all these nuances somehow contained in a caricature-like being who responds to publicity like a moth racing toward a candle flame.

Swinton's role – and the film overall – offer a complexity to be contemplated long after viewing the film; its indictment of favouring avarice over compassion is a heady, topical, and necessary message in today's world.

**Qumra is something that I've known about for a while. Having now made it here I'm astonished at how impressive the program is, how impressive the sense of fellowship and serious endeavour this is. And the width of the participants, I mean there isn't a corner of the globe, it feels, that is not represented.**

Tilda Swinton ””



**Master's Selection**

**Okja**

Bong Joon Ho



# Meet the Masters



# GIANFRANCO ROSI

**The only documentary director to win the Berlinale Golden Bear, Italian director Gianfranco Rosi, 'Fire at Sea'**

“

**To come here and be part of Qumra was important to me when I knew I could work with students and with new projects; I like very much to do that, and for me it's like engaging myself in a new process which is not really my film, I try to find good tools in order to help how this film can move, how this film can grow**

Gianfranco Rosi ”

The tiny Italian island of Lampedusa lies in the Mediterranean Sea, about halfway between the east coast of Tunisia and the island of Malta. Lampedusa's official population is just over 6,000; over the past two decades, approximately 400,000 migrants have landed here en route from Africa to Europe. Estimates fix the number of those who have died trying to make this perilous sea crossing during that period at 15,000.

Director Gianfranco Rosi's camera observes the parallel lives of Lampedusa's inhabitants – among them Samuele, a charismatic and mischievous 12-year-old boy struggling with a lazy eye; and the island's only doctor, whose tasks include treating migrants rescued from capsized transport vessels – and those who have made it this far in their quest to find a better life on the European continent.

## Master's Selection **Fire at Sea**

Gianfranco Rosi



While the Golden Bear-winning film has wonderful moments of lightness – Samuele's visit to a doctor complaining of breathing problems is a delight – the forbidding dark shadow of the contemporary migration crisis hangs heavy as the viewer is presented with deeply troubling images of suffering that will not soon be forgotten. Necessary and urgent, in the words of Berlinale jury president Meryl Streep, 'Fire at Sea' "demands its place in front of our eyes and compels our engagement and action."

# Meet the Masters

Cannes Palme d'Or winning Thai filmmaker and visual artist Apichatpong Weerasethakul, 'Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives'

# APICHATPONG

## Master's Selection

### Footprints of Apichatpong Weerasethakul

Apichatpong Weerasethakul



The key is to really listen at Qumra and to understand their hearts, and to bring that out.

Apichatpong Weerasethakul ”



# WEERASETHAKUL

Apichatpong Weerasethakul's unconventional approach to making films and telling stories has seen him win numerous awards and international acclaim. In this brief survey of some of his short films, some of the considerations that imbue his many works are evident, among them the persistence of memory, the nature of constructing films, and cinema itself.

In 'Footprints', the mechanics of making films are explored, as tracking shots are followed by shots that betray the tracks and the camera team, generating a kind of explosion in the viewer's mind as the implications of the construction-behind-the-construction become apparent. Similarly, 'A Letter to Uncle Boonmee' demonstrates the creation of narrative, as a repeated voiceover is followed by a discussion of how that voiceover is to be written to tell its story.

'Boonmee' also invokes the notion of the memory of place, as it points to the violence that took place in its locale in the past. 'Emerald', too, considers memory as three ghosts tell the stories that led them to Bangkok's now-decrepit Emerald Hotel, once a haven of refuge for escapees of violence in Cambodia.

Emotionally impactful, politically astute, and at times very funny, all the films in this presentation also evidence Weerasethakul's understanding of the specific aesthetics of cinema – light and movement, sound and silence, what is seen and what is not. All in all, an excellent introduction to the work of a true master.



# Meet the Masters



**At Qumra, each meeting was completely different, and surprisingly we weren't talking specifically about costume, it was a very general discussion which I really enjoyed being part of. I really enjoyed talking about casting and about working with the actors and about sort of an overall vision. I think I asked them as many questions as they asked me.**

Sandy Powell ”

## Master's Selection

### The Young Victoria

Jean-Marc Vallée

Our immediate notion of Her Majesty Queen Victoria is that of a stern, possibly grumpy, woman, as she appears in photographs from her later years – the very image of the prudery of the era named for her. But every woman was a girl once, and Jean-Marc Vallée and screenwriter Julian Fellowes begin their film with Victoria in her final months as the bubbly and charming heir presumptive, brilliantly finding the period when she went from girl to woman, princess to queen – and from a pawn on the chessboard of 19th-century European politics to the girl who would one day oversee the golden apex of the British Empire. And all the while, she is living one of the great love stories of recent times, as she marries Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha and prepares to become a mother.

# SANDY POWELL

**Sandy Powell, Order of the British Empire, Oscar® winning British costume designer, 'The Young Victoria', 'The Aviator', 'Shakespeare in Love'**



As befits the period, the film is a perpetual feast of grand opulence – the brand-new Buckingham Palace being the primary location of the drama – and nowhere is this more apparent than in costume designer Sandy Powell's dresses, uniforms, suits, and regalia. Demure yet lavish, pitch-perfect for the time, her costumes fill the screen, deftly charging ballrooms and privy councils with regal formality, and drawing rooms and boudoirs with casual dignity.



# Meet the Masters

## Oscar® nominated director Bennett Miller 'Capote', 'Moneyball', 'Foxcatcher'

Those two all-American impulses – capitalism and the love of baseball – are at odds when the Oakland A's lose to the New York Yankees in the 2001 postseason. Why? The Yankees' spend is about \$75 million more than that of the A's – which is to say, “poor” teams simply cannot compete. When the loss on the field leads to the loss of key players, A's General Manager Billy Beane, whose measure of success is winning the championship, has to devise a way to build a competitive team despite the meagre budget he has available.

Enter Peter Brand, a Harvard grad in economics, whose statistics-based theorising Beane harnesses to come up with an affordable team of undervalued players – an approach that might not only send a team to the top, but also revolutionise the way the American national pastime works. At least, that's the plan. With 'Moneyball', director Bennett Miller takes real-life events and brilliantly melds the adrenaline-fuelled tension of high-profile sports with the emotional wallop of rooting for the underdog, as Beane's new-fangled approach faces stony resistance from the game's establishment. As the pressure mounts and the stakes get higher, the chess game behind the ballgame reaches fever pitch.

### Master's Selection **Moneyball**

Bennet Miller



# BENNETT MILLER

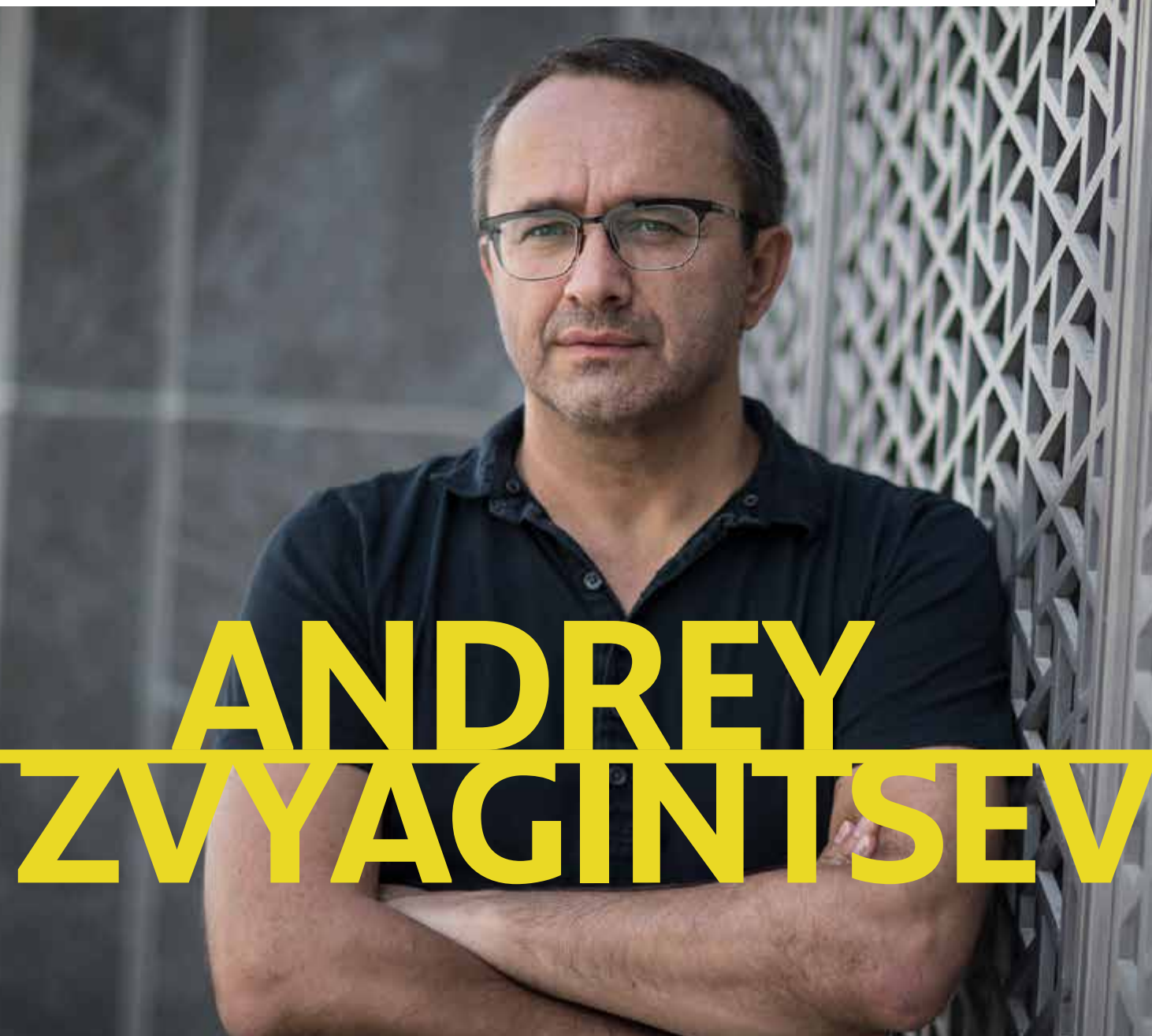
“

**Do not wait for approvals; it won't happen. Follow your vision of what you want to do, and don't give up on what you are doing.**

Bennett Miller ”



# Meet the Masters



**I think the only responsibility of the filmmaker as an artist is to actually be honest to yourself and do your own thing.**

Andrey Zvyagintsev ”

**Venice Golden Lion-winning Russian director and writer Andrey Zvyagintsev 'Leviathan', 'Loveless'**

Inseparable, if occasionally quarrelsome, young Ivan and his elder brother Andrei are shocked and excited when their father, who has not been home for 12 years and whom the boys only know from a faded photograph, returns out of the blue. The morning after his arrival, Dad takes his sons on a fishing trip, but what might be expected to be an epic bonding experience turns out to be anything but.

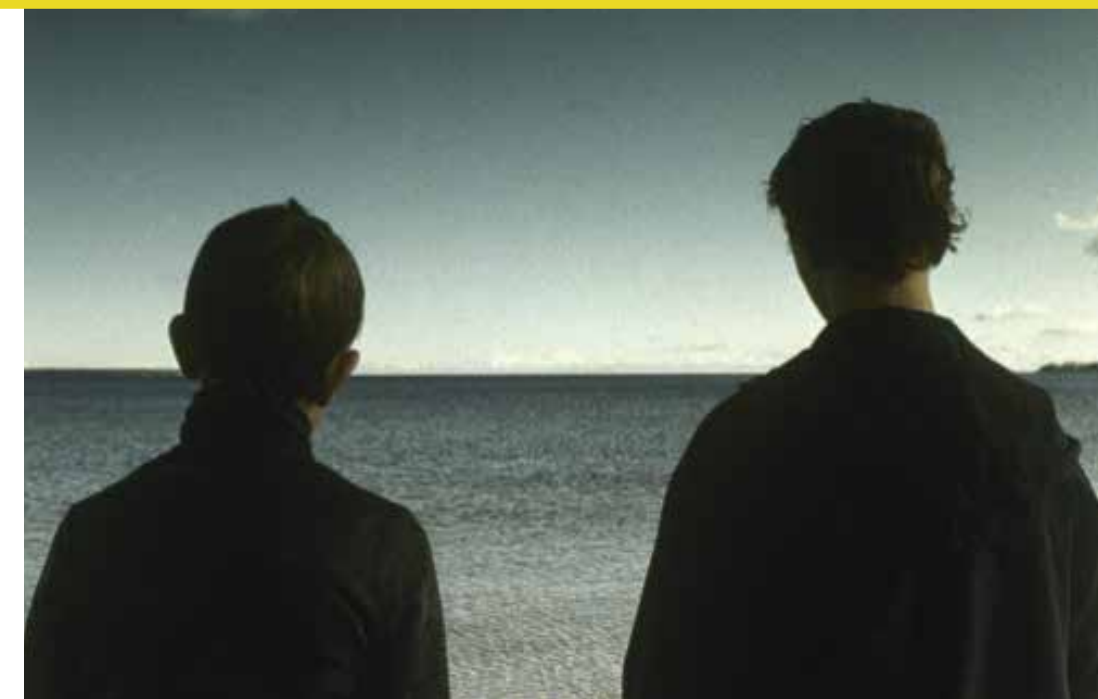
As though trying to make up for lost time, Dad seems to throw every paternal trick in the book at his boys – from fondly supportive mentorship to brutal emotional manipulation. While Andrei naturally looks up to his father, Ivan is unconvinced and suspicious, and the dynamic among the trio becomes increasingly taut until inevitably it reaches a breaking point.

Director Andrey Zvyagintsev structures his film with clever precision to explore the psychology of its three characters – as the tension mounts, the narrative slows its pace, allowing the uneasy emotions that seethe beneath the surface of the drama to expand, drawing us into the anger, pain, resentment, guilt, and love that are the tragic result of abandonment.

## Master's Selection

### The Return

Andrey Zvyagintsev







# Qumra Projects

**Qumra 2018 provided first- and second-time filmmakers from 25 countries attached to 34 projects giving them access to Masterclasses and networking opportunities, driving Qumra's mission to expand support for the development of emerging filmmakers from Qatar, the Arab region and around the world.**

**Qumra covers the script-to-screen journey and beyond, and with the inclusion of VoD and online platforms, filmmakers can look beyond conventional platforms to take their projects to a broader audience.**



Directors and producers of these projects met over 100 industry experts. The activities were specifically tailored to each project's needs, according to their stage of development. Projects in development took part in group and individual sessions in script consulting, legal, sales, marketing and co-production advice, along with individual matchmaking and tutorials. Projects in post-production were presented in a series of closed rough-cut screenings for leading festival programmers, broadcasters, market representatives, sales agents and distributors.





MUSEUM OF ISLAMIC ART



# Qumra Shines Brighter Than Ever

**34** Projects

**25** Countries

**23** Features

**11** Shorts

**16** Projects in Development

**13** Works-in-progress Projects

**5** Projects in Picture Lock

**14** Qatar Based Projects

**9** Films by Qatari Nationals

**6** Qatar-based Works-in-progress Projects

**13** Fictions, **10** Documentary Features  
and **11** Shorts

**23** Recipients of DFI Grants

**2** Qatari Film Fund Recipients



# Fostering and Nurturing a Vibrant Film Culture in Qatar

From its inception, the mission that has driven DFI forward is the development of a sustainable film industry in Qatar. Qumra is proud to make a significant contribution year after year towards achieving this goal.



## Behind Closed Doors

Hend Fakhroo



## Voice of Amirah

Khalifa Al-Thani

## Khuzuma

A.J. Al Thani



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. In 2018 at Qumra, we were proud to watch the ever-growing body of work developed by local filmmakers capture the attention of the international industry.

# Feature Narrative Projects from Qatar Under Development





# Qumra Shorts by Qatari Talents



## Bandits

Sara Al Obaidly

## Connect

Maha Al-Jefairi

## Pastimes

Majid Al Remaihi

## Amphitheatre

Mahdi Ali Ali

## Gubgub

Noof Al-Sulaiti

## Sh'hab

Amal Al-Muftah

Qumra 2018 offered 11 Qatar-based filmmakers the opportunity to present their short film projects, currently in development, to a group of international industry professionals, including script consultants, producers, lab representatives, programmers and buyers, all of whom are experts in the short form. The programme seeks to continue the Doha Film Institute's support for filmmaking talent in Qatar.



**It's so beneficial to have all these people here in Qatar, a place where I live and am from, it's just amazing.**

**Maha Al-Jefairi, Qatari Filmmaker, 'Connect'**





“

**I feel very lucky to have been a part of Qumra this year and could not have asked for a more valuable first outing for 'Naz' - it was the first time we were pitching the film, as well as the first event we had taken part in as a team - not to mention that it was the first meeting scenario for both Ana and Omar! It was an exhilarating week and the mix of masterclasses, meetings and feedback was both inspiring and valuable in helping us develop the film further.**

**Elhum Shakerifar**  
Producer, 'Naz'

## The Impact of Qumra 2018 in our Filmmaker's Words

“

*"This is my second time at Qumra and for filmmakers it is a beautifully intense experience where people are coaching you from the very beginning of development stage all the way to submitting your film at film festivals. It is a really intense learning experience that is invaluable to first and second time filmmakers offered by DFI"*

*Hend Fakhroo, Qatari Filmmaker*

**There's great energy at Qumra. Everyone has a project to develop to share with people and to talk about it.**

**Amal Al-Muftah, Qatari Filmmaker, 'Sh'hab'**

”





# Qumra 2018 Through the Eyes of Invitees

“

“

We felt very well supported throughout our stay. As some of you already know, we had very positive feedback on the project at Qumra. We hope this interest will translate soon into future partnerships and collaborations.”

**Alexa Rivero**  
Producer, 'The Unknown Saint'



It was such an honour and a pleasure to have been invited to participate in such a wonderful forum - many fruitful exchanges occurred.”

**Oualid Mouaness**  
Director/Screenwriter, '1982'

“



Thank you for your support and kindness throughout this process, it was priceless in such decisive moments especially when presenting the opening of the film for the first time. We couldn't have been in better hands.”

**Sophie Mas**  
Co-Producer, 'Late to Die Young'





## Leading Industry Professionals at Qumra

### Wendi Deng Murdoch

Movie producer

### Jon Kamen

CEO, Radical Media

### Funa Maduka

Content Acquisition – Global Independent Feature Films & Documentaries, Netflix

### Bobby Allen

Vice President – Content of MUBI

### Ghassan Salhab, Annemarie Jacir, Kaouther Ben Hania and Tala Hadid

Filmmaker - mentors

### Mark Adams

Artistic Director, Edinburgh Film Festival

### Cameron Bailey

Artistic Director, Toronto International Film Festival

### Paul Federbush

International Director, Feature Film Program at the Sundance Film Institute

### Mirsad Purivatra

Festival Director, Sarajevo Film Festival

### Joana Vincente

Executive Director, Independent Filmmaker Project

### Christophe Leparc

Managing Director, Directors Fortnight of the Cannes Film Festival

### Cara Cusumano

Director of Programming, Tribeca Film Festival

### Bero Beyer

Festival Director, Rotterdam

## Film Festivals, Film Consultants, Film Funds, Film Institutes, Film Distributors & Sales Agents at Qumra 2018

Locarno Film Festival  
Venice Film Festival/Final Cut  
Hot Docs  
IDFA  
FID Marseille  
Busan International Film Festival  
Malmo Arab Film Festival  
CNC Aide aux Cinemas du Monde  
Eurimages Fund  
Luxembourg Film Fund  
Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg  
Doc and Film International  
Memento International  
MAMI Mumbai Film Festival  
Seville International  
The Match Factory  
Metropolis Art Cinema  
Tribeca Film Institute  
Torino Film Lab  
Sundance Film Institute  
The Royal Film Commission – Jordan  
Venice Biennale

## Qatar-Based Film Organisations at Qumra

beIN SPORTS  
Qatar TV  
Al Jazeera Media Network

Over 120 Qatar-based film, production, media and entertainment delegates

# Qumra Industry

Along with the Qumra Masters, the six-day event welcomed accomplished film directors, producers, film festival directors, programmers, consultants, fund managers, sales professionals, acquisition heads, script experts, distributors, video on demand platforms and broadcasters, and other industry professionals.

Several of them have formed strong bonds to the annual event, which has become a unique and important platform and project incubator for new voices and compelling stories in Arab and world cinema.

The 2018 Qumra industry delegates included representation from more than 15 leading international film festivals, and executives from some of the world's leading film production companies, sales and distribution companies, and cultural and funding agencies.

## International Delegates at Qumra from across the globe

Argentina  
Singapore  
Sweden  
South Africa  
UK  
USA  
Jordan  
Lebanon  
Morocco  
Palestine  
Tunisia





# Qumra Industry

## Thoughts and Thanks



It was an extraordinary experience, full of joy and learning, a deeply generous one. ”

**Brigitte Lacombe**  
Photographer

It was a distinct pleasure and honour to have been part of Qumra this year. Meeting the filmmakers, gaining exposure to their projects, discussing their aspirations and ambitions, and brainstorming possible next steps for them was a thrilling experience! As for the event itself, it was exemplary — well organized, well curated, and highly conducive to making new friends and mingling with old ones. All this, plus your unparalleled generosity and hospitality made this a truly memorable journey.

**Mark Urman**  
President, Paladin

I just wanted to tell you how grateful I am for participating at your amazing event. It was such a mind opening experience. I came back with many ideas, fresh energy... all of it thanks to you.

**Radoslaw Bardes**  
Producer/Head of International Productions,  
Okra Film

It was once again a wonderful experience. It always inspires me to see the talent from all over the world. We are definitely keeping an eye on some projects which we have already followed up on. Many thank again for your great hospitality. You definitely run a top-notch event!

**Anick Poirier**  
Seville International

Many thanks for the warm welcome and the wonderful stay in Doha. Qumra was a great and very interesting experience and thanks to you I had the opportunity to meet producers with very interesting projects.

**Anne Iris Cadoux**  
Project Manager, Eurimages

Qumra was for me exceptional: I highly appreciated the quality of the projects and it was very interesting for me to meet the young filmmakers, as well as your other guests. I also was impressed by the masterclasses. It was a great experience to be able to meet these important directors.

**Nathalie Streiff**  
Manager, Institut Francais

We enjoyed the intimacy and generosity of the event, the ability to discuss with the Masters and the young filmmakers. Many thanks for all these nourishing encounters!

**Marian Lacombe**  
Filmmaker

It was again a pleasure to be part of Qumra. It was all the more interesting as the quality of the works in progress I saw is going better!

**Christophe Leparc**  
Managing Director, Directors' Fortnight at Festival de Cannes and Managing Director of Cinemed



# Qumra Public Screenings

From the 8th to the 14th of March 2018, Qumra opened its screening venues, offering the public the opportunity to enjoy 6 handpicked films by the Qumra Masters and a selection of finished projects of New Voices in Cinema.

**12** Screenings

**1292** Audience Members

## Qumra 2018 on Social Media #Qumra in Numbers

**467** Live social media posts in 6 days on DFI's 3 main channels

**1.5 million** Total social media impressions

**70,000** Video views on Twitter

**24,000** Video views on Instagram

**450,000** Instagram impressions

**900,000** Twitter impressions





# Qumra's 4 New Qatari Voices in Cinema

## 1001 Days

Aisha Al-Jaidah

## Domestic Acoustics

Majid Al-Remaihi

## Chaos Antidote

Hadeer Omar & Idris Elhassan

## Embodiment

Khalifa AlMarri

The 'New Voices in Cinema' segment at Qumra 2018 screened 4 films and a selection of shorts, which were supported by DFI through its Grants programme. Four of these are 'Made in Qatar' films directed by Qatari directors or those who call the country home.

The New Voices strand is a fine representation of innovative storytelling techniques and ideas pursued by the new generation and includes feature-length and short films.



# New Voices in Cinema

## 1001 Days

Aisha Al-Jaidah

'1001 Days' tells the story of the life of Sheherezade, the creative and heroic storyteller. 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. Night after night, Sheherezade fought for her life by crafting stories for the King. '1001 Days' imagines a story behind the famous fable, and a strong woman who fights for her independence, dignity and freedom.

1001 Days

## Domestic Acoustics

Majid Al-Remaihi

'Domestic Acoustics' is an experimental endeavor that explores the overlap of domestic and creative spaces, and their relationship to the female artist. Portraits by Qatari artist Fatma Al-Remaihi are removed from storage; their movement and display, and oblique references to the artist through conversations with members of the household, quietly expose the layered relationship between artistic practice and life in the home.

Domestic Acoustics

## Chaos Antidote

Hadeer Omar & Idris Elhassan

Through gorgeous superimposition, the ever-changing urban landscape of Doha under construction is dreamily contemplated in this wordless, wonderfully languid documentary essay. Images of cranes, rising towers and roadways in flux – constants in contemporary Doha's personality – create a striking, dynamic collage that is reminiscent of a day's wandering through Qatar's crown city. As morning becomes daytime and sunset leads to night, order is made of chaos and a sense of peace is imposed on the frenetic pace of progress.

## Embodiment

Khalifa AlMarri

In a desert where oil meets sand, a woman awakes at the top of a tangerine-hued dune. Rising, she gestures in the sunlight, as though inspiring the land about her to develop, grow and become all it can be. A poetic reflection of Qatar becoming a sophisticated nation of wealth and influence while retaining its centuries-old traditions, 'Embodiment' journeys from ancient wilderness to contemporary metropolis, capturing the stunning beauty of both worlds.



**Unlike any event in the region, Qumra's core focuses on growth. Each activity is specifically curated to best take advantage of the talent and experience available for those eager to break into the industry and develop compelling new projects.**

Qumra offered a host of experiences that provided one-on-one attention, group interactions, networking opportunities, and shared ideas. Special industry guests became fully invested in local and international projects. New talent benefitted from the advice and direction of experts in the field. Each day was strategically planned to foster an environment of education and passion.

### The carefully curated programme included:

- More than **100** one-on-one bespoke tutorials with experts and mentors
- **25** Individual 'Meet the Masters' sessions with the Qumra Masters
- **50** Shorts one-on-one meetings
- More than **200** Match-made meetings



### Working Breakfasts

Moderated working sessions for participants and industry executives in an informal atmosphere. Producers, representatives of labs and festivals, sales agents, distributors, and financiers share their expertise and discuss current industry trends.



### Working Breakfast Feedback Sessions

Pre-arranged moderated group meetings in which participants present their projects for feedback from sales agents, distributors, and financiers.

### Match Made Meetings

Pre-arranged one-on-one meetings in which participants present their projects to industry experts and discuss opportunities for collaboration.

### Preparatory Meetings

Briefing meetings for project delegates with moderators and mentors to prepare for their screening and feedback sessions, and consultations with Qumra experts.



### Rough Cut Consultations

Intensive sessions with industry experts offering individual consultation to grantees with projects in post-production, providing bespoke advice for post-production, editing and seeking finishing funds.

### Masterclasses Meetings

Tilda Swinton, Bennett Miller, Andrey Zvyagintsev, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Gianfranco Rosi, and Sandy Powell shared experiences from their acclaimed careers in dialogue with the Qumra participants.

### One-on-One Tutorials

Individual and group advisory sessions tailored to the needs of the project at hand. Industry experts covered a broad range of subjects, from financing strategies and legal considerations for co-productions, to festival strategies and sales.

### Script Consultations

Intensive individual consultations with expert script advisors for projects in the early stages of development. Sessions include online follow-up.

### Meet the Masters

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

### Masterclasses Q&A Moderators for Qumra

**Cameron Bailey**  
Artistic Director of the Toronto International Film Festival and the overall TIFF organisation

**Richard Peña**  
Professor of Film Studies at Columbia University

**Philippe Azoury**  
Film critic and essayist, based in Paris





## Industry Screenings

Exclusive preview screenings of 20-minute excerpts from the 12 narrative and documentary Qumra projects that are completed or in post-production, for selected broadcasters, market representatives, sales agents and distributors.

## Picture Lock Screenings

Exclusive preview screenings of 20-minute excerpts from the 12 narrative and document Exclusive presentations of four feature-length Qumra projects in the final stages of post-production. Twenty-minute excerpts of projects were screened for selected festival programmers and industry experts. any Qumra projects that are completed or in post-production, for selected broadcasters, market representatives, sales agents and distributors.

## Work-in-Progress Screenings and Feedback

Closed screenings of 20-minute excerpts from the four narrative and four documentary Qumra projects in post-production. A panel of selected industry experts provides immediate, individual feedback tailored to each project.

# Qumra 2018 Project Screenings



### Short Film Sales and Distribution with Jan Naszewski

New Europe Film Sales

This group tutorial covered the dos and don'ts of working with sales agents, festival strategies, and why it is important to think about the market before shooting. The seminar was led by Jan Naszewski, the CEO of Warsaw-based sales agency New Europe Film Sales, the company behind 10 Academy Award short-listers, Berlinale and Cannes winners, and the short films of Ali Asgari, Daniel Mulloy, Ruben Ostlund, and Magnus von Horn.

### The Short Film Journey: Tips from Violeta Bava

Ruda Cine / Venice Film Festival | Producer / Programmer

Violeta Bava, walked participants through an overview of the short filmmaking process, from development and financing to distribution and markets, using case studies as examples. Making a short is often a filmmaker's first step into the world of cinema, and this session outlined some of the expectations directors can have when developing a film.

### Overview of the Short Film Industry

with Wouter Jansen, Some Shorts

This introduction to the international short film festival and market circuits set the stage for understanding how to present films to industry professionals. The tutorial gave insight into how festivals make selections, and the basics on how to develop a good festival strategy.

### 'Ave Maria': Film Case Study

with Basil Khalil

Academy Award- and Palme d'Or-nominated director Basil Khalil shared his experiences with his short film 'Ave Maria', which premiered at the Festival de Cannes and went all the way to an Academy Award nomination in 2016. Participants learnt how to maximise their film's visibility at minimal cost. On a shoestring budget, Khalil saw 'Ave Maria' selected for more than 200 festivals, and broadcast in more than 60 countries, along with a theatrical release that grossed \$3 million at the box office. He is now a member of AMPAS and sits on the committee that nominates short and animated films for the Oscars.

# Qumra Shorts Group Tutorials



# Qumra Talks

In 2018 Qumra Talks gathered leaders from the film industry, technology, television and online platforms to weigh in on diverse topics. The panel-style talks are geared toward the evolution of storytelling, series, new media and digital distribution.



## TOPICS

**On Photography with Brigitte Lacombe**

In partnership with Northwestern University in Qatar.

**Storytelling through Emerging Media: Virtual Reality**

Transmedia artist Simon Wilkinson. In partnership with The British Council.

**Content for a Fragmented Media Universe**

by Jon Kamen, CEO of RadicalMedia. In partnership with Northwestern University in Qatar.





# Qumra in Pictures





# Qumra Partners

## Cultural Partners



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SOUQ WAQIF

## Supported by



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CULTURE PASS



SONY



## Friends of Qumra



## Media Partner







# PRODUCTION

In 2018, DFI continued its quest to support the creation of original and compelling multi-platform content. Throughout the year, DFI's Production Department worked to enhance the film industry in Qatar by offering production solutions and services to DFI's projects as well as by contributing towards meeting the filming and editing needs of local filmmakers, businesses, government bodies and NGOs in the country.

**DFI invests in state of the art production equipment and expertise in order to ensure that the filmmaking talent we incubate, gain access to the best available resources and support. Our production house offers creative development, production, post-production, edit suite rentals, media duplications, transfers and equipment rentals.**



2018 saw DFI's Production department make a contribution not only to DFI's film portfolio but also to individuals and entities seeking expertise in film, commercials, television and the creation of online video content.

In 2018 we completed:

2 Internal Projects for Qumra and Ajyal

3 External Projects

## 1) NHRC Blockade Documentary

To highlight the first anniversary of the Blockade, the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) commissioned DFI's Production Department to produce a short documentary highlighting the on-going cases that affected the people of Qatar. A mix of freelancers and an in-house crew came together to create the film, which was shown on 6 June 2018 at Katara's Opera House.



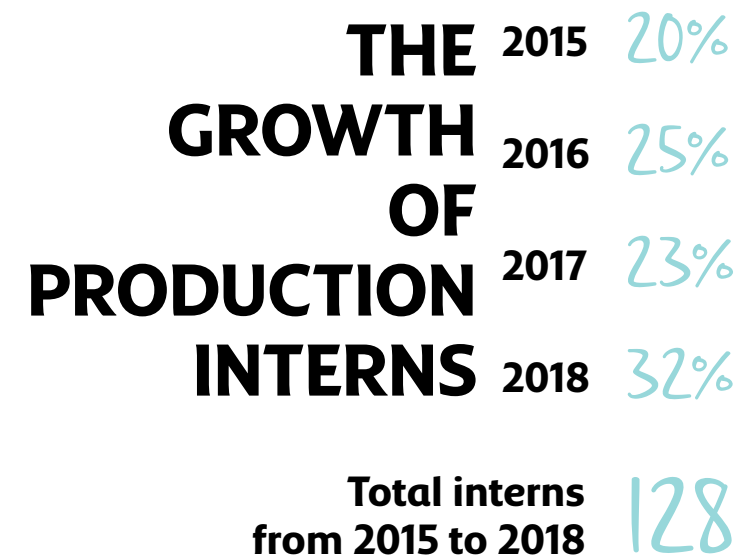
## 2) A Nature Documentary

DFI's Production Department produced this 20-minute Arabic Language nature documentary on the Al Samra tree. The documentary was part of a campaign for the preservation of the Al Samra Tree, carried out by Al Shabhana. Shot exclusively in Qatar, the film addressed the causes of the tree's endangerment, its history, its geography, its medicinal and practical uses and the ways to preserve the tree. The film featured Um Rashid, a local personality who spoke very passionately about why this tree is a national treasure. The film was screened during the DFI Qatar National Day screenings at the Aspire zone.

## 3) The Joy of Rail

Commissioned by the Ministry of Education, DFI's Production department created a short animation to illustrate the journey of Qatar Rail. The story focuses on a rail journey stopping at various stations for educational purposes. This film was shown at an educational conference by the Ministry of Education.

During 2018, DFI's Production team frequently leveraged the knowledge of its in-house team of film production specialists and spearheaded several education and training initiatives. While offering essential creative, logistical and operational support to local filmmaking talent, our goal is to simultaneously build the capacities of up and coming filmmakers and introduce them to the full range of production disciplines.



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.

## Among Our External Clients

- The Ministry of Education
- National Human Rights Committee (NHRC)
- Katara

## Getting Local Projects off the Ground

In 2018, local filmmakers benefited from the expertise of DFI. Our teams assisted several independent filmmakers with self-created and commissioned projects. Through the process, our clients also gained invaluable access to the Institute's haul of professional equipment and support teams.

## Working in Collaboration to Create Multi-platform Content

As a result of observing trends in content, DFI has extended itself to assist filmmakers in transforming their projects to suit multiple platforms. As in previous years, in 2018, we worked in collaboration with filmmakers, artists and professionals in the industry, to help produce original content across multiple media platforms.

## Partnering National Projects

In 2018, DFI's Production department continued its mandate to support Qatar's national goals. Using our expertise, we worked in partnership with several government agencies, assisting them with their filming and production needs.

- Joy of Rail
- Ministry of Education
- NHRC



# Production Support for Qatari Film Fund



**With DFI's Qatari Film Fund being dedicated to further the skills and accomplishments of Qatari filmmakers, our Production Department joins hands with QFF to complement and collaborate in each local project.**

In 2018 we continued working side by side with our locally emerging talents. Our team extended their expertise to each writer and director, so that they can 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.

Recognizing that first- and second-time filmmakers need to navigate the complex realities of the industry the assistance we offered ranged from film production mentoring to assisting filmmakers to breakdown their screenplays into realistic and manageable film budgets, general production management, legal and regulatory supervision and financial oversight.

By directly assisting these emerging professionals, our goal was not just to help produce these projects, but also to create an optimum environment for their works to thrive. The film production mentoring ensured that creative works and the creative individuals who were leading the projects were able to sustain themselves throughout the production process.



Films that have been put together with the help of DFI's Production Department have toured the world and received global awards.

## 1001 Days

by Aisha Al-Jaida

**Montreal International Animation Film Festival**

Semi-Finalist, Aug 2018

**Twin Cities Arab Film Festival Minnesota**

Sept 2018

**8th Delhi International Film Festival**

Oct 2018

**Goa Short Film Festival**

Oct 2018

**Chicago International Children's Film Festival**

Oct 2018

**Animation Marathon Athens - Screening today**

Nov 2018

**Golden Knight Malta International Short Film Festival**

Dec 2018

**Mumbai Short Film Festival 2018**

Winner of 'Best Animation' Jury Prize

**Athens Animfest 2019**

Winner of 'Distinction' Award

## A Journey to From Love

by Abdullah Al-Mulla

**Speechless Film Festival**

April 2018

**Auckland International Film Festival**

Feb 2018

**Muscat International Film Festival 2018**

**Redline International Film Festival**

March 2018

**SHORT to the Point**

March 2018

**International University Festival Cine-Literature of Agadir Morocco**

April 2018

**International Filmmaker Festival of New York**

April 2018

**Noosa International Film Festival Australia**

June 2018

**New York No Limits Film Series**

July 2018



**Life Screenings International Festival Florida**

2018

**Jersey Shore Film Festival**

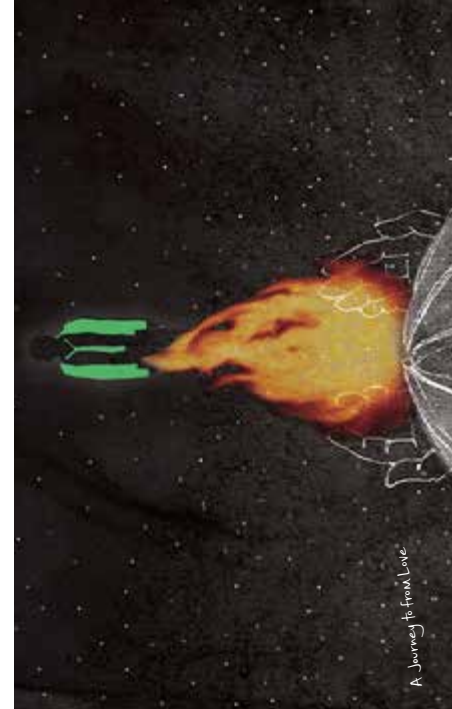
July 2018

**Weird Wednesday 0711 Germany**

2018

**Norwich Film Festival**

Aug 2018



## Amer: An Arabian Legend

by Jassim Al Remaili

**Distribution Deal with PACVOICE Japan Online Streaming**

2018

## Elevate

by Hamida Al Kuwari

**International Images Film Festival for Women Zimbabwe**

2018

**8th Delhi International Film Festival**

2018

## Red

by Kholood Al Ali

**Karama Human Rights Film Festival Jordan**

2018

## Our Time is Running Out

by Meriam Mesraoua

**Awan Film Festival Arab Women Artists Now, UK**

2018

**Sudan International Film Festival**

2018

**Cannes Court Metrage and Market**

2018

**Giffoni Film Festival**

2018

**Sarajevo Film Festival**

2018

**Kazan International Festival of Muslim Cinema**

2018

## Voyager

by Khalifa Al Marri

**Ajyal Film Festival**

2018





# FILM SCREENINGS



DFI delivers an extensive and diverse cultural experience through film that engages different audiences and offers an exemplary film experience to the audiences in Qatar.

**DFI's Film screenings include a selection of new releases, classics, retrospectives and thematically curated films for varied audiences.**



# 2018's

## Film Screenings



During 2018 through our thematic Series, Ajyal Film Series, Contemporary Releases, Cinema Under the Stars & Special Screenings, DFI provided an opportunity for local audiences to enjoy films that have set standards for their craft, and have pushed boundaries to turn stories into brilliant and inventive cinema.

Our Film Screenings are part of our 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.

DFI Screenings  
in Numbers

<b>11,698</b>	Audience Members
<b>111</b>	Screenings
<b>77</b>	Short Films
<b>57</b>	Feature Films



# Contemporary Releases

DFI was delighted to present ‘Contemporary Releases’, a selection of the latest internationally and regionally acclaimed films. The series includes recent festival favourites, as well as emerging new voices of DFI granted filmmakers.



## January The Other Side of Hope

By Aki Kaurismäki  
25 - 26 January

‘The Other Side of Hope’ follows two people searching for a place to call home. Displaced Syrian Khaled lands in Helsinki as a stowaway; meanwhile, middle-aged salesman Wikström leaves behind his wife and job and buys a conspicuously unprofitable seafood restaurant. After Khaled is denied asylum, he decides not to return to Aleppo, and the paths of the two men cross fortuitously.



## February Radiance

By Naomi Kawase  
15 - 16 February

Misako is a struggling writer hired to create film audio descriptions for the visually impaired. At a screening, she meets Nakamori, an older photographer who is slowly losing his eyesight. He offers to help Misako with her scripts, and together they learn to see the subtly radiant world that is invisible to most eyes.

## March Faces Places

By JR, Agnès Varda  
22 - 23 March

‘Faces Places’ is a lively, fun, stirring tribute to art and its ability to touch people and bring souls together. Agnes Varda, one of the leading lights of France’s honoured French New Wave cinema era, and professional photographer and muralist, J.R., partake in a unique art project. Together, they travel around France in a special box truck equipped as a portable photo booth and travelling printing facility as they take photographs of people around the country.



## September The Rider

By Chloé Zhao  
6 - 7 September

Visually stunning, emotionally arresting, and profoundly empathetic, ‘The Rider’ stars Brady Jandreau as a once-rising star of the rodeo circuit warned that his competition days are over after a tragic accident. Back home, Brady finds himself wondering what he has to live for when he can no longer do what gives him a sense of purpose: to ride and compete.

## Searching

By Aneesh Chaganty  
13 - 14 September

After his 16-year-old daughter goes missing, a desperate father breaks into her laptop to look for clues to find her. In a hyper-modern thriller told via the technology devices we use every day to communicate, he must trace his daughter’s digital footprints before she disappears forever.





# Special Screening

DFI, in partnership with the Embassy of Canada to Qatar and the Qatari Businesswomen’s Association, presented ‘Dream, Girl’, a documentary showcasing the stories of inspiring and ambitious female entrepreneurs.

## March Dream, Girl

By Erin Bagwell  
26 March



Dream, Girl

# Ajyal Film Series

Our new Ajyal Film Series aims to keep the spirit of our annual Ajyal Film Festival alive throughout the year.

## April Dana’s Kite

By Noor Al-Nasr  
12 April

With ‘Dana’s Kite’, Qatari director Noor Al-Nasr explores love for family, our ever-increasing reliance on impersonal technology and the gorgeous Doha seaside.

## Paper Planes

By Robert Connolly  
12 April

A schoolboy dealing with the death of his mother channels his grief into the art of making paper airplanes, ending up in a national championship.



Dana's Kite



Paper Planes

## October Walls

By Nibu Vasudevan  
4 October

In a decaying world that has become nothing more than a trash heap, a race of skeleton-like, robotic creatures are engaged in a pointless, seemingly endless war. On a regular basis, one group of robots hurls chunks of junk over a wall. One day, a child goes beyond the wall to retrieve a lost toy and the nature of the enemy becomes clear.



A Little Princess

## A Little Princess

By Alfonso Cuarón  
4 October

10-year-old Sara Crewe has been left in a respected New York City boarding school while her British father heads overseas to fight. Filled with wild stories and a playful attitude, the unconventional Sara becomes popular amongst her classmates but quickly comes into conflict with the harsh headmistress, Miss Minchin.



# Cinema Under the Stars

DFI continued its popular open invitation to enjoy 'Cinema Under the Stars' - a programme of family-friendly screenings in the great outdoors! In 2018 the programme was presented as part of Qatar International Food Festival.

March

## Finding Nemo

By Andrew Stanton, Lee Unkrich  
19 - 21 March

A tale which follows the comedic and eventful journeys of two fish, the fretful Marlin and his young son Nemo, who are separated from each other in the Great Barrier Reef.

## Winnie the Pooh

By Stephen J. Anderson, Don Hall  
22 - 24 March

During another day in Hundred Acre Wood, Winnie the Pooh sets out to find some of his beloved honey. Misinterpreting a note from Christopher Robin, Owl convinces the gang that their young friend has been captured by a creature named "Backson", and they set out to save him.



# Made in Qatar Short Film Programme

16 - 18 March

DFI's 'Made in Qatar' collection hosted films that gave our student and independent filmmakers the opportunity to bring their voices to the screen. This was a collection of short films that were either made in Qatar or made by those who call Qatar home.

## Al-Johara

By Nora Al-Subaie

By re-imagining a familiar fairy tale in a very contemporary fashion, Nora Al-Subai creates a Qatari romance for the ages.

## Al-Kora

By Amal Al-Muftah

In an old Qatari village, a young boy is playing soccer by himself. When he accidentally throws the football over a wall and is unsure how he is going to retrieve it, his sister comes to the rescue - but her act of kindness gets her into trouble.

## Kashta

By AJ Al-Thani

Out in the quiet desert, a father teaches his sons how to hunt, but a careless struggle between the two brothers leads to disaster.

## The Noble Tree

By Ghassan Kairouz & Pascale Abou Jamra

'The Noble Tree' is a lovely parable that warns of the foolishness of isolationism and bullying.

## Passport

By Dana Al-Meer  
Reem and Mahmoud want to go to America, but circumstances keep getting in the way in this fast-paced and very funny short.

## Love Blood Test

By Mostafa Sheshtawy

Baghat and Waneesa passed their love blood test, so all they need now is her father's blessing. But the path to true love is never simple.







# Earth Day Screenings

Planet Earth II: Islands and Mountains

To celebrate Earth Day 2018, DFI worked in collaboration with Aspire and brought out another instalment of our ever-popular ‘Cinema Under the Stars’ series focused on our planet.

## Planet Earth II: Islands and Mountains

Narrated By David Attenborough  
19 -20 April

The second edition of the critically acclaimed wildlife documentary series with David Attenborough begins with a look at the remote islands which offer sanctuary to some of the planet’s rarest creatures. In the second episode of the evening, we take a unique and intimate glimpse into secretive lives of mountain-dwelling animals.

# Thematic Series Fathers Through the Lens

April 26-29

DFI was delighted to present ‘Fathers Through the Lens’, a selection of acclaimed films from around the world that celebrate paternal relationships through cinema.

## Wajib

By Annemarie Jacir  
26 April

Shadi returns to his hometown to help his father hand-deliver his sister’s wedding invitations. As the two men drive around Nazareth, Abu-Shadi tries to connect with his son. Drily humorous, ‘Wajib’ takes place over the course of one day as these two men travel from house to house beginning a new relationship, while trying to deal with old tensions.The screening was followed by a Q&A session with the filmmakers Annemarie Jacir: Director, Ossama Bawardi: Producer & Mohammad Bakri: Actor

## Le Grand Voyage

By Ismaël Ferroukhi  
27 April

A few weeks before his college entrance exams, Reda, a young man who lives in the south of France, finds himself forced to drive his father to Mecca. From the start, the journey looks to be difficult as Reda and his father have nothing in common. How can they create a relationship when communication is impossible?

## Fantastic Mr. Fox

By Wes Anderson  
28 April

Based on the beloved book by Roald Dahl, this is the story of Mr. and Mrs. Fox who live an idyllic home life with their son Ash and visiting young nephew Kristopherson. But after 12 years, the bucolic existence proves too much for Mr. Fox’s wild animal instincts.

## Like Father, Like Son

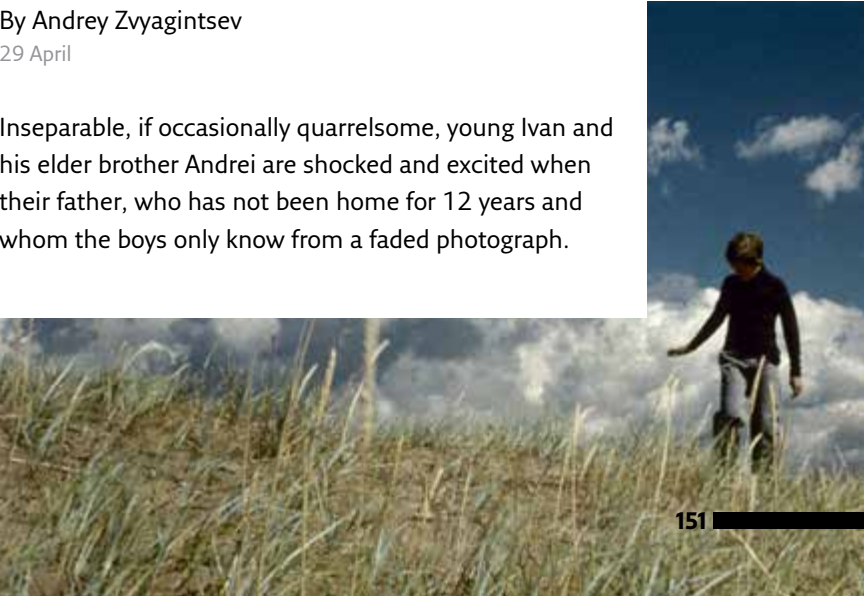
By Hirokazu Kore-Eda  
28 April

Ryota, an architect, has worked tirelessly to obtain a perfect life. But when he and his wife discover that the son they have raised for six years is not biologically theirs, Ryota finds himself faced with a difficult choice: nature or nurture? This deeply affecting story of a man who must finally come to terms with himself took the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival in 2013.

## The Return

By Andrey Zvyagintsev  
29 April

Inseparable, if occasionally quarrelsome, young Ivan and his elder brother Andrei are shocked and excited when their father, who has not been home for 12 years and whom the boys only know from a faded photograph.





SEPTEMBER 19-22

Cinematographers are visionaries who manipulate light to make their imaginations a reality. The true masters produce iconic images that can redefine cinema. 'Magicians of the Light' was a series of five such films that showcase iconic works from cinematic mavericks who pushed the boundaries of the medium, leaving their legacy on cinematic history.

# Magicians of the Light

## Life of Pi

By Ang Lee

19 September

After deciding to sell their zoo in India and move to Canada, Santosh and Gita Patel board a freighter with their sons and a few remaining animals. Tragedy strikes when a terrible storm sinks the ship, leaving the Patels' teenage son, Pi, as the only human survivor. However, Pi is not alone; a fearsome Bengal tiger has also found refuge aboard the lifeboat.

## Sansho the Bailiff

By Kenji Mizoguchi

20 September

A film of unparalleled beauty by the great Japanese Master Kenji Mizoguchi. While on a journey to visit their father, a banished governor, Zushio and Anju are attacked, separated from their mother, and sold as slaves to an estate managed by the brutal Sansho. The children grow up as slaves on the estate, but when Anju hears a newly acquired slave singing song that mentions their names, they realise their mother may still be alive and make plans to find her.



## The Seventh Seal

Ingmar Bergman

21 September

When disillusioned Swedish knight Antonius Block returns home from the Crusades to find his country in the grips of the Black Death, he challenges Death to a chess match for his life. Block sets off on a journey, determined to evade Death long enough to commit one redemptive act while he still lives.

## Days of Heaven

By Terrence Malick

21 September

Visually and thematically, one of the most beautiful films ever made. 'Days of Heaven' is a screen poem about life in America at the turn of the century. A story of love and murder told through the voice of a child and expressive images of nature, it tells the tale of a steelworker as he flees Chicago after a fight with his boss; taking his little sister and girlfriend with him.

## Road to Perdition

By Sam Mendes

22 September

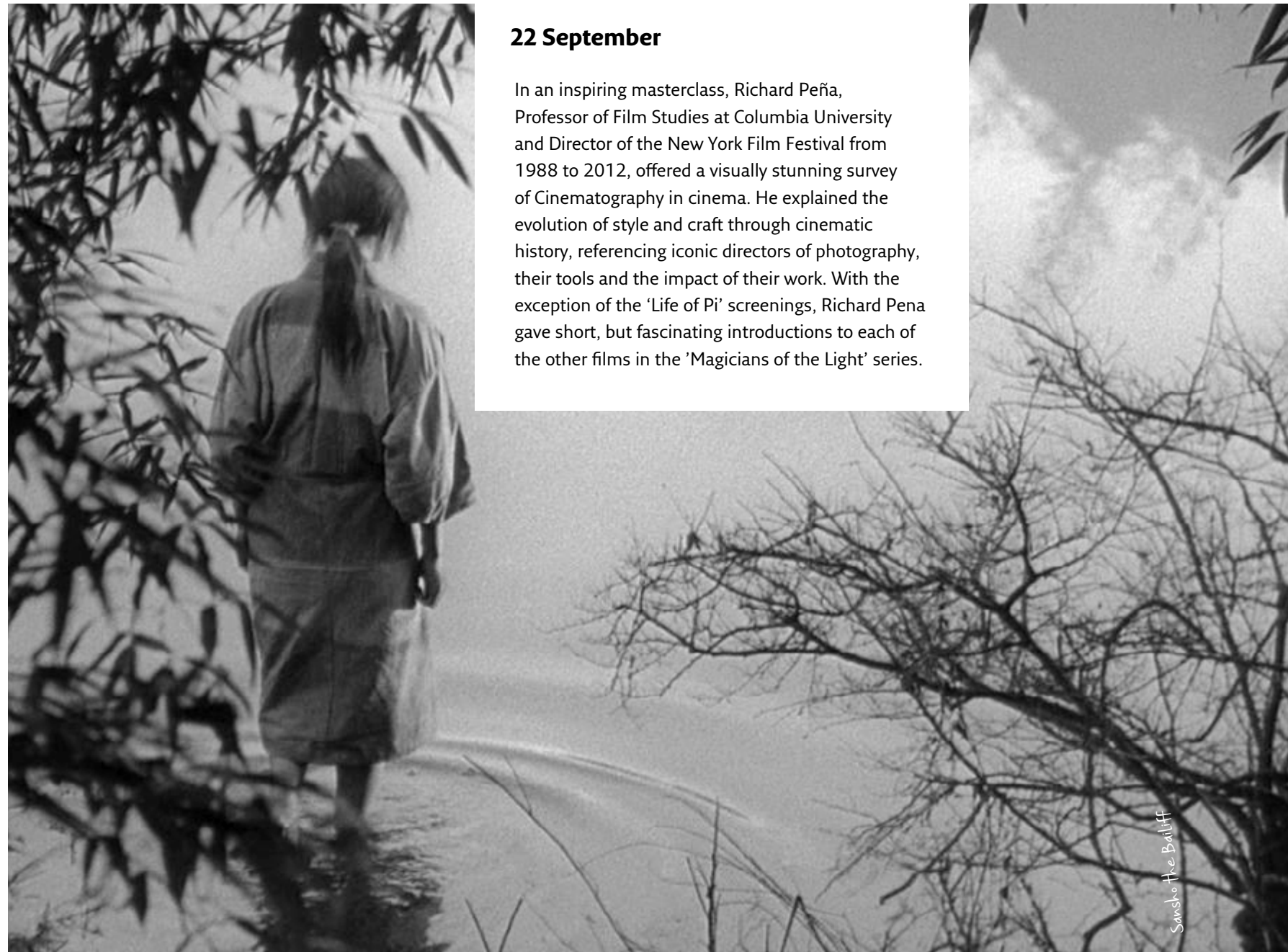
Mike Sullivan is an enforcer for powerful Depression-era Midwestern mobster John Rooney. Rooney's son, Connor, is jealous of the close bond they share, and when Mike's eldest son, Michael, witnesses a hit, Connor uses the incident as an excuse to murder Sullivan's wife and youngest son. Forced to flee, Sullivan and Michael set out on a journey of revenge and self-discovery.

# Special Event

## Masterclass with Richard Peña

### 22 September

In an inspiring masterclass, Richard Peña, Professor of Film Studies at Columbia University and Director of the New York Film Festival from 1988 to 2012, offered a visually stunning survey of Cinematography in cinema. He explained the evolution of style and craft through cinematic history, referencing iconic directors of photography, their tools and the impact of their work. With the exception of the 'Life of Pi' screenings, Richard Pena gave short, but fascinating introductions to each of the other films in the 'Magicians of the Light' series.





# Year of Culture Russian Film Showcase

**In celebration of Year of Culture Qatar – Russia 2018, the DFI and Qatar Museums were proud to present a curated film collection titled the 'Russian Film Showcase'. The film programme highlighted a selection of the most prominent masterpieces and classics of Soviet Union and Russian Cinema.**

## Battleship Potemkin

By Sergei Eisenstein

9 October

In the midst of the Russian Revolution of 1905, the crew of the battleship Potemkin mutiny against the brutal, tyrannical regime of the vessel's officers. The resulting street demonstration in Odessa brings on a police massacre. A technical masterpiece, 'Battleship Potemkin' is Soviet cinema at its finest, and its montage editing techniques remain influential to this day.



## Alexander Nevsky

By Sergei Eisenstein, Dmitri Vasilyev

9 October

When German knights invade Russia, Prince Alexander Nevsky must rally his people to resist the formidable force. After the Teutonic soldiers take over an eastern Russian city, Alexander stages his stand at Novgorod, where a major battle is fought on the ice of frozen Lake Chudskoe in an epic combination of image and sound.

## The Cranes are Flying

By Mikhail Kalatozov

16 October

Based on a play by V. Rusov, this film is a love story set during the early years of WWII. Widowed by the war, Tatyana Samoylova reluctantly marries her late husband's cousin, hoping that he'll be a surrogate for her fallen spouse. Incredible visuals transform this melodrama into a confident and polished film packing an impressive amount of visual and emotional material.

## Mirror

By Andrei Tarkovsky

30 October

Andrei Tarkovsky's 'Mirror', generally considered one of cinema's masterworks, is an ethereal pastiche of significant moments in the life of a dying poet.

The film jumps among three discrete time periods, when Alexei, the film's narrator, is a child in the mid-1930s, an adolescent during World War II, and very ill in his forties.

## My Friend Ivan Lapshin

By Aleksei German

6 November

As a police detective in Stalinist Russia, Ivan Lapshin lives a life of extremes. At home in the communal flat he shares with other families, he is a kind, genial presence. But in his work life, he is unimaginably cruel and brutal to those individuals the state wants rounded up. His latest case involves tracking down a gang that trades in human meat.

## Come and See

By Elem Klimov

13 November

The invasion of a village in Byelorussia by German forces sends young Florya into the forest to join the weary Resistance fighters, against his family's wishes. On returning home, he finds his family and fellow peasants massacred. His continued survival amidst the brutal debris of war becomes increasingly nightmarish, a battle between despair and hope told through a sort of unreal realism that seeks to get at events terrible beyond comprehension.



# Discover America Festival 2018

**In partnership with the US Embassy in Qatar, DFI presented another 'Cinema Under the Stars' series, as part of the Discover America Festival 2018.**

## Planes

By Klay Hall

1 November

Dusty Crophopper is a little plane with a fear of heights and a crazy dream of being a racer. To achieve his goal, Dusty turns to naval aviator Skipper, who helps Dusty qualify to take on Ripslinger.

## Pixar Shorts: Volume 1

By John Lasseter

2 November

Discover these short masterpieces of storytelling from the creative minds that brought you 'Toy Story', 'Monsters', and 'Finding Nemo'. With revolutionary animation, unforgettable music and characters you love, these dazzling short films have changed the face of animation and entertainment and are sure to delight people of all ages.

## Toy Story

By John Lasseter

3 November

Woody, a cowboy doll, is Andy's favourite toy. But when Buzz Lightyear arrives the space hero takes Andy's room by storm! Their rivalry leaves them lost and in a nightmare with Sid, a toy-torturing boy next door. To escape they need to work together in this classic that launched a franchise.

## Chicken Little

By Mark Dindal

4 November

Young Chicken Little throws his small town into panic by claiming the sky is falling. Unable to find the piece of "sky" that hit him, he earns the town's scorn. A year later, he is hit on the head again and discovers that the "falling sky" is actually from a UFO. Now, Little must convince the sceptical town that an alien invasion is about to happen.



# Made in Qatar

## Short Film Programme



passport



Smicha

8 November

**The Noble Tree**  
By Ghassan Kairouz, Pascale Abou Jamra

'The Noble Tree' is a lovely parable that warns of the foolishness of isolationism and bullying.

**Smicha**  
By Amal Al-Muftah

'Smicha' shows that love is not found in blurry details, but in a powerful bond that never fades.

**The Palm Tree**  
By Jassim Al-Rumaihi

'The Palm Tree' is an observational documentary that shows us how unnatural nature can be, and unearths the science fiction in reality.

**Voices from the Urbanscape**  
By Shaima Al-Tamimi & Mariam Salim

'Voices from the Urbanscape' is an apt reflection of a burgeoning 21st-century city with a mission, and a tribute to its multicultural success.

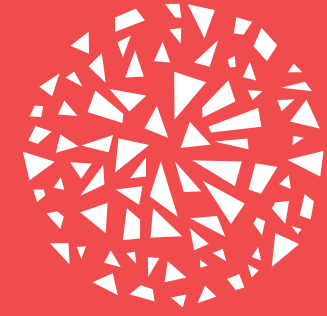
**Passport**  
By Dana Almeer

Reem and Mahmoud have faced all kinds of obstacles in their lives together – they want to go to America, but circumstances keep getting in the way in this fast-paced and very funny short.

**Al-Johara**  
By Nora Al-Subai

By re-imagining a familiar fairy tale in a very contemporary fashion, Nora Al-Subai creates a Qatari romance for the ages.





أجيال

مهرجان أجيال السينمائي  
Ajyal Film Festival

# AJYAL



The Ajyal Film Festival is a celebration of film, launched especially to empower the region's youth and to inspire film enthusiasts of all ages in Qatar and the region.

For six exciting days each year, Ajyal welcomes people of all ages and gives them an opportunity to immerse themselves in the magical world of film, arts, and entertainment. Through a finely tuned blend of thought-provoking documentaries, captivating drama, light-hearted comedy and live performances, Ajyal celebrates the power of art and storytelling, inspiring engagement and appreciation of cinema.



For six consecutive editions, Ajyal has built bridges, bringing generations together through activities and events designed to inspire creative interaction among the various sectors of the regional community.

## 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.

# The Six-Day Festival

The festival points to the power of cinematic voices to help transform minds, people and communities, using films from around the world to inspire cultural dialogue among audiences.



The sixth edition of Ajyal Film Festival presented a compelling slate of 81 films from 36 countries that expressed the power of storytelling to transform minds, and inspired audiences and stimulated discussions about real and relevant issues that affect them. Drawn from around the world, these films screened at Ajyal continued to showcase the work of writers and directors of all backgrounds and stages of their careers.

As in previous years, in 2018 the Ajyal Film Festival continued to maintain its ability to bring the entire community together and is designed to empower the region's youth and foster their creativity, through the medium of film.



# Ajyal at a Glance





# Ajyal 2018 - From Pre-festival Events to Kick-Off



## 12th November Pre-Ajyal Press Conference



Held at Al Jazeera Media Café, the Press Conference delivered important festival-related announcements to local press and media.

## 14th - 16th November Ajyal Jury Orientation

Held for Jurors' and their families, the orientation informed jurors of their responsibilities as film critics and shared the overall schedule and requirements as a member of the Ajyal Jury.

## 15th - 17th November Volunteer Orientation

The orientation educated volunteers on the structure of Ajyal, the programme, and generated excitement about the festival.

## 21st November Ambassador's Reception

The reception held under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Thani bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani reached out to the diplomatic community, securing support and engagement.

## 27th November Ajyal Jury Opening Ceremony



The ceremony welcomed all jury members and officially kicked off the programme.





# Ajyal's Jury Programme - an On-Going Success

"The leaders of the world should come and see the formation of a new civilisation, a new culture, and that culture and civilisation is being created by children from more than 50 or 60 countries in this place; the whole world should learn from you my dear children. The soul of globalisation is shrinking, but Ajyal is an effort to revive that soul of globalisation and a shared world."

Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Laureate

## Success in Numbers

With Ajyal's impact and reach expanding each year, in 2018 the Jury Programme boasted over 580 registered jurors. Ajyal's Jury Programme this year included jurors from over 50 countries, including 22 international jurors that were given this once in a lifetime opportunity.

## Successfully Structured

In 2018 we continued to ensure that each juror group's program was specially curated with their age group in mind. The youngest Mohaq jurors dived into the world of storytelling and puppetry, Hilal jurors learned the skills of documentary filmmaking, and the young adults in Bader explored the history of cinematography.

## Successfully Building Capacities in Youth

Being an Ajyal Juror is a highly-creative learning experience that instils an appreciation of cinema as well as the values of teamwork, critical thinking and leadership. As jurors, in 2018 the youth did not only watch and discuss the films but also discovered cinema from a fresh perspective and had the opportunity to make lasting friendships with young people from across the world.





Getting to know

# Ajyal's 2018 Jury

**Ajyal's Jury convened in 2018 with 586 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.**

Ajyal 2018 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.

This year we continued to give Ajyal Jurors, the opportunity to view films not just from the perspective of entertainment but also as a medium that can bring about positive social change. Categorized into our three competition segments, our jurors not only judged films but also attended workshops, panels and discussions, centred around the power of film.



## Meet Our Juror Groups

### MOHAQ

Ages 8 to 12

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

### HILAL

Ages 13 to 17

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

### BADER

Ages 18 to 21

As the young adults of the festival, Bader enjoyed a full schedule including one programme of shorts, five feature films, two workshops, one Ajyal Talks, four 'Meet the Talent' sessions and one 'Meet the Filmmakers' session.



Friendship





**My daughter, ever since her first visit to the second edition of Ajyal, she became obsessed with filmmaking. She's an example of the many youth in Qatar who are inspired by this festival.**

**H.E. Issa bin Mohammed Al Mohannadi**

Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, Managing Director Barwa Real Estate



**I hope that this craft and this festival will grow with DFI to reveal more young Qatari talent, whether they're locals or residents, as part of this wonderful initiative.**

**Saad Burshaid**

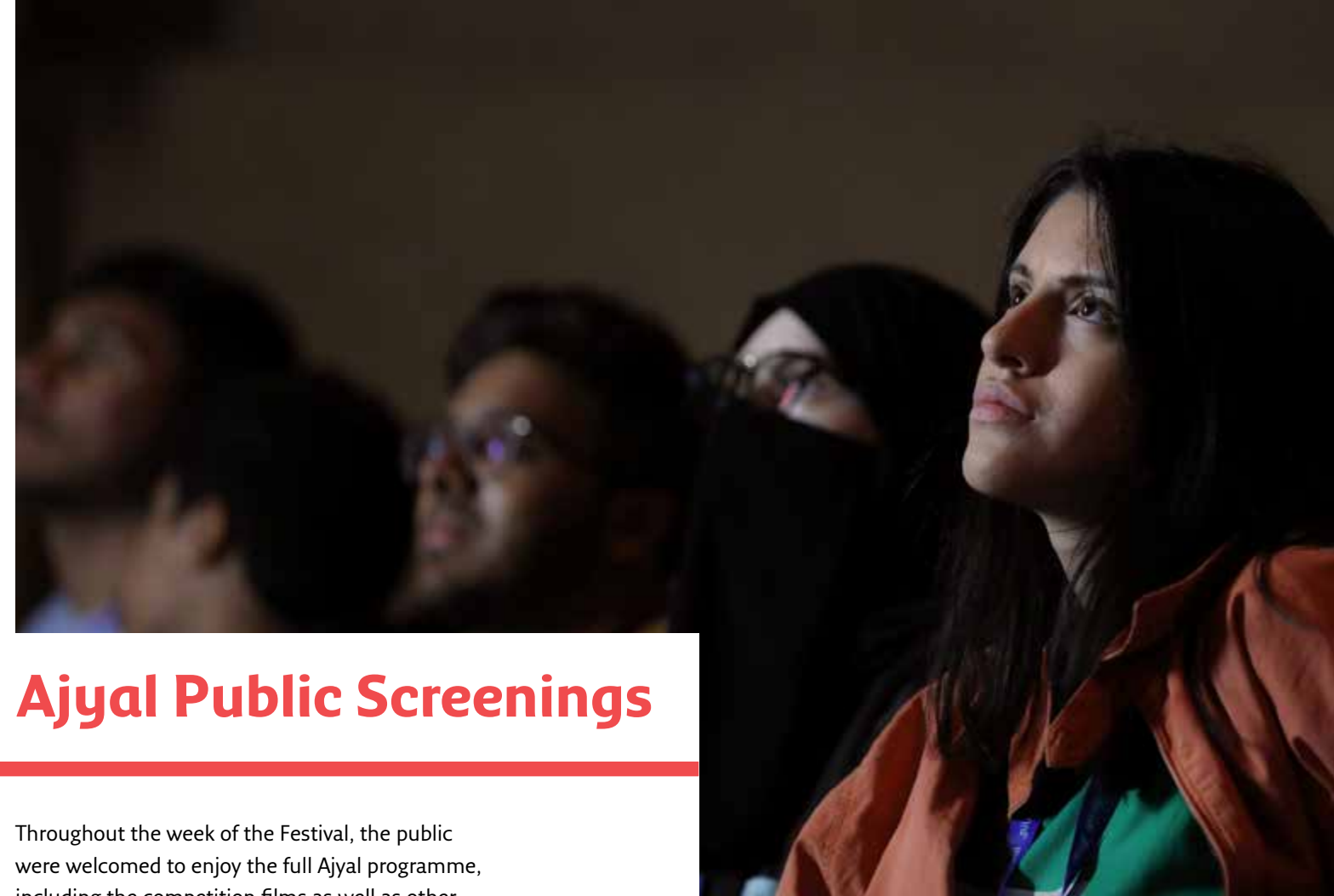
Actor





# Ajyal Film Programme

**The Ajyal Film Festival format has proven to be a highly successful cultural showcase for local and world cinema. Over the six days of the festival, Ajyal's film programme screened some of the best in international family-friendly cinema, bringing filmgoers of all ages together to absorb and appreciate an inspirational experience.**



## Ajyal Public Screenings

Throughout the week of the Festival, the public were welcomed to enjoy the full Ajyal programme, including the competition films as well as other special screenings. For the first time ever, this year Ajyal extended its footprint to Novo Cinemas - The Pearl, with the Ajyal programme being screened there throughout the whole week of the Festival.

## Ajyal School Screenings

As part of the 2018 programme Ajyal hosted three days of school screenings. Primary, preparatory and high school level students enjoyed a unique programme of short films followed by discussions with filmmakers, enabling students to gain valuable experience as well as providing them with unforgettable learning opportunities. By attending these screenings, students expanded their cultural awareness and their knowledge of local and regional history. The film programme also allowed students to understand and appreciate social responsibility and social consciousness.

**51** Schools

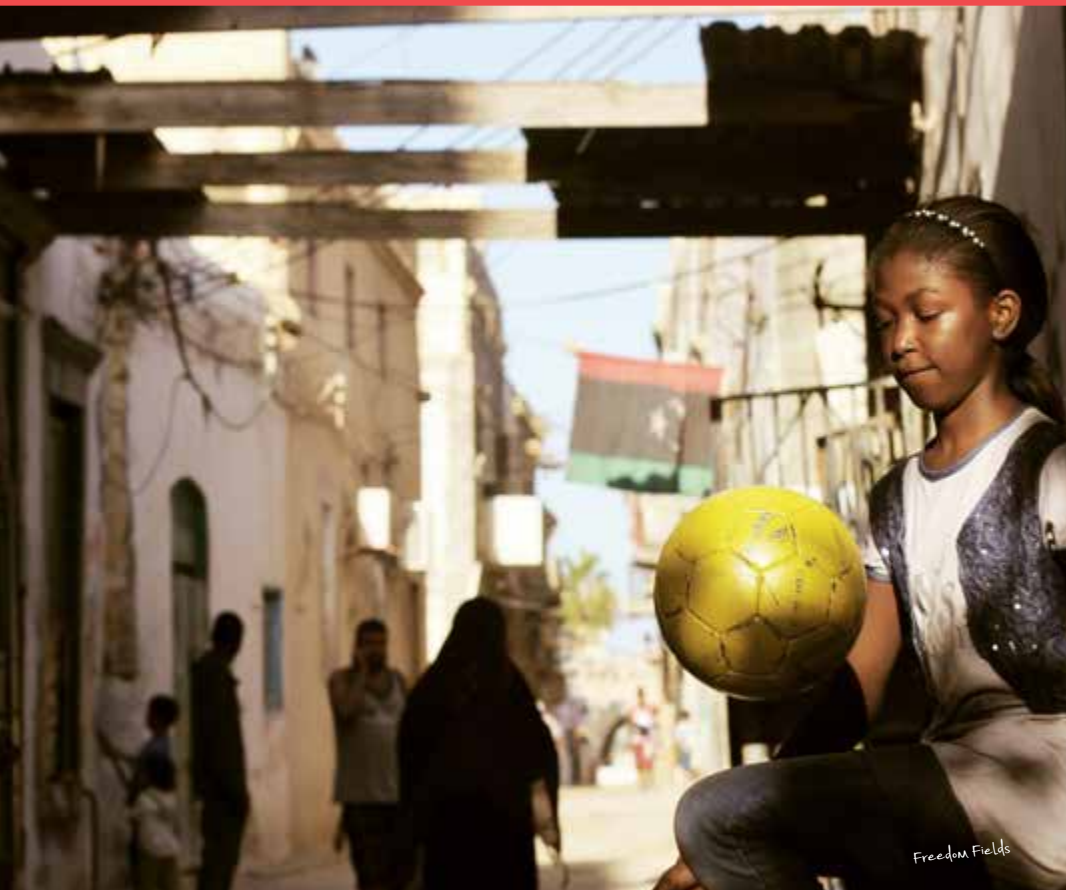
**1483** Students

**3** Days of Screenings



# Feature Films

2018's screenings schedule included the Ajyal Competition films as well as public screenings of family-friendly short and feature-length films, spanning the genres of fiction, documentaries, animated films and our popular Made in Qatar Series.



**Nominated for Best Documentary Award at the Stockholm Film Festival 2018**

## Freedom Fields

**A Doha Film Institute Supported Film**

Director: Naziha Arebi  
Libya, UK, Netherlands, USA, Qatar, Lebanon, Canada | Arabic, English | 2018 | 97 mins

At the new dawn of a nation once cut off from the world, a dynamic group of women from fractured sides of the revolution come together to play football. 'Freedom Fields' is a story about hope and sacrifice in a land where dreams seem a luxury. Filmed over five years, it follows three brave women and their efforts to build a team in post-revolution Libya, as the country descends into civil war.



**Co-Winner of a Best Screenplay Award at Cannes Film Festival 2018**

## 3 Faces

Director: Jafar Panahi  
Iran | Farsi, Azerbaijani | 2018 | 100 mins

Well-known actress Behnaz Jafari is distraught when she comes across a provincial girl's plea for help after her family prevents her from studying drama in Tehran. Abandoning her shoot, Behnaz turns to filmmaker Jafar Panahi to help with the young girl's problem. Together, they travel to the rural Northwest, where they encounter the endearing and generous folk of the girl's mountain village. But Behnaz and Jafar soon discover that old traditions die hard.

**Winner of the Jury Prize at Cannes Film Festival 2018**

## Capernaum

**A Doha Film Institute Supported Film**

Director: Nadine Labaki  
Lebanon | Arabic, Amharic | 2018 | 123 mins

'Capernaum' retraces the journey of 12-year-old Zain, who decides to sue his parents for having brought him into this world when they clearly can't give him the care he so desperately needs. Void of even a minimal level of security and affection, Zain is forced into such drastic action in order to protect himself and his young sister. A resonating tale of a child who is punished for crimes he did not commit by a system that never gave him a chance.



**Winner of the Amnesty International Film Prize at Berlin International Film Festival 2018**

## Central Airport THF

Director: Karim Aïnouz  
Germany, France, Brazil | Arabic, German, English, Russian | 2017 | 97 mins

Berlin's historic Tempelhof Airport remains a place of arrivals and departures. Today its massive hangars are used as one of Germany's largest emergency shelters for asylum seekers, like 18-year-old Syrian student Ibrahim and Iraqi physiotherapist Qutaiba. As they adjust to a transitory daily life of social services interviews, German lessons and medical exams, they try to cope with homesickness and the anxiety of whether they will gain residency or be deported.



**Special Mention Biznaga de Plata Audience Award at the Málaga Film Festival 2018**

## Hayati

Director: Sofi Escudé, Liliana Torres  
Spain, France | Arabic | 2018 | 85 mins

**Nominated for 3 Independent Spirit Awards for Best Feature, Best Director, and Best Supporting Actress.**

## Leave No Trace

Director: Debra Granik  
USA | English | 2018 | 109 mins



**Nominated for Best Documentary Feature Award at Tribeca Film Festival 2018**

## The Man Who Stole Banksy

Director: Marco Proserpio

UK, Italy, Qatar | Arabic, English, French | 2018 | 90 mins

In 2007, anonymous street artist and activist Banksy painted a number of politically divisive artworks in Palestine. Some local residents viewed one piece in particular as an insult as they believed it portrayed them in a culturally insensitive way. Others hailed it as high art and flocked to see it. One local taxi driver and bodybuilder known as ‘Walid the Beast’ saw a business opportunity...

**Winner of the Bavarian Film Award for Best Animated Film 2015**

## Maya the Bee

Director: Alexs Stadermann

Australia, Germany | English | 2014 | 88 mins

**Nominated for Best Animated Feature at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards 2018**

## Mirai

Director: Mamoru Hosoda

Japan | Japanese | 2018 | 98 mins

Mirai is a beautiful and emotionally soaring adventure about the ties that bring families together and make us who we are. The film follows Kun, a four-year-old boy who is struggling to cope with no longer being the centre of attention following the arrival of a little sister. Through a series of time-travelling adventures, Kun learns to change his perspective on his family and become the big brother he was meant to be.



## Next Door Spy

Director: Karla von Bengtson

Denmark | English | 2017 | 77 mins

**Nominated for Orizzonti Award for Best Film at Venice Film Festival 2018**

## The Night I Swam

Director: Damien Manivel, Kohei Igarashi

France, Japan | No Dialogue | 2017 | 78 mins

**Winner of the Tokyo Anime Award and the Grand Prize at the Taipei Film Festival 2018**

## On Happiness Road

Director: Hsin-Yin Sung

Taiwan | Min Nan, Mandarin, English | 2017 | 111 mins

**Winner of the U.S. Documentary Grand Jury Prize at Sundance Film Festival 2018**

## The Price of Free

Director: Derek Doneen

USA | Hindi, English | 2018 | 90 mins

‘The Price of Free’ follows the work of Nobel Peace Prize winner, and longtime crusader against child labour and slavery - Kailash Satyarthi. Taking the viewer inside the hidden factories of India, it tells the story of children forced into slave labour due to rising global demands for cheap goods. Hidden camera footage is intertwined with beautifully animated sequences from Jason Carpenter to give us a truly personal look at some of the most tragic stories of Kailash’s ‘Bachpan Bachao Andolan’ (Save the Childhood Movement).

**Winner of a Critics Award at Hamburg Film Festival 2018**

## Our Struggles

Director: Guillaume Senez

Belgium, France | French | 2018 | 98 mins

Oliver is a fundamentally decent man who is more than happy to shoulder the weight of other people’s problems. His wife Laura, without warning, leaves Oliver and her children one day. Laura’s abandonment and the unhappiness of his colleagues at work, make it evident to even Oliver that he cannot fix the world’s problems. Juggling the daily challenges of being a single parent and his job, Oliver finds new meaning in his life with the help of his kids.

**Nominated for Best Film at World Cinema Amsterdam 2018**

## Weldi

Director: Mohamed Ben Attia

Tunisia, France, Belgium, Qatar | Arabic | 2018 | 104 mins

**Winner of the DGC Special Jury Prize for a Canadian Feature Documentary at Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival 2018**

## What Walaa Wants

Director: Christy Garland

Canada, Denmark | Arabic | 2018 | 89 mins

Raised in a refugee camp in the West Bank, while her mother was in prison, Walaa is determined to become one of the few women in the Palestinian Security Forces...not easy for a girl who has her own way of doing things. Following Walaa from 15-21, ‘What Walaa Wants’ is the compelling story of a defiant young girl as she fights tenaciously to achieve her dream and find her own place in the world.

**Winner of the Gryphon Award at Giffoni Film Festival 2018**

## Zoo

Director: Colin Mclvor

Ireland, UK | English | 2017 | 96 mins



**Winner of a Crystal Bear at the Special Mention (Generation Kplus) at Berlin International Film Festival 2018**

## Supa Modo

Director: Likarion Wainaina

Kenya, Germany | English, Kikuyu, Swahili | 2018 | 74 mins

Jo, a nine-year-old girl, is diagnosed with a terminal illness, so her mother decides to bring her home to live out the remainder of her life. Obsessed with superhero films, the walls of her bedroom are adorned with posters that inspire her to continue fighting. When Jo’s sister can no longer bear seeing her confined to bed, together with the village they decide to make the little girl’s dreams come true and turn Jo into a real-life superhero.



# Ajyal Film Programme in Numbers

- 81 Total Number of Titles
- 23 Feature-length Films
- 58 Short Films
- 36 Countries Represented

## Screenings & Events

- 48 Public Screenings
- 1 Opening Night Ceremony Gala
- 4 Red Carpet Screenings
- 3 Outdoor Screenings
- 7 School Screenings
- 16 Ajyal Competition Jury Screenings
- 1 Made in Qatar Jury Screening
- 3 Press and Industry Screenings
- 1 Ajyal Jury Opening Ceremony
- 2 Ajyal Talks
- 1 Ajyal Competition Jury Awards Ceremony
- 1 Closing Night Ceremony





# Made in Qatar

DFI takes great pride in not just fostering but showcasing the talent of local filmmakers. The Made in Qatar Programme screens films of Qatari filmmakers and films made by those who call Qatar home.

In 2018 at Ajyal, we were once again delighted to celebrate the thriving state of filmmaking at home with our annual programme of local productions made right here in Qatar. All of the films presented in our two programmes made their world premieres and included narratives, thought-provoking documentaries and reflective essays. These films are made independently or with the support of our workshops and funding programmes.

## Made in Qatar Programme 1

### Sh'hab

#### A DOHA FILM INSTITUTE SUPPORTED FILM

Upon hearing a myth about falling stars, a young girl's curiosity is sparked. When night falls, she sets out in her father's boat to find some.

Director: Amal Al-Muftah  
Qatar | Arabic | 2018 | 13 mins

### Millennials

This short documentary is about six people from the "millennials" generation. While they may come from different backgrounds, they share the same digital experiences.

Director: Aisha Al-Shammakh  
Qatar | Arabic | 2017 | 16 mins

### I Am Not My Father

#### A DOHA FILM INSTITUTE SUPPORTED FILM

An exploration into the power of dreams and how close family relationships and a sense of bonding are essential to happiness.

Director: Naif Hassan Al-Malki  
Qatar | Arabic | 2018 | 13 minss

### One in 50 Million

Suffering from an extremely rare condition, Nawaal Akram does not let it prevent her from living a full life as a cosplayer, comedian and disability rights activist.

Director: Luciana Ceccatto Farah  
Qatar | Arabic | 2017 | 16 mins

### Al Gawasa

An inspirational portrait of the young men who are once again taking to the sea and rediscovering the proud Qatari tradition of pearl diving.

Directors: Sheikha Bahzad, Maryam Al-Thani  
Qatar | Arabic | 2018 | 6 mins

### Voyager

'Voyager' is a visually breath-taking film that follows Qatari adventurer, Khalid AlJaber, as he travels across Europe on his motorcycle.

Director: Khalifa AlMarri  
Qatar | Arabic | 2018 | 19 minss

### A Moment with the Wind

A documentary that follows a kite surfer who pursued his dreams of freedom and reconnecting with nature, to make his passion a lifelong vocation.

Director: Ibrahim Nashat  
Qatar | Arabic, English | 2018 | 13 mins

### Gubgub

#### A DOHA FILM INSTITUTE SUPPORTED FILM

An adventurous young girl goes crab-hunting with her family. Discouraged when her father undervalues her accomplishments compared to her brother's, she sets out to win his approval.

Director: Nouf Al Sulaiti  
Qatar | Arabic | 2018 | 9 mins



## Made in Qatar Programme 2

### Amphitheater

#### A DOHA FILM INSTITUTE SUPPORTED FILM

Sarah, a professional Qatari photographer, visits Katara and happens upon a rebellious young girl and her family. Fascinated by the girl's defiant behaviour, she begins to follow them.

Director: Mahdi Ali Ali  
Qatar | No Dialogue | 2018 | 16 mins

### Where Are You Right Meow?

A young artist, Ayako, struggles with creative block. Suddenly, her beloved cat Beru goes missing, and she must search for him around her neighbourhood.

Director: Maysam Al-Ani  
Qatar | No Dialogue | 2018 | 6 mins

### Nasser Goes to Space

#### A DOHA FILM INSTITUTE SUPPORTED FILM

Nasser is a highly creative seven-year-old boy who copes with his parents' divorce by escaping to a magical place he has created in his mind.

Director: Mohamed Al Mahmeed  
Qatar | Arabic | 2018 | 10 mins



### Unrestrained

A high-octane documentary that follows the exhilarating, yet dangerous sport of dune bashing. So fasten your seatbelt as we take a trip deep into the Qatari desert.

Director: Houssam Laabar  
Qatar | Arabic | 2018 | 9 mins

### The Bleaching Syndrome

A heartfelt and personal look into the troubling industry of skin lightening cosmetic products, and why some people feel social pressure to use them.

Director: Eiman Mirghani  
Qatar | Arabic, English | 2018 | 20 mins

### Samha

The film documents the journey of a camel named 'Samha' as they are entered into the Mzayn Al Ebil competition, an annual tournament held in Qatar.

Director: Ruqiya Khudai Noor, Noor Fawzi Al-Asswad  
Qatar | Arabic | 2018 | 14 mins

### The Reason, July 2017

An artist takes a day trip that inspires her to draw. Her intricate illustrations flow and merge with memories from back home in Egypt and Qatar.

Director: Hadeer Omar  
Qatar | No Dialogue | 2017 | 4 mins

### Just Another Memory

An exploration of what it feels like to be displaced by war; torn between being 'safe' and 'away' with the emotional burden that entails.

Director: Mariam Al-Dhubhani  
Qatar | Arabic, English | 2018 | 14 mins



**I think that the future of Qatari films depends on the filmmakers themselves and what we plant in the ground here.**

**Aisha Al Jaidah**  
Qatari filmmaker



**Made in Qatar means a lot to the filmmakers on the ground here in Doha because it offers a platform for us to share our work with the community and see how our work is received, to speak to people about art, film and social issues that are highlighted in certain films. To me Made in Qatar is a wonderful platform to share our work and to be received by the community with open arms which is definitely a nourishing and uplifting experience.**

**Hamida Issa**  
Qatari filmmaker



# This Year at Made in Qatar

1 Animation Film

1 Experimental Film

5 Narrative Films

9 Documentary Films





# MENA Premieres at Ajyal

8 MENA Premieres



## Made in Russia

As part of Qatar-Russia Year of Culture, Ajyal 2018 presented a selection of contemporary short films from up-and-coming Russian film directors, specially curated by film expert Alexie Medvedev, to provide audiences with a fascinating insight into the country's filmmaking trends, culture and people.



### The Hymns of Muscovy

An experimental telling of Moscow's history through architecture and music, the film is a trip to the planet Muscovy -an upside-down twin of the city.

Director: Dimitri Venkov  
Russia | No Dialogue | 2018 | 14 mins

### The Return of Erkin

Erkin gets out of prison and wants to return to his former life. But everything has changed, and he does not know if he can live as a free man.

Director: Maria Guskova  
Russia | Kyrgyz, Uzbek | 2015 | 28 mins

### Aquathlon

A timid young man learns to stand up for himself when faced with the oppression of an over-demanding swimming coach.

Director: Alexey Shabarov  
Russia | Russian | 2018 | 16 mins

### What a Pest

A forlorn old fisherman reflects on his life and loss, taking some comfort in his beautifully Arcadian but solitary surroundings.

Director: Svetlana Chernikova  
Russia | Russian | 2018 | 15 mins

### Hide and Seek

In this experimental exploration of mortality, a young boy happens upon a graveyard while he is burying his beloved pet.

Director: Anastasiia Ostapenko  
Russia | Russian | 2018 | 16 mins

### The First Thunder

A beautifully illustrated musical fantasy about mischievous little water drops and the awakening of mother nature from her winter hibernation.

Director: Anastasia Melikhova  
Russia | No Dialogue | 2017 | 5 mins





### Sparrows Are Baby Pigeons

On a cold and snowy day, a child walks by a playful family of birds, which brings colour and joy into his life.

Director: Nina Bisyrina  
Russia | 2015 | 5 mins

### Imago

A young boy remembers his father who was a pilot.

Director: Cédric Babouche  
France, Belgium | 2005 | 12 mins

### Perché

On a sunny day, a father and his daughter walk in a field and plant a tiny sprout, which grows into a tree as the little girl grows up too.

Director: Raphaël Huchon  
France | 2011 | 4 mins

### Sunset Flower Blooming

While sitting in her garden surrounded by her grandchildren, an old woman remembers her youth in China.

Director: Yuanyuan Hu  
Japan | 2012 | 10 mins

### My Grandfather Was a Cherry Tree

A young boy visits his grandparents. Together they look at photographs, drawing the history of their family.

Director: Olga Poliektova, Tatiana Poliektova  
Russia | 2015 | 12 mins

# 'My Family Tree' Cine-Concert

Ajyal was delighted to once again welcome Forum des Images to present the Qatar premiere of their wonderful cine-concert - 'My Family Tree'. These five short films reveal what brings members of families together. It was a journey through generations filled with tenderness and emotion. The series was accompanied live by musicians Alexandre Korovitch, Romain Fleury, Paul Lepicard, Frédéric Marillier and Paul Manfrin.

# Inclusive Screening

In partnership with the Translation and Interpreting Institute of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Hamad bin Khalifa University, Ajyal was honoured once again to bring the magic of cinema to everyone through an inclusive screening experience.

Ajyal's visually impaired audiences were able to view the film through sound alone, with audio descriptions of those visual elements that cannot be understood through voice, music or sound effects. While our viewers at Ajyal who were deaf, hard-of-hearing or have difficulty understanding speech, we ensured that they benefitted from enriched subtitles in Arabic and English, as well as sign language interpretation.

By adapting films to the needs of audiences with different abilities, we were delighted to make cinema universally accessible. This year's inclusive screenings film was the suspenseful adventure drama 'Theeb', by British-Jordanian director Naji Abu Nowar, which was nominated in 2016 for an Academy Award in the Best Foreign Language Film category.

## Theeb

In 1916, in a Bedouin encampment in the Arabian desert, Theeb and his elder brother Hussein go about their daily lives. Meanwhile, the Arab Revolt is about to change life on the Arabian Peninsula forever. When a mysterious British soldier arrives at the camp, Theeb finds himself on a more significant journey than he ever could have imagined. Employing a cast of non-professional Bedouin actors, director Naji Abu Nowar creates an affecting coming-of-age story inflected with the epic scope of a classic Western.

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





# Sony Cinema Under the Stars

Ajyal 2018 hosted three fun-filled days of cinema, music and live performances at the Ajyal stage.

## 'My Family Tree' Cine-Concert by Forum des Images

Five short films that reveal what brings members of families together. The series was accompanied live by musicians and was enjoyed by film and music enthusiasts alike.

### The Gallant Little Tailor

An enchanting retelling of a Brothers Grimm classic about a clever little tailor who outwits too scary but silly giants.

Director: Lotte Reiniger  
UK | English | 1954 | 10 mins

### 'A Performance Desperately in Need of an Audience'

A captivating live performance by the Arab Puppet Theatre Foundation, this silent show employed humour, magic, and satire to convey the all too serious issue of migration and exile to younger audiences. By playfully bending the rules of traditional puppet theatre, props and stage burst to life to tell this touching and affecting parable.

### Journey to the Beginning of Time

A group of young boys rent a boat at an inner-city park and enter a small cave at the edge of the lake. When they come out the other side, they find themselves in a new world. Floating down the river each day, they travel progressively further back through history, encountering woolly mammoths, prehistoric rhinoceros, and dinosaurs.

Director: Karel Zeman  
The Czech Republic | Czech | 1955 | 93 min





This year at Ajjal we welcomed families to a screening of 'Maya the Bee' which took place in a red-carpet wonderland. Our little VIP guests walked through giant flowers, meeting the character Maya, and enjoying a collection of film-related props.



# Kids Red Carpet with Maya the Bee





# Bariq Short Film Programme

As believers in family-friendly entertainment, Ajyal 2018 continued its tradition of spreading a spirit of joy through this selection of charming shorts that will keep the whole family entertained.



## Flo

Director: Nora Marie Back  
Germany | No Dialogue | 2017 | 2 mins

## An Old Lady Stepped Outside for Some Bread and Pastry

Director: Anastasiya Jakulina  
Russia | No Dialogue | 2017 | 4 mins

## The Hunt

Director: Alexey Alekseev  
France | No Dialogue | 2017 | 6 mins

## Please Frog, Just One Sip

Director: Diek Grobler  
South Africa | English | 2017 | 10 mins

## Sabaku

Director: Marlies van der Wel  
Netherlands | No Dialogue | 2016 | 2 mins

## Where Are You Right Meow?

Director: Maysam Al-Ani  
Qatar | No Dialogue | 2018 | 6 mins

## Perché

Director: Raphaël Huchon  
France | 2011 | 4 mins

## Sunset Flower Blooming

Director: Yuanyuan Hu  
Japan | 2012 | 10 mins

## Sparrows Are Baby Pigeons

Director: Nina Bisyryna  
Russia | 2015 | 5 mins



## Radiance

Director: Chialing Yang  
USA | No Dialogue | 2017 | 3 mins

## As My Father Was

Director: Muslim Habeeb  
Iraq | Arabic | 2018 | 13 mins

## Drop by Drop

Director: Alexandra Ramires (Xá), Laura Gonçalves  
Portugal | Portuguese | 2017 | 10 mins

## Last Stop Is the Moon

Director: Birutė Sodeikaitė  
Poland, Lithuania | English | 2017 | 9 mins

## Bird Karma

Director: William Salazar  
USA | No Dialogue | 2018 | 5 mins

## Killing Hope

Director: Julia Retali, Natacha Grangeon  
France | French | 2017 | 18 mins

## Sirocco

Director: Romain Garcia, Kevin Tarpinian, Thomas Lopez-Massy, Avril Hug, Lauren Madec  
France | No Dialogue | 2016 | 5 mins

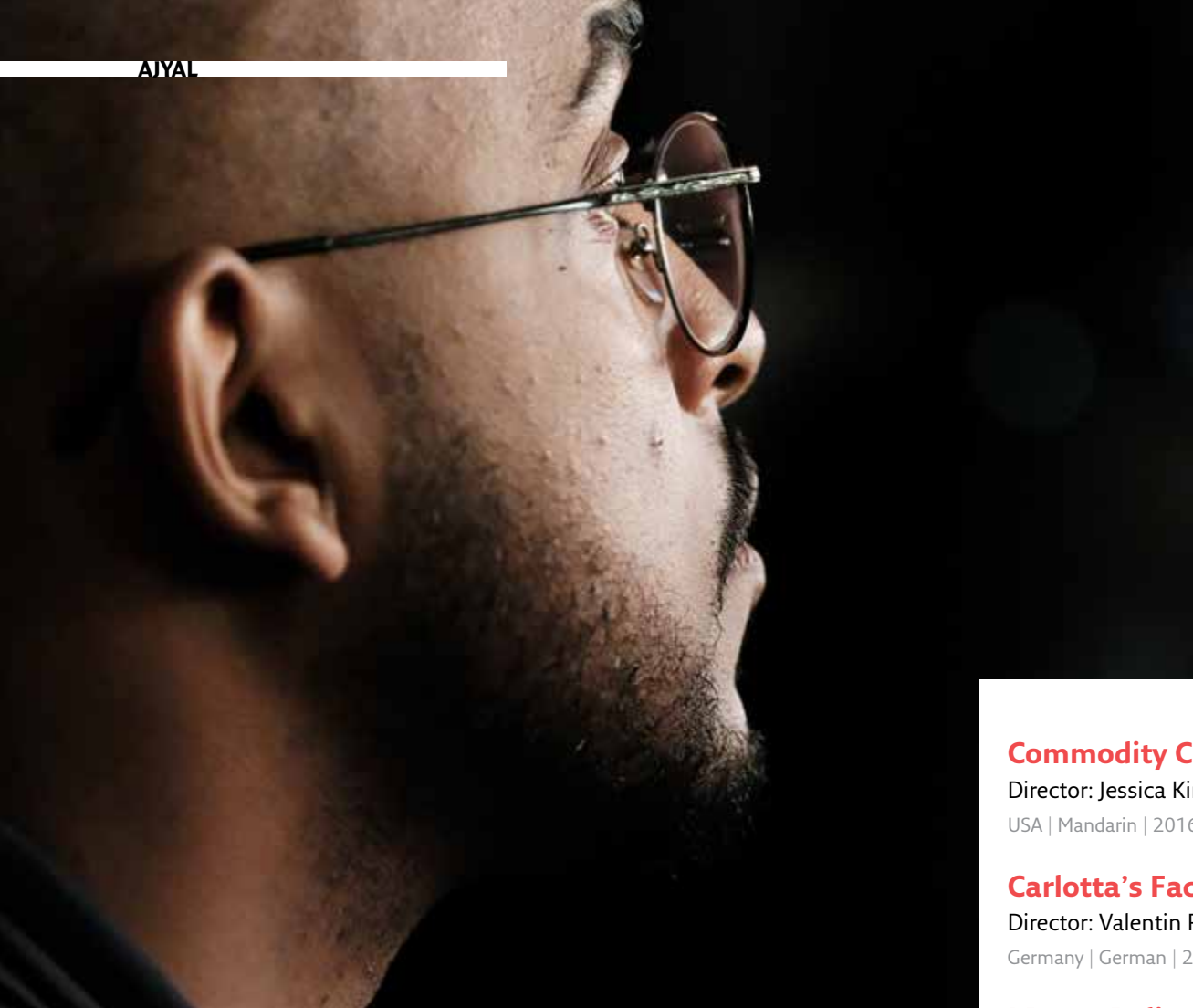
## Changyou's Journey

Director: Perry Chen  
USA | No Dialogue | 2017 | 6 mins

# Courage

This programme at Ajyal 2018 showcased a collection of short films which inspired everyone to stand strong, even when all the odds are stacked against you.





### **Commodity City**

Director: Jessica Kingdon

USA | Mandarin | 2016 | 11 mins

### **Carlotta's Face**

Director: Valentin Riedl, Frédéric Schuld

Germany | German | 2018 | 5 mins

### **I Don't Believe In You But Then There Is Gravity**

Director: Umut Subaşı

Turkey | Turkish | 2018 | 13 mins

### **Inanimate**

Director: Lucia Bulgheroni

UK | English | 2018 | 9 mins

### **Brotherhood**

Director: Meryam Joobeur

Canada, Tunisia, Qatar, Sweden | Arabic | 2018 | 25 mins

### **The Craft**

Director: Monira Al Qadiri

Kuwait, Lebanon | English | 2017 | 16 mins

### **Transformation**

Director: Yousef Al Bagshi

Kuwait | Arabic | 2017 | 7 mins

### **Negative Space**

Director: Max Porter, Ru Kuwahata

France | English | 2017 | 6 mins

## Resilience

Based on the theme that adversity is a great teacher, in this collection at Ajyal we featured films that show how, when faced with the right mindset, adversity can be a catalyst for self-development and growth.

## Hope

Ajyal screened an inspiring selection of short films which promised that good things come to those who never give up.



### **The Elephant's Song**

Director: Lynn Tomlinson

USA | English | 2018 | 8 mins

### **Antouni**

Director: Alik Tamar

Armenia, USA | Armenian | 2017 | 11 mins

### **Two Balloons**

Director: Mark C. Smith

USA | No Dialogue | 2017 | 9 mins

### **Odd Is an Egg**

Director: Kristin Ulseth

Norway, Portugal | Norwegian | 2016 | 12 mins

### **Gummy Gas Crisis**

Director: Rodrigo Díaz

Argentina | English | 2017 | 3 mins

### **Bachir in Wonderland**

Director: Els Duran, Evelien Vehof

Netherlands | Arabic, Spanish | 2017 | 16 mins

### **Two Trams**

Director: Svetlana Andrianova

Russia | No Dialogue | 2016 | 10 mins

### **Siblings**

Director: James Michael Chiang

Canada | English | 2016 | 4 mins

### **Post No Bills**

Director: Robin Hays

Canada | English | 2017 | 6 mins





**I'm delighted to be part of the impressive Ajyal Film Festival, with incredible efforts made to create such a strong cultural identity.**

**Engin Altan Düzyatan**  
Actor







As Qatar’s largest pop-culture event, Geekdom returned to the sixth edition of Aiyal. As a thrilling event for nerds, gamers and everyone in-between, Geekdom made up Aiyal’s Creativity Hub, which drew in and engaged the community.



Among the highlights this year were the cosplay days, edge-of-your-seat video game tournaments, film screenings and panels. In addition, Qatar’s character designers, concept artists, storyboard artists and fan artists demonstrated their skills and shared them with the community, with their arts and products offered for sale.

At the Geekdom film programme this year was a special showcase of films by eminent Japanese animator and director Hayao Miyazaki. The films included: ‘Kiki’s Delivery Service’, ‘Spirited Away’, and ‘My Neighbor Totoro’.



Geekdom  
Tournaments

The Geekdom Tournaments, included the FIFA 19 Tournament, the latest and greatest edition of the ever-popular EA football video game franchise organised by Youth Hobbies Centre. Other tournaments included Overwatch, Super Smash Bros, Tekken 7, Street Fighter V and Dragon Ball FighterZ.

Geekdom  
Talks

At Geekdom Talks, the community engaged in insightful and interesting discussions with author, actor, director and voice artist Omar Al Shamma. The public also had the pleasure to listen to Dr. Gregory Bergida, who served previously as Director of Student Affairs at Northwestern University in Qatar, talk on ‘Immersive Content: Expanding Outward by Looking Inward’. The final Geekdom Talk was by Professor Leland Hill on ‘Life as a Geek’ as he looked back at his childhood and the television shows and movies that influenced and cultivated his love for all things geeky.

- 15,000+ Visitors
- 23 Sellers
- 12 Exhibitors
- 3 Geek Talks
- 3 Screenings
- 28 Tournament Organisers
- 6 Tournaments
- 450 Competitors



# [Re]action

This year, DFI presented the [Re]action exhibition, a special interactive art showcase celebrating the spirit of Qatar's resilience and ability to overcome even the most testing of challenges. Highlighting the power of art in driving dialogue and on reflecting on the community's response to events that shape our world, for many spectators, [Re]action offered a cathartic moment as they were reminded of the spirit of solidarity that led the nation to rise above adversity. The exhibition's curators included Shaima Al Tamimi, Abdulaziz Yousef, Mohammed Fakhro and Khalifa Al Thani.

## [Re]action Art

The pieces displayed at the exhibition paid tribute to the courage and resilience of Qataris and those who call Qatar home, who have weathered a storm and come out stronger together because of it. Sub-themes explored in their works included the impact of one's choices both within and across borders, the meaning of community and its relationship to nations, and the forces that work to either amplify or quieten the truth.



## [Re]action in Numbers

**4,596** Visitors During Ajyal  
**12** Artists  
**20** Artworks



The exhibition presented works by 12 promising filmmakers and artists from Qatar including:

Ammar Alqamash	Kholood Al Ali
Abdulaziz Yousef	Ahmed Al Jufairi
Khalifa Al Thani	Vatyma
May AlMannai	Ghada Al Khater
Rashid Al Kuwari	Maryam Al Homaïd
Waheed Khan	Levi Hammett

# Visit by Her Highness Sheikha Moza

Doha Film Institute was honoured to welcome HH Sheikha Moza bint Nasser and take Her Highness on a tour of [Re]action this year.







A highlight of the 6th Ajyal Film Festival was the visit of Her Highness Sheikha Moza to the [Re]action exhibition.



The exhibition remained open until the end of December as part of the Qatar National Day celebrations.







# Ajyal Talks

**At our 2018 Ajyal Talks, we gathered leaders from film, art, television, and technology to weigh in on a variety of topics.**



## The Freedom of Self-Expression

eL Seed, the French-Tunisian 'calligraffiti' artist familiar to the Qatar community for his large-scale murals along Salwa Road, took audiences through an inspiring journey into how art can touch, unite and add to the civic pride of communities at the first Ajyal Talks. The session was moderated by Emmy-nominated journalist Ahmed Shihab-Eldin.



## The Power of Music in Cinema

At this Ajyal Talk, composer and producer Khaled Mouzanar shared his personal triumphs and challenges as well as examples of his work, including his most recent contributions to Nadine Labaki's 'Capernaum'.

# Ajyal 2018 Honorary Awards Recipients



## Kailash Satyarthi

DFI was honoured to welcome Nobel Peace laureate Kailash Satyarthi as one of our guests at this year's festival. In an enthusiastic and inspiring discussion with the jurors moderated by Emmy-nominated journalist Ahmed Shihab-Eldin, Satyarthi told them "I have no doubt in my mind that youth have the optimism and power to end child labour in our lifetime".



## Nadine Labaki

Our Hilal and Bader jurors group had the privilege of a 'Meet the Talent' session with Lebanese filmmaker Nadine Labaki, where they were able to ask questions and learn about her filmmaking process.



## Tom Felton

All three Ajyal juror groups were beyond excited to meet Harry Potter star, British actor and singer Tom Felton. He spoke to the jurors about his role in the Harry Potter films, the importance of following your dreams and how to succeed in your passions.



## Evangeline Lilly

Our jurors were lucky enough to have a 'Meet the Talent' session with the internationally renowned actor Evangeline Lilly, who starred as the first female titled Marvel superhero in 'Ant-man and the Wasp', in 'The Hobbit' trilogy and in the cult favourite tv-series 'Lost'.





“

**These are the next great filmmakers of the world aren't they? I was heavily inspired when I was six or seven years old, to get such a mix group of people from around the world at that age, I think you can never underestimate the effect that may have.**

**Tom Felton**  
Actor

”



# Ajyal Juror Screenings

# 1

Day

**Mohaq**  
**The Night I Swam**  
by Damien Manivel  
and Kohei Igarashi

**Hilal**  
**What Walaa Wants**  
by Christy Garland

**Bader**  
**Freedom Fields**  
by Naziha Arebi



# 3

Day

**Mohaq**  
**Zoo**  
by Colin McIvor

**Hilal**  
**The Price of Free**  
by Derek Doneen

**Bader**  
**Capernaum**  
by Nadine Labaki



# 5

Day

**Mohaq**  
**Mohaq Short Film Programme**

**Hilal**  
**Hilal Short Film Programme**

**Bader**  
**Bader Short Film Programme**



**Mohaq**  
**Supa Modo**  
by Likarion Wainaina

**Hilal**  
**Mirai**  
by Mamoru Hosoda

**Bader**  
**Central Airport**  
by Karim Aïnouz

# 2

Day



**Mohaq**  
**Next Door Spy**  
by Karla von Bengtson

**Hilal**  
**Leave No Trace**  
by Debra Granik

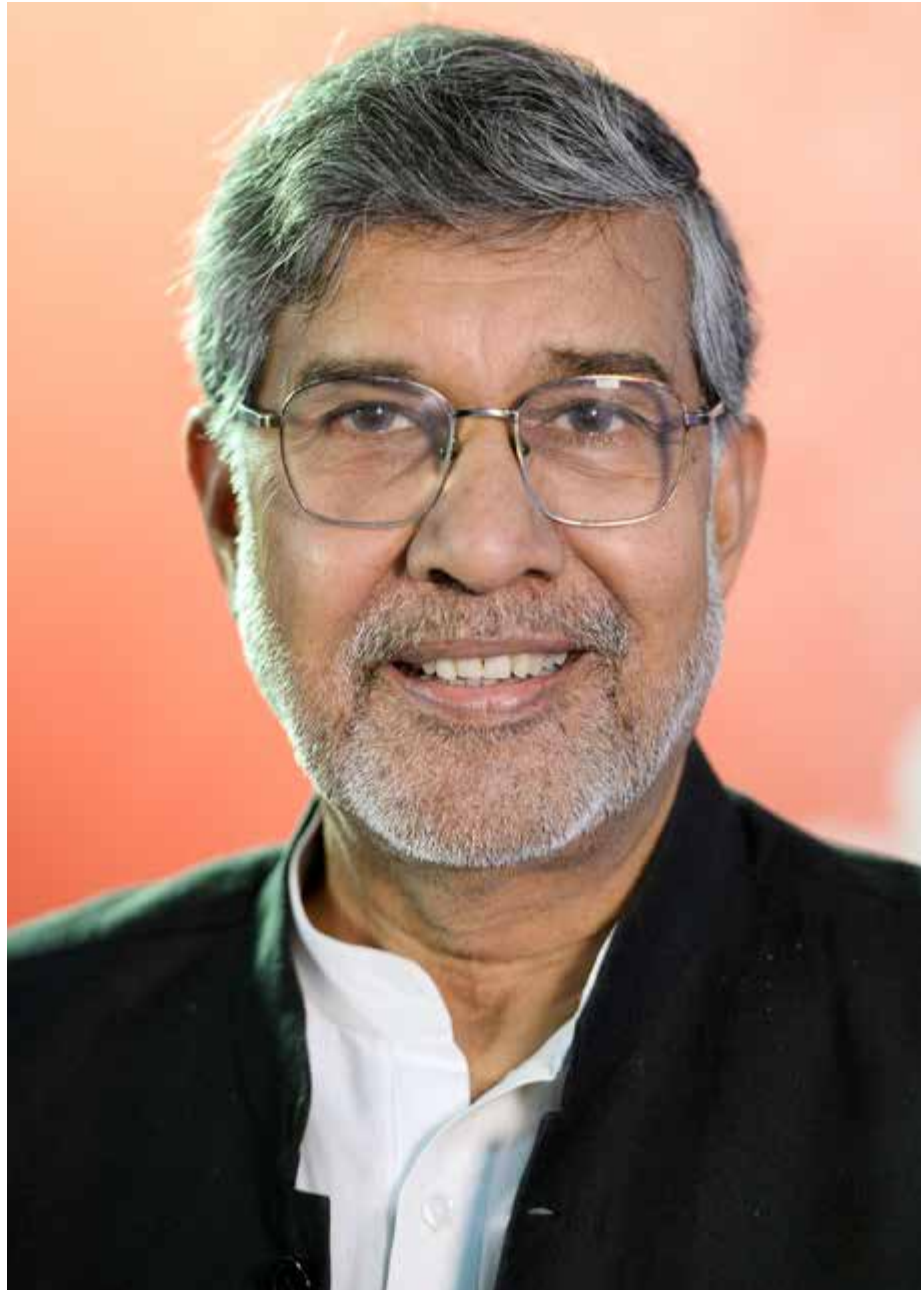
**Bader**  
**Weldi**  
by Mohamed Ben Attia

# 4

Day







**The soul of globalization is shrinking but Aiyal is an effort to revive that soul of globalization and shared world. Today I can tell one thing, that the leaders of the world should come and see the formation of the new civilization, new culture, and that culture and civilization is being created by children from more than 50 or 60 countries at this place. The whole world must learn from you my dear children. This is the celebration of shared dreams, shared future, and the shared commitment to make this world a better place.**

**Kailash Satyarthi**  
Nobel Peace Prize winner and children's rights activist



# Ajyal as it Unfolded

## Day

28th November -  
Opening Night

- Opening Night Ceremony with a star-studded red carpet.
- Over 100 local and international actors, filmmakers, artists and dignitaries.
- The successful Middle East premiere of DFI supported film 'Freedom Fields'.
- Live performance in the Ajyal Jurors' Hub by Kayem
- Juror Screenings



## Day

29th November

- First of the school screenings for primary, preparatory and high school level students.
- The opening of Geekdom, [Re]action and The Ajyal Stage
- History of Cinema Workshop for Bader Jurors with Marcus Zaiser
- Geekdom Talk with Omar Al Shamma
- Made in Qatar Programme I Presented by Ooredoo
- Juror Screenings, Workshops & Meet the Talent



## Day

30th November

- 'Capernaum' Middle East premiere
- Red Carpet with Nadine Labaki and Khaled Mouzanar
- Ajyal Talks - The Freedom of Self-Expression with eL Seed,
- Made in Russia short film collection curated by Alexei Medvede
- Kids Red Carpet with Maya the Bee
- Juror Screenings & Meet the Talent





# Ajyal as it Unfolded

## Day

1st December

- Made in Qatar Film Programme II Presented by Ooredoo
- Made in Qatar Awards
- Ajyal Talks – The Power of Music in Cinema with Khaled Mouzanar
- Juror Screenings, Workshops & Meet the Talent



## Day

2nd December

- Juror Screenings, Workshops & Meet the Talent



## Day

3rd December

- Ajyal & Beyond at the Jurors' Hub with eL Seed
- Ajyal Honourary Award to Nobel Peace laureate Kailash Satyarthi
- 'CineMoon' concert by the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra
- Closing Night and Awards Ceremony





# Ajyal in Our Partners' Words



Congratulations on yet another successful event. On behalf of QF I can confidently tell you that we are always extremely happy to be a part of your journey and growth.

**Karim Saade**

Strategic Marketing Specialist, Qatar Foundation

As always, it was an absolute pleasure being part of Ajyal Festival for this year – and for the fourth year in a row; as you know we take great pride in being partners with DFI and in coming together to form a driving force of introducing an all-inclusive movie screening experience to the local community.

**Nada Al-Mahmeed**

Senior Project Leader, and A/Director Translation and Training Center,  
Translation and Interpreting Institute, HBKU

We really enjoyed Ajyal Film Festival activities, and the opening night film was really inspiring. Many thanks for the partnership and the opportunity and we look forward to more collaborations in the near future.

**Waseem Kotoub**

Head of Programmes and Partnerships, British Council

We are glad to be part of Ajyal Film Festival's success this year and look forward to be part of your success in the years to come.

**Mead Al Emadi**

Community Engagement Manager, Marketing and Communications,  
Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy

As always it is our pleasure to be involved and work with you all, and we look forward to doing so again in 2019!

**Jamie Ball**

Chief Operating Officer - Media, Elan Group



Ajyal 2018 closing ceremony



“

**I'm so honoured to be a part of this beautiful event and hope that in some small way my presence here could make the experience more exciting for some of the kids. I'm quickly learning that children's film festivals are my favourite part of being an actor.**

**Evangeline Lilly**  
Actor

”





# Ajyal Winners



## Made in Qatar Awards

**Best Narrative**  
**Amal Al Muftah**  
for Sh'hab

**Best Documentary**  
**Mariam Al Dhubhani**  
for Just Another Memory

**Jury Special Mention**  
**Mohamed Al Mahmeed**  
for Nasser Goes to Space

**Abdulaziz Jassim Award for Best Performance**  
**Nouf Al Sulaiti**  
for Gubgub



## Mohaqa Awards

**Best Feature Film**  
**Zoo**  
by Colin McIvor

**Best Short Film**  
**Gubgub**  
by Nouf Al Sulaiti

## Hilal Awards

**Best Feature Film**  
**What Walaa Wants**  
by Christy Garland

**Best Short Film**  
**Killing Hope**  
by Natacha Grangeon  
and Julia Retail

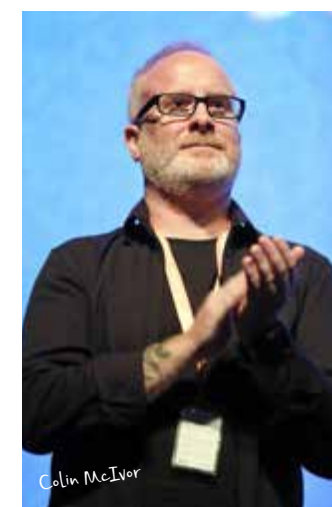
## Bader Awards

**Best Feature Film**  
**Capernaum**  
by Nadine Labaki

**Best Short Film**  
**Transformation**  
by Yousef Al Bagshi

## Audience Award

**Best Short Film**  
**Capernaum**  
by Nadine Labaki





# Ajyal Facts and Figures

## Attendance at Ajyal Screenings

Capernaum: 423 98% capacity

Freedom Fields - Opening Night: 291 88% capacity

Made in Qatar Programme II: 373 87% capacity

Made in Qatar Programme I: 352 82% capacity

3 Faces: 159 82% capacity

## School Screenings

Total number of schools: 51

30th November: 3 screenings, 18 schools, 590 students

2nd December: 2 screenings, 12 schools, 504 students

3rd December: 2 screenings, 19 schools, 389 students

## The Ajyal Stage

Performers: 125

Bands/groupss: 17

Countries: 14

Audience Members: 7,491

## Galas Public Screenings & Events

Attendance: 6,617

Public screenings/events: 54

Average attendance per screening/event: 123

Paid ticketed screenings: 4,503

Free ticketed screenings and events: 773

Free non-ticketed screenings: 10,504



# Record-Breaking Social Media Stats

- 5.5+ million** Social Media impressions
- 1.7+ million** Views on YouTube
- 4.7+ million** Media reach in total
- 747** Ajyal related posts on DFI platforms
- 88** Videos posts on DFI platforms
- 204,051** Video views on DFI platforms
- 4,000** New followers across all DFI platforms
- 36,415** 'Likes' during Ajyal alone

Congratulations!!



# Thank You to Our Partners









