



# UNIQUE STORIES UNIVERSAL TRUTHS

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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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

**مؤسسة الدوحة للأفلام**  
**DOHA FILM INSTITUTE**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

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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



Throughout 2019, DFI has remained steadfast in its commitment to bring compelling stories to life and strengthen the film industry in Qatar and the region. Our growing portfolio of programmes and initiatives is a tribute to the immense creative talents that are redefining contemporary cinema and enriching the world of film with their unique take on culture and the future of art. Today, the world cannot think of Qatar without its direct association with a flourishing cultural scene.

Art and culture are at the heart of Arab identity and tradition, connecting us with our history and shaping our collective imagination. Film is a medium we cannot ignore – it gives our representations a voice, our artists an outlet for creativity and much more. For the first time we can tell our own stories with our own voices and narratives, we are not being represented by the voices of others, but rather are in equal and direct engagement.

The Doha Film Institute's commitment to excellence and innovation equips emerging talents with powerful creative and technical tools that will make ideas a reality, amplify their voices and broaden understanding of the Arab experience across the world. Our work is part of unceasing efforts to support the next generation of filmmakers who have the creative drive and talent to take charge of our narratives and take them to the world.

As we look back at 2019 and everything we have achieved together, it fills me with pride to witness DFI's year on year success and commitment to its founding vision. The historic opening of the National Museum of Qatar turned 2019 into a truly momentous year in many ways.

We delved into our Arab heritage and created a new dimension of artistic and cultural experience within the National Museum of Qatar by producing monumentally

# As we look back at 2019 and everything we have achieved together, it fills me with pride to witness DFI's year on year success and commitment to its founding vision.

scaled films that provide visitors with a spectacular vision of Qatar's past, present and future. DFI's cinematic contribution in bringing these visual masterpieces to life and collaborating with some of the best global and local talents will inspire people from across the world to gain an understanding of our history and our nation's evolution as an economic power and a leader in arts, culture and education. The museum is certainly a 21st century landmark that invites us on a journey of self-discovery as the monumental art films draw on the symbiotic relationship between heritage and national pride to create a poetic testament to our shared humanity. The experience would not have been the same without the films commissioned by the NMoQ, and managed by DFI.

Through the Museum art films and our Grants, Co-Financing and Qatari Film Fund Programmes, we continued to inspire cinematic voices across the world and helped empower talent with the tools for creating captivating storytelling, that represent the global impact and importance of our initiatives. DFI is engaged with more local organizations both government and private, to support and provide film content and also provide Arab talent in areas of acting, production, filming, directing and much more. Many DFI alumni have gone on to open their own companies and create their own successful paths. We are so proud of their achievements and plan to support many more. Our year-round Training and Development initiatives offered creative talents in Qatar and the Arab world with a platform to learn

from some of the best in the industry and refine their craft and skills to create authentic content that has the potential to resonate globally.

The seventh edition of our unique cultural event, the Ajyal Film Festival, once again inspired creative interaction and stimulated cinematic dialogue to nurture minds across generations and celebrate the power that lies in each human being. It was refreshing to see young minds engaged and inspired by the power of film. They are the future storytellers, and what incredible opportunities they have.

On behalf of the DFI team, I am deeply grateful to the organisations and individuals who have supported our

work throughout the past year. When we come together and commit to the cultivation of a new generation of storytellers, we open doors and break down barriers to redefine the future of global filmmaking. When we create the ecosystem for filmmakers to flourish it allows us to engage with the rest of the world in a respectful and peaceful language. This is not possible without your engagement and support. So thank you.

**Al Mayassa Bint Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani**  
Chair, Doha Film Institute



# Message from the CEO

**Fatma Hassan Alremaihi**

Chief Executive Officer, Doha Film Institute

“All art is to better life. We want to create hope and share with others.” The words of Elia Suleiman capture Doha Film Institute’s mission to bring together local and international communities to pay homage to tradition and diversity and encourage powerful new voices in cinema.

In 2019, the Institute’s growing list of accolades demonstrated film’s extraordinary ability to break down barriers and celebrate the common bonds between people of all backgrounds, cultures and faiths. The art of film is a product of resilience, hope and understanding, and it preserves memories and reminds us of our origins.

The landmark opening of the National Museum of Qatar made the year particularly special for all of us at DFI. We joined the artistic vision of the National Museum and worked with the team to create a series of art films that celebrates Qatar and brings forward our nation’s rich tradition of storytelling through the creation of a new cinematic language. We are extremely excited to share these incredible masterpieces with the world. Derived from an inspiring collaboration between local and international creative masters, they effortlessly converge traditional history with breakthrough technology.

A culture of filmmaking needs nourishment, guidance and care. DFI provides a space for creative exploration and development and continues to blaze a path led by the vision of establishing an important position in the global narrative for emerging voices and Arab perspectives. An impressive range of 79 projects by filmmakers from around the world were selected through our Grants programme, with 38 projects helmed by talented female directors, underlining the important role of Arab women in filmmaking.

We remain committed to empowering film talents – particularly those who take on topics

of great societal and cultural importance. The Doha Film Institute set a few firsts in the Arab region for a film organisation in 2019, with its latest co-financed project *It Must Be Heaven* by auteur Elia Suleiman selected at the 72nd Cannes Film Festival and *Capernaum* by Nadine Labaki nominated for an Academy Award® for Best Foreign Language Film. These nominations made DFI the only cultural organisation in the MENA region to have had four films nominated in both the foreign language category at the Oscars® and in the Official Selection, Competition of the Cannes Film Festival to date.

Photograph by Brigitte Lacombe



# To date, over 100 projects have participated at Qumra, guided by 21 Qumra Masters whose vision is synonymous with the best of contemporary cinema.

Through its interactive theme, Find Film, Find Life, Ajyal Film Festival's seventh edition continued to demonstrate the transformative power of storytelling. The idea fuelled us to present a bigger and better Ajyal, in new collaborations with local businesses and public screening venues. Together, we were able to appreciate the incredible strides that Qatar's film industry has taken with the ever-popular Made in Qatar showcase and bridge cultural divides with 96 films sourced from 35 countries. We hope that people will see Ajyal as a unique and important investment in youth development that will bring invaluable returns for the future.

A key platform for discovering exciting voices and compelling perspectives, the fifth edition of DFI's industry incubation event Qumra once again provided emerging and established filmmakers with unprecedented access to accomplished film experts to get their projects off the ground and out to global audiences. To date, over 100 projects have participated at Qumra, guided by 21 Qumra Masters whose vision is synonymous with the best of contemporary cinema.

2019 has also been a year of deepened collaboration and partnership. I want to thank our Board of Trustees for their continuous support and

guidance, as well as our invaluable private and public sector partners, whose contributions allowed DFI to make meaningful impacts in our society and communities.

I look forward to working with you in 2020 to expand support to our talented filmmakers and reaffirm our belief in the power of film to transcend boundaries, open new opportunities, and connect the world.

**Fatma Hassan Alremaihi**

Chief Executive Officer, Doha Film Institute

# Acknowledgements

**We would like to extend our sincere gratitude and deep appreciation to everyone who partnered with us on our journey through 2019. We value your support and appreciate the time and talent you invested in helping us meet our objectives and exceed our goals.**

Everything we have accomplished and listed in this Annual Report was made possible due to a unified effort. The role you played in it is deeply appreciated. At the close of one year and the beginning of the next, all of us at DFI look forward to strengthening our partnership with you. Our hope is that we will continue working in close collaboration so that we can reach higher, 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
- Qumra Masters
- Mentors
- Filmmakers
- Jurors
- Volunteers
- Audiences

# Trustees



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

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

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

**H.E. Nasser bin Ghanem Abdullah Al-Khelaifi**  
Chairman of 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 Chairman of Media City

**Mansour Ibrahim Al-Mahmoud**  
CEO of Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) and Special Advisor to H.E. The Chairperson

**H.E. Issa bin Mohammed Al Mohannadi**  
Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors and Managing Director of 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 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, 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

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**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 film community through cultivating film appreciation, enhancing industry knowledge and contributing to the development of sustainable creative industries in Qatar.

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

The Institute's platforms include funding and production of local, regional and international films; skills-sharing and mentorship programmes; film screenings; the Ajyal Youth Film Festival; and Qumra, a film industry event. With culture, community, learning and entertainment at its foundation, the Institute is committed to supporting Qatar National Vision 2030 for the development of a knowledge-based economy.

FILM  
SCREENINGS

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

43

38

45

43

58

62

Awards

GRANTS & CO-FINANCE

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

AWARDS

SELECTION

AWARDS

SELECTION

AWARDS

SELECTION

AWARDS

SELECTION

AWARDS

SELECTION

AWARDS

SELECTION

85+

AWARDS ON THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL CIRCUIT

2

NOMINATIONS FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY AND BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM AT THE ACADEMY AWARDS

6

OFFICIAL SUBMISSIONS TO THE ACADEMY AWARDS FOR THE BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM

7

AWARDS FOR 6 SELECTIONS AT VENICE FILM FESTIVAL

	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
Academy Awards®	-	-	1 Nomination 4 Official Submissions		2 Nominations 5 Official Submissions		1 Nomination 1 Award 7 Official Submissions		1 Nomination 7 Official Submissions		2 Nominations 6 Official Submissions	
Festival de Cannes	1	2	2	5	5	6	3	6	1	5	-	6
Berlin International Film Festival	-	1	-	4	2	6	1	7	1	5	4	5
Dubai International Film Festival	2	8	5	13	3	15	6	15	-	-	-	-
Toronto International Film Festival	-	3	-	6	-	7	2	10	1	10	2	12
International Film Festival Rotterdam	-	1	-	1	-	3	1	10	-	2	1	7
Sarajevo Film Festival	-	1	2	3	2	7	-	4	2	8	-	4
Venice Film Festival	1	2	-	3	3	2	4	5	6	6	7	6
Total Awards (All Festivals)	50+		70+		110+		60+		70+		85+	
Total Selections (All Festivals)	140+		230+		410+		250+		200+		390+	



# Achievements

## DFI Grants

- 11** Qatari Filmmakers
- 36** Women Filmmakers
- 41** 1st or 2nd-time Feature Filmmakers, MENA Region
- 12** 1st or 2nd-time Feature Filmmakers, Non-MENA Region
- 5** Established Filmmakers in the MENA Region
- 6** TV and Web Filmmakers, MENA Region
- 9** Short Filmmakers, MENA Region
- 6** Short Filmmakers, Qatar

**79**  
Overall Grants

## DFI GRANTS AROUND THE WORLD

**71** Number of countries supported through grants from 2010 to date

### MENA REGION COUNTRIES SUPPORTED DURING 2019

Algeria  
Egypt  
Iraq  
Kuwait  
Lebanon  
Libya  
Morocco  
Palestine  
Qatar  
Syria  
Tunisia  
Yemen

### NON-MENA REGION COUNTRIES SUPPORTED DURING 2019

Argentina  
Afghanistan  
China  
Dominican Republic  
India  
Iran  
Italy  
Mexico  
Philippines  
Romania  
Switzerland  
Ukraine



# Achievements

## FILM TRAINING

27 Workshops

254 Participants (68 Qataris)

10 Shorts Produced

21 Education Partners

## QATAR'S FILMS

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>QATARI FILM FUND</b>						
QFF GRANTED & PRODUCED FILMS		12	9	13	10	N/A
QFF FILMS IN DEVELOPMENT		4	1	1	4	7
<b>GRANTS</b>						
NUMBER OF SUPPORTED PROJECTS	63	65	58	64	72	79
<b>CO-FINANCE FOLIO</b>						
NUMBER OF NEW CO-FI FILMS		4	6	5	3	4



# Making Waves Across the Globe

## Qatari female filmmakers praise growing presence of women in local film industry

قمرّة نافذة للتواصل مع مجتمع السينما العالمي



Now is the time to share our stories: filmmaker

Spotlight on documentary feature by first Qatari woman to set foot in Antarctica

## Bold ideas 'are key traits of successful filmmakers'



Expanding to new venues across commercial cinemas in Qatar has allowed the Doha Film Institute (DFI) to deliver this year's Ajyal screenings to an unprecedented number of audiences and making them part of a truly unique festival experience in the Arab world, festival director and DFI CEO Fatma Hassan Alnemaihi said.

## Ajyal an important event for cultural exchange: DFI chief

On the DFI's mission to lay a foundation for Qatar's film industry, Ajyal has matured into an important event for learning and cultural exchange," she told a press conference at the festival. "Themes, direction, acting - our jurors are guided through the entire storytelling process, allowing them to assume ownership and responsibility, which applies to all disciplines," she said.



## Qatari female filmmakers praise growing presence of women in local film industry

قمرّة نافذة للتواصل مع مجتمع السينما العالمي



Now is the time to share our stories: filmmaker

## «أجيال» يعقد شراكات مع مؤسسات محلية رائدة

تحتفل «أجيال» في دورتها الثامنة عشرة، التي تنطلق في 15 نوفمبر، بحضور نخبة من المؤسسات المحلية الرائدة، في إطار سلسلة من الشراكات التي تهدف إلى تعزيز القطاع السينمائي في قطر.

## 15 films slated for Qumra screenings



The festival will feature 15 films from various international and regional filmmakers, including a special screening of a documentary about the first Qatari woman to set foot in Antarctica.



## بينما؟ أفلام محلية قصيرة عرضت في المسابقات العالمية

وقد تم عرض أفلام محلية قصيرة في مسابقات عالمية مختلفة، مما يعكس النمو المستمر للقطاع السينمائي في قطر.



## FILM COMMENT

### Dispatch: Qumra 2019

By Jordan Crenk on April 8, 2019



Alice Rohrwacher at Qumra in Doha, Qatar. (Photo by Eamon M. McCormack/Getty Images for Doha Film Institute)

If you've been to an international film festival at any point in the last decade, you're likely familiar with the Doha Film Institute. Since 2010, the DFI has provided funding for film projects

## T+T FORUM

DÜNYALARI YARATAN ADAM: EUGENIO CABALLERO

### Meksika usûlü "az-tech"

28.04.2019  
Hüseyin Turan

"Kiyamet Günü", "Pan'in Labirenti" ve son olarak "Roma" filmlerinde usta yönetimin Meksikalı sanat yönetmeni Eugenio Caballero'yu uzadı...



Meksikalı sanat yönetmeni Eugenio Caballero, 15-20 Mart tarihleri arasında Doha'da gerçekleştirilen Qumra Film Etkinliği'nde ustalık dersi verdi. Caballero'nun süperstarlar eden, filmin aslında bir mekân ve set olduğunu söyleyen yönetmen, gençlere tavsiyelerde bulundu.

## Altıvazi

Altıvazi

### Alice Rohrwacher ile söyleşi: İzleyicinin Hayal Gücünü Beslemek



Son filmi *Marfa Luzon*'la Cannes'dan ödüllü film yönetmeni Alice Rohrwacher, 15-20 Mart tarihleri arasında Doha'da düzenlenen Qumra Film Etkinliği'nde bir ustalık dersi verdi. Festivali takip eden Hüseyin Turan, bu dernekteki sohbeti ve yönetmene kendi yönettiği soruları aktardı.

## The Indian EXPRESS

Notes from Distant Lands

Written by Shubra Gupta  
Updated: March 24, 2019 4:30:02 AM

In Doha, film experts on their craft

Qumra in Arabic means "camera", an apt name for a Doha-based event which is a platform to bring together varied stakeholders in cinema: globally-known directors, young filmmakers just starting out and film festival directors and distributors looking out for new projects and talent. In the five years since it began in 2015, Qumra has grown to include many more filmmakers from the Qatar region, which is one of the chief objectives of the Doha Film Institute. "Our main mission is to bring voices to the world, voices which have been misrepresented or ignored," says Fatma Hassan Alnemaihi, chief executive office, Doha Film Institute. "We support new filmmakers and our region." The selected films are shown in a dedicated screening room, post-production and distribution.

## DAILY SABAH CINEMA

Pawel Pawlikowski: A Teller of Uncomfortable Stories

The fifth edition of the festival, directed by Pawel Pawlikowski, as well as the festival's director, because of how and why it is so successful.



Pawel Pawlikowski, the director of the highly acclaimed films *Ida* and *Cold War*, was in Doha for the Qumra festival where he met with aspiring filmmakers for workshops and also held a public master class. Pawlikowski talked about his experiences both as a documentary and fiction feature director, revealing his versatility in different genres and his penchant for tackling thorny issues.







# PRODUCTION

The Doha Film Institute is tremendously excited for the story of Qatar to be shared with the world through the visual masterpieces displayed within The National Museum of Qatar.

We are deeply grateful to our country's leadership for their unfailing support to our creative communities and to Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa for her continued generous contribution of national artistic treasures that draw global recognition.



# A Historic Achievement

Bringing the past to life through state-of-the-art technology.



**We were honoured to partner with The National Museum of Qatar to create a significant legacy of enduring stories that weave the complex tapestry of our identity as Qatari people and bring forward our nation's rich tradition of storytelling.**

Bringing these stories to life has enhanced the artistic and economic vibrancy of our country, and we look forward to visitors discovering perspectives that illustrate the rich complexity of Qatar in the beautiful setting of the landmark museum.

This project took on an unprecedented size and scope, using technology in a way that has never been used before: 21.54 billion screen pixels per second and the use of 112 4K projectors, to name just a couple of unparalleled statistics. To put that in perspective, a modern iMax movie theatre displays just 0.2 billion pixels per second. We are confident this new approach to art films and museum exhibitions will change the conversation and shift the paradigm of how museums are experienced.

**112**  
4K digital cinema projectors

**21.54 billion**  
pixels per second

**34,271**  
square feet of screen space

**104**  
minutes of combined  
running time





**Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani**  
Chairperson of Qatar Museums

“

**Art in all its forms is a building block of modern society. Throughout history, we have shaped and created art, yet, in turn, it has also moulded our understanding of identity and Arab heritage.**

**Together with Doha Film Institute as lead producers, the National Museum of Qatar has created a moving roadmap of ground-breaking firsts through these visual masterpieces that help us understand the evolution of our nation.**

**Each piece is singular in its creativity and execution, exploring questions of origin, identity and existence that are both universal and unique to life in Qatar.**

**The Museum is an exciting destination of learning and cultural preservation that will enrich perspectives for people from all around the world, and that will endure as a great source of pride for generations to come.**

”



“

The National Museum of Qatar is a narrative chronological museum that takes the visitor through a vast journey of time, from 700 million years ago to the present day. A combined museography approach with art films, oral histories, and objects has been integrated in the exhibits. The art films' emotive and immersive approach complements the object displays, placing those objects in both natural and imagined environments. The National Museum of Qatar's successful collaboration with Doha Film Institute brings the history of Qatar to life through various films that were shot in present day Qatar.

”

**Sheikha Amna bint Abdulaziz bin Jassim Al Thani**

Director of the National Museum of Qatar

“

The technology to capture, post-produce and display images and sounds at the level of fidelity required by the NMoQ simply did not exist, so Doha Film Institute invented it. And as the Institute developed the technology, it became obvious we also needed to define an entirely new visual language for composition, motion, storytelling and emotional connection to the viewer, all with a level of image and sound quality never before offered to the general public.

The result is closer to virtual reality than cinema, with viewers experiencing the art films as “windows” into other realities. There is currently nothing comparable to this installation anywhere on Earth.

”

**Dean Winkler**

Doha Film Institute Senior Engineer

# The Installations

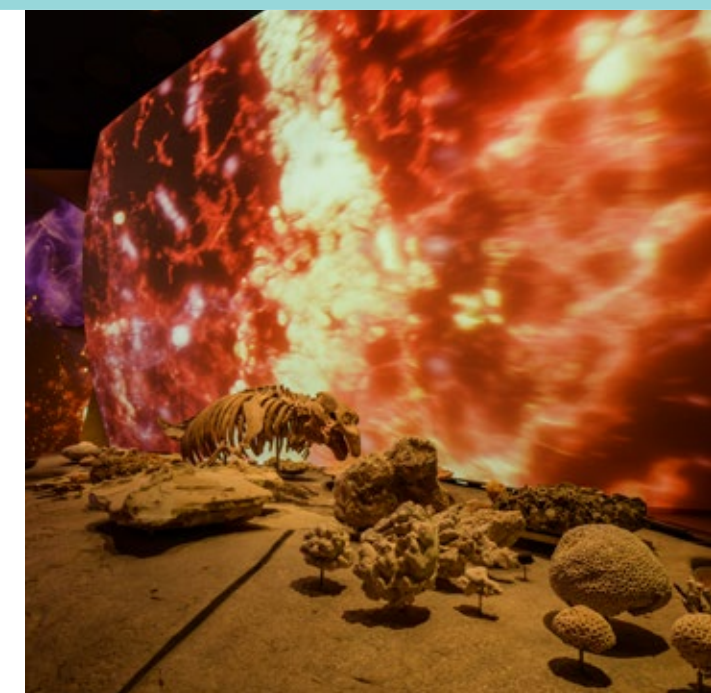
The films produced, each explore a unique part of our shared history from the creation of the Earth to modern-day Qatar.



## The Beginnings

Director: Christophe Cheysson

'The Beginnings' takes us on a journey through the marvels of space and wonders of creation, revealing Earth, and Qatar, as it was hundreds of millions of years ago.



Photographer: Antonio Pagano

**9,000**  
individually designed frames

**100+**  
hours of rendering

**2x8K**  
resolution animations



# Land and Sea

**Director: Jacques Perrin**  
**Co-Director: Christophe Cheysson**



**'Land and Sea'**  
travels across the  
unique and diverse  
habitats and  
species of Qatar.  
Delving into hidden  
places and species,  
it reveals a magical  
unknown country  
from desert to sea.

**200+**  
days of filming

**50+**  
locations in Qatar

**44**  
metre screen (twice the width  
of a conventional cinema)





# Archaeology

Visual Artist: Jananne Al-Ani



**'Archaeology'** moves back and forth between the macroscopic and the microscopic aerial journey across the Qatari landscape, searching for and exposing the hidden history of human occupation.

**21+**  
days of aerial filming

Shot using a custom-built gyro stabiliser with dual 8K cameras

Mixed with high-resolution photographs of artefacts from the museum



# Life in Al Barr (Desert)

Director: Abderrahmane Sissako



**'Life in Al Barr (Desert)' illustrates intimate family and community relationships in the Northern Desert of Qatar between the 1950s to the 1960s, in this reimagining of a day in the life of a Bedouin family.**

**7** days filming in Rawdat Al Ghadriat

An all-Qatari cast was featured

Worked with local advisors to help achieve complete historical accuracy





# Al Zubarah

Director: Abderrahmane Sissako



**'Al Zubarah',  
centred around  
one of Qatar's  
most significant  
historical sites,  
tells the story of life  
in the old coastal  
city, mapping  
the traditions  
and daily lives  
of a nation in a  
changing world.**

**24,750**  
individually painted frames

**400+**  
cast and crew

Immersive **24** channel audio





# Nafas (Breath)

Director: Mira Nair

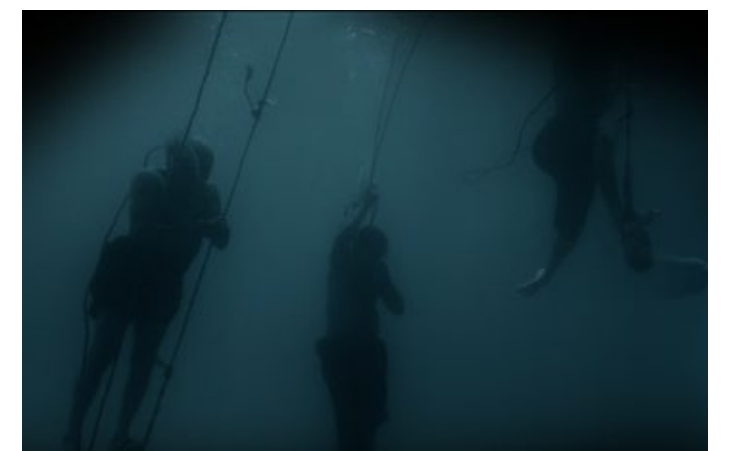


**'Nafas (Breath)' tells the story of pearl divers, and the hardships they endured through the parallel journey of a couple brought together on land and separated for months by the sea.**

**16+**  
days of filming

Filmed aboard the historical dhow boats from Qatar Museum's collection

Underwater camera used to capture traditional pearl diving techniques





# Shadows of History

Director: Peter Webber



**'Shadows of History' recaptures the story of a man who united tribes under one flag to create a nation; a people who became one in order to defeat an enemy marching towards them.**

**400+**  
local cast members

**3**  
camera teams over  
10 days of filming

**180**  
horses & 155 camels





# The Coming of Oil

Filmmaker: Doug Aitken

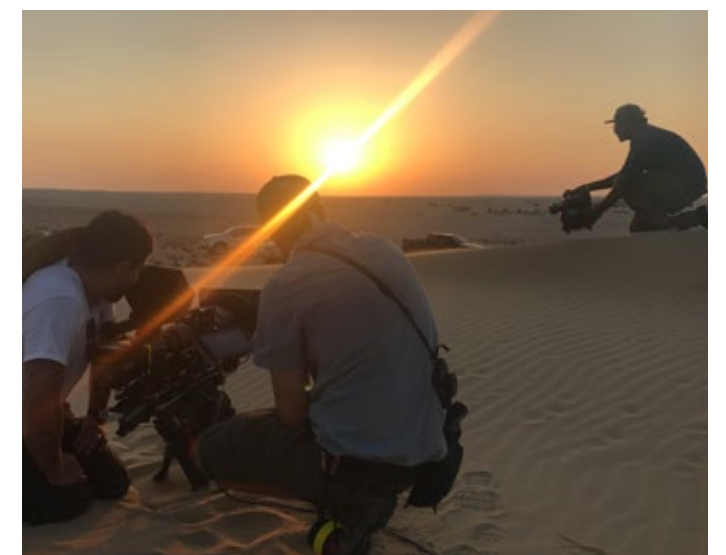


**'The Coming of Oil' explores the historical legacy brought by the discovery of oil; a turning point in the history and development of present-day Qatar.**

**28K**  
resolution

One of the largest permanent video installations in the world

Filmed using a scale model of Qatar's first oil well





# Alchemy

Media Artist: John Sanborn



**'Alchemy' celebrates the vision of His Highness the Father Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and Qatar's development of Liquid Natural Gas as a resource for the world, in poetic form.**

**60+**  
days of digital post-production

Impressive video collage spread across 30 individual monitors

Filmed at Ras Laffan and multiple other locations





# HH Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani,

## the Father Emir – Large Format Oral History

**Directors: Rawda Al-Thani and Amal Al-Muftah**



**His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, guided Qatar through one of the greatest periods of social, economic and political transformation in Qatar's history. His wise investment in the development of the natural gas industry, economic diversification and the 'knowledge economy' continues to shape the history of Qatar.**

**20+**  
days of filming

**80%**  
local film crew

*Directed by young  
Qatari filmmakers*







“

The film is a recollection of Doha from the point of view of HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani. Acknowledged as the Father of the city, HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani is the voice that will lead the journey into discovering, recollecting, and searching for the local and global identity of the city.

”

Rawda Al-Thani



“

Working on a film to be displayed as part of the permanent exhibition at NMoQ is an opportunity and an experience that I never saw coming. It was a huge challenge that I needed to step up to, but the support and trust were always there from Doha Film Institute and Qatar Museums from day one. As a filmmaker, I was proud to use my voice, and the medium of film to weave together stories that changed our nation's history.

These stories were told by the very people that were the closest to the Father Emir during his reign and to this day. Rawda and I had the privilege to listen to these stories and capture them on film to share them with the rest of the world.

We learned, we experienced, and in return, we wanted others to learn and see what we saw. For me, this project is a testament to how powerful the medium of film is to preserve and pass on the stories that make us who we are.

”

Amal Al-Muftah



# UN Day Concert 2019

## Celebrating Women's Empowerment

**To mark the 74th anniversary of the United Nations - a historic concert was held on the theme of 'Building Prosperity for All through Culture, Education, Gender Equality, Sports and Sustainability', organised by the Department of Global Communications with the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, and with support from Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy and Doha Film Institute.**



The special UN Day Concert aimed to highlight the sustainable development goals and the urgent need to implement the 2030 Agenda to bring long-lasting benefits to communities, regions and countries, focusing on the role of culture, sports, education and gender equality by showcasing women in leadership roles in the Middle East, especially in the arts.

The performance celebrated Qatari women who shattered classical music's glass ceiling and defied social norms to compose, perform, teach and conduct classical music, and showcased the talent of the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra along with some of the State's leading artists, including Ms. Dana Al Fardan, Ms. Aisha, Mr. Fahad Al Kubaisi and Ms. Hala Al-Emadi.

Each piece of spell-binding music on the night was exquisitely accompanied by analogous vignettes of video produced by Doha Film Institute, in collaboration with some very talented and skilled Qatari women who are changing the face of modern cinema: visual artists Amal Al-Muftah, Bouthayna Al Muftah and Amna Al-Baker.

“

**“The women leading this artistic enterprise show the direction we need to travel for women's empowerment and gender equality. They are talented individuals breaking glass ceilings and paving new pathways.”**

António Guterres

Secretary-General of the United Nations

**“We are thrilled to have collaborated with the creative forces behind the films accompanying the beautiful music this evening, all produced by extraordinary Qatari women. Visual artists Amal Al-Muftah, Bouthayna Al Muftah and Amna Al Baker are perfect role models leading the change and contributing to the development of sustainable film and creative industries in Qatar.”**

Fatma Hassan Alremaihi

CEO, Doha Film Institute

”



# TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

A man in a dark cap and t-shirt is demonstrating a dance move, with his arms extended. Another man in a hat and shirt is standing behind him, also with his arms extended, possibly learning or observing. They are in a dimly lit room with a couch and a checkered rug. The background is dark with some light patterns.

DFI's Training and Development Programme ensures that the filmmakers of tomorrow are nurtured today, in an atmosphere of inclusivity, curiosity and professionalism.

DFI hosts distinguished educational platforms that equip aspiring filmmakers in Qatar and the Region through two parallel streams that provide opportunities for skills-sharing, feedback and direction from mentors.



# Equipping Filmmaking Talent & Deploying Their Skills into the World of Cinema

**Our Training & Development Programme launches and manages exchanges and collaborations between filmmakers and the wider industry, thereby confirming DFI's commitment to pave the way towards a sustainable film industry at home and abroad.**

**300**  
Participants  
Trained



## Our Training & Development Programme

The aspiration of DFI's Training & Development Programme is to expose filmmakers to the full range of cinematic styles. By creating an environment where ideas thrive, we guide aspiring filmmakers to position their work within the broader context of the art of cinema.

DFI strongly believes that filmmaking is a journey of self-discovery. That is why we ensure that our workshops, labs and consultations offer the necessary creative space for the discovery and development of an authentic personal voice. Instead of learning isolated skills, our filmmakers typically engage in every stage of production from conception to completion to gain a full understanding of the process.





# Labs

The Workshops and Labs our Training & Development Programme hosts combine theory, demonstrations, and practical exercises to train the participants on the technical aspects of filmmaking. DFI draws mentors from among the world's most respected and recognised professionals. Our mentors provide tangible knowledge to invest in the development of skills in all areas of the filmmaking process.

## Short Scriptwriting Lab

December 2018 / January 2019

DFI's Short Scriptwriting Lab assisted new and emerging screenwriters and writer-directors in developing and writing a screenplay from an original idea with the support of international mentors. Working with 10 projects, this year's lab offered participants the chance to tap into funding through the Qatari Film Fund, or MENA Region's Production Funding. Once completed, the projects also had an opportunity to be included in DFI's Qumra Shorts.

### Mentors:

Matthieu Darras **Lab Advisor**  
 Bassem Breche **Script Editor**  
 Britta Krause **Script Editor**

### Projects

#### WATER

By Abdulla Alhor, Qatar

#### MADI

By Ali Al-Hajri, Qatar

#### THE PENGUIN

By Hazim Ali, Sudan

#### UNTITLED

By Lana Al Zaidi, Lebanon

#### THE TIME SPACE DIMENSION PORTAL

By Sarah Yousef, Palestine

#### SADIE

By Abdulaziz Mohamed, Qatar

#### AL AZZA / IN BLOOM

By Eiman Mirghani, Sudan

#### GUERRILLA

By Emna Najjar, Tunisia

#### HOBBADEHOY

By Jemina Legaspi, Philippines

#### 6 MONTHS AND ONE DAY

By Yassine Ouahrani, Morocco

**100** Projects Supported

## Series Lab 2019

February 2019

Working in partnership with the IFP, the Series Lab held a collaborative, weeklong intensive boot-camp for directors, writers and producers working in serialized content in Qatar and other MENA countries. The lab was dedicated to teams developing both scripted and non-fiction series projects created for distribution on all platforms.

### Mentors:

Neerja Narayanan **Lab Leader**  
 Ryan O'nan **Lab Leader, TV Writer and Showrunner**  
 Bassem Breche **Writer / Director**  
 Frédéric Pittoors d'Haveskercke **International Production & Distribution Advisor at Series Mania**  
 Amy Dotson **IFP Head of Programme**  
 Gabriele Capolino **IFP Programme Producer**

### Projects

#### AL KATTABAH

By Sana Al Ansari, Qatar

#### AL ZUBARA

By Hamad Saleh Al-Mansouri, Qatar

#### FITTING IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By Andrew Chappelle, USA

#### THE REPENTANTS

By Essa Al Mannai, Qatar

#### CROSSING THE LINE

By Andrea Fuad, USA

#### MAKHTARIS NEWS

By Erige Sehiri and Philippe Coeytaux, Tunisia

#### THE WEDDING OPERATIONS

By Daniel Ioan Bărnăuți and Alexandra Lizeta Laura Bărnăuți, Romania

#### NON-ALIGNED

By Mila Turajlic and Carine Chichkowsky, Serbia

#### KAWKABANI

By Amal Al-Shammari and Hossein Heydar, Qatar

## Short Documentary Lab with Rithy Panh

June / July, September / October 2019

**Mentors:**

Rithy Panh **Lead Mentor, Documentary Filmmaker**  
Socheat Cheng **Supporting Mentor**  
Séverin Favriau **Sound Designer Mentor**

During this workshop in collaboration with the Bophana Center in Cambodia, our filmmakers gained first-hand experience by working alongside Oscar-nominated documentarian Rithy Panh. The world-renowned storyteller taught participants his method of narration through working with memory, culture, and identity to gain an in-depth understanding of personal traditions, celebrations, community, and the oral history of a country.

11 Animated Short  
Films in Production

### Projects

**ANDER**

By Alina Mustafina, Kazakhstan

**EMILY, ILAW NG TAHANAN**

By Anna Prokou, Greece

**GHAREEB (STRANGER)**

By Christophe Buffet & Yasser Mustafa, Qatar / France

**AND THEN THEY BURN THE SEA**

By Majid Al Remaihi, Qatar

**UNDER THE LEMON TREE**

By Noor Alasswad, Palestine

**OKHT RJAL (WOMAN OF STEEL)**

By Obada Yousef Jarbi, Jordan

**ODE TO LONELINESS**

By Rawane Nassif, Lebanon

## Hezayah Screenwriting Lab

January / February 2019

**Mentors:**

Joelle Touma **Script Consultant**  
Matthieu Taponier **Script Consultant**  
Matthieu Darras **Lab Advisor**

The Hezayah Screenwriting Lab assisted emerging screenwriters and writer-directors in developing and writing an original feature-length screenplay. The lab was a transformative experience where our filmmakers examined and explored their inner creativity and personal voice. Development took the form of group sessions and individual feedback, in a sharing process guided by the mentors.

### Projects

**OUR LEGEND**

By Jassim Al-Ramahi, Qatar

**KHUZAMA**

By Dana J. Atrach / AJ Al Thani, Palestine / Qatar

**AFTER SIX**

By Ghassan Kairouz, Lebanon

**A ROAD TO DAMASCUS**

By Meedo Taha, Lebanon

**10.628**

By Issam Bouguerra, Tunisia

**THE PERILOUS ODYSSEY TO MOUNT GULSUK**

By Jordan Jose De La Cruz, Philippines

**MAMA, WHERE ARE YOU?**

By Meqdad Al Kout, Kuwait

**THE MILLION**

By Michiel Robberecht, Belgium / Republic of Congo

## Practical Lab: VR Workshop with FX Goby

In collaboration with The Animation Workshop, VIA University College.  
September / October 2019

**Mentor:** Fx Goby

This lab was led by Emmy Award-nominated film director, Fx Goby. Using case studies and hands-on experimentation, our participants discovered how to tell a compelling story in a full 360-degree environment. On completion, the participants were able to write immersive stories to utilize the immense possibilities of this new medium fully.







### Practical Lab: NUKE VFX Software Training

In collaboration with The Animation Workshop,  
VIA University College.  
September 2019  
**Mentor:** Michael Hansen

This lab introduced participants to NUKE VFX  
Software and powerful compositing techniques  
for visual effects in films and TV shows. Our  
participants picked up the basics of NUKE as well  
as advanced techniques to help them work more  
efficiently, allowing the creation of stunning VFX  
quality effects and shots.

### Producers Lab

November 2019  
**Mentors:**  
Jovan Marjanović **Head of Industry**  
at **Sarajevo Film Festival**  
Violeta Bava **Producers Lab Advisor**  
Dora Bouchoucha **Producer Expert**  
Jad Abi Khalil **Producer Expert**  
Jana Wehbe **Project Coach**  
Aranka Matits **Sales Expert**

This workshop was an opportunity for local and  
MENA-based producers to develop their skills  
further with experts in the field, in a small and  
intimate group of 10 projects. The intensive  
seven-day programme focused on the creative,  
artistic and strategic aspects of producing  
feature-length documentary and fiction films.

### Projects

**KHUZAMA**  
By A.J. Al-Thani, Nouf Al Sulaiti & Dana Atrach, Qatar

**THE MYSTERY OF EPILOGUE**  
By Alisar Hasan, Syria

**MY CORPSE AND I**  
By Aseel Mansour & Cindy Le Templier, Jordan

**HEIGHTS**  
By Faiza Yakoubi & Paula Tudor, Algeria

**OUR LEGEND**  
By Jassim Al-Rumaihi, Qatar

**WEDESTINE**  
By Mais Salman, Palestine

**EL BASTARDIYA**  
By Moftah Saeid, Lybia

**PLUM SEASON**  
By Nabil Merrouch, Morocco

**MOTHERHOOD**  
By Sarra Ben Hassen, Tunisia

**THE LAST TEARS OF THE DECEASED**  
By Tamara Dawit, Ethiopia

**THE SEA NEEDS TO HEAVE**  
By Zain Duraie & Alaa Alasad, Jordan



### Screenwriting for Beginners Lab

August 2019  
**Mentors:** Dana J. Atrach & Fahad Ahmed Al-Kuwari

During this Screenwriting for Beginners Lab,  
aspiring writers explored the creative process  
of writing for the screen. The lab included the  
foundations of screenwriting, and the mentors  
led the participants through the ‘architecture’  
of screenplays including storytelling, screenplay  
guidelines, non-verbal storytelling, characterization,  
‘formatting’ of a screenplay with visual grammar  
and Celtx / Final Draft.

### History of Cinema and Film Analysis

December 2019  
**Mentor:** Martin Barnier

In collaboration with La Fémis, the Institut Francais  
Qatar, the French Embassy in Doha, FNAC and  
Fifty One East, this lab was a two-part insight into  
the history of cinema. DFI and La Fémis combined  
both film analysis and academic training to take  
participants from the early beginnings of the art  
form to contemporary filmmaking.

### 2D Animation with Gobelins

October 2019  
**Mentor:** Julien Dexant

In a first-of-its-kind partnership with Doha Film  
Institute, Gobelins-the world’s number one  
animation school-led four workshops of two weeks  
in length. The programme offered participants in  
Qatar invaluable hands-on training through the full  
production cycle of short animation resulting in the  
delivery of a short-animated project.





# INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION IN 2019

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



FID Marseille - FID campus

Cannes Short Film Corner

Sarajevo International Film Festival

Malmö Arab Film Festival

Arab Film Festival Tübingen

American Documentary Film Festival

Yemeni Cinema in Beirut

3rd Wular Lake International Short-Film Festival, India

Arctic Film Festival, Norway

Moscow Shorts, Russia

Respect Belfast Human Rights Film Festival

South Film and Arts Academy Festival, Chile

Visualis Film Festival, St. Petersburg, Russia

Short Film Factory

Directed By Women, Turkey

Human Rights Film Festival Berlin Germany

Global Migration Film Festival

MESA FilmFest New Orleans, USA

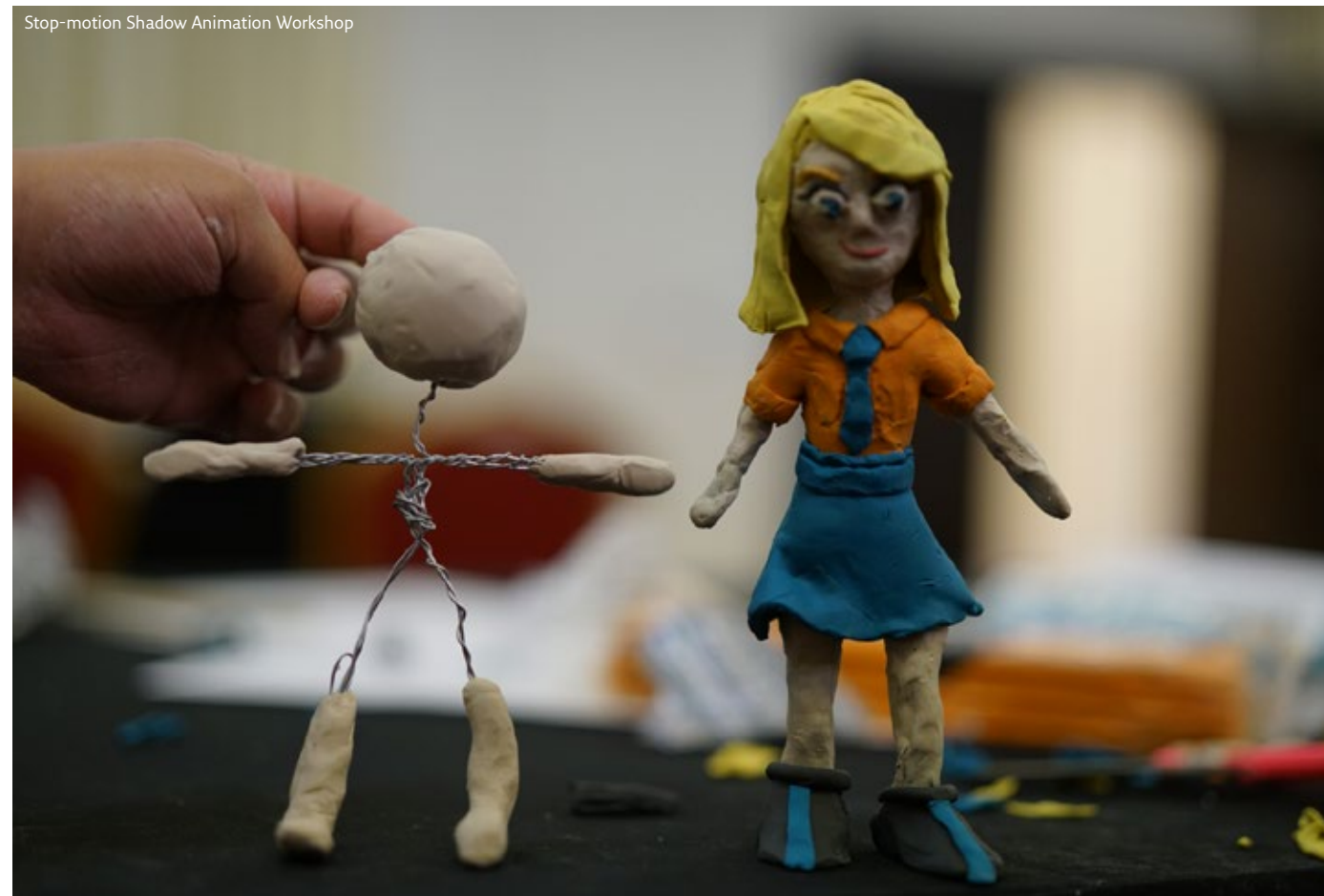
Oaxaca Film Festival, Mexico

Interfilm Short Film Festival, Berlin

Arab Film Festival, San Francisco Bay Area

Carthage Film Festival, Tunisia

LIFF, Beirut, Lebanon



**DFI has made it a priority to invest in youth. During 2019, the youth-focused initiatives we held included workshops, international exchange programmes, training young jurors at Ajyal and offering our young people an opportunity to be exposed to a prestigious international film festival.**

Our Youth Programmes are designed to empower and equip young people to make films on issues that are important to them. We help our young participants gain the confidence to explore film production, while having fun and creating films that tell their stories, in their unique way.

From film appreciation to acting classes, from filmmaking to the fine art of great storytelling, our Youth Programme is a journey into the process of creative collaboration. Our workshops provide an outlet and an opportunity for youth to speak up about the changes they want to see in their lives, their community and the world.



## Youth Animation Workshop

February 2019

**Mentor:** Nathan Otano

In collaboration with Les Gobelins Animation School, DFI offered the opportunity for our young people to benefit from a week-long training programme that introduced the methods of traditional 2D animation. From the history of the art right through to learning how to design and animate characters and backgrounds from scratch, the course was a hands-on experience.

## Stop-motion Shadow Animation Workshop

June 2019

**Mentor:** Fadi Syriani

This workshop was an introduction to different techniques required for creating and producing a stop-motion animated film. Participants learnt the tricks and techniques that enable a deeper appreciation of this form of artistic storytelling.

## Youth Photography Workshop

October 2019

**Mentor:** Tanya Habjouqa

The workshop introduced the basic techniques of the art form and encouraged youth to take up creative storytelling through photography, using a compact digital camera or smartphone. Taught in a fun environment, the class focused on exploration and developing a love of photography and the visual arts.

## Camera Kids: Make Your Own Short Documentary Workshop

July / August 2019

**Mentors:** Marcus Zaiser, Zahed Bata

At this workshop, the young participants took their first steps into the exciting world of documentary filmmaking. Through hands-on exercises, participants learnt the technical and practical approaches required to make a documentary short film including elements of story development, visual storytelling, editing and sound design.

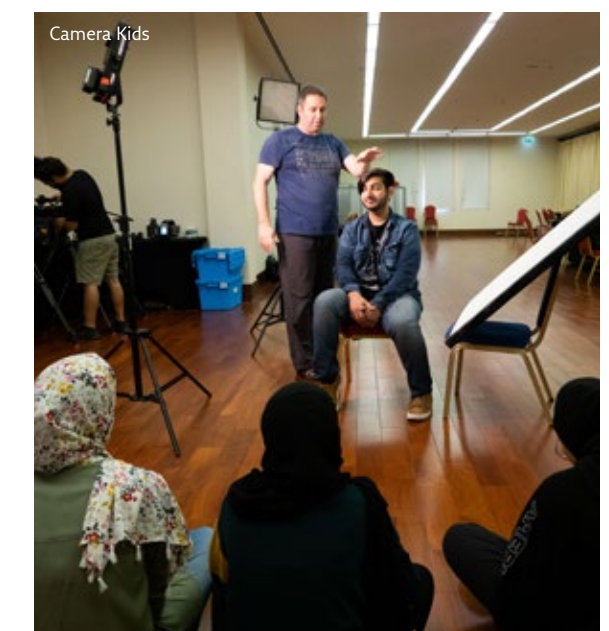
## 3 Short Documentaries Produced:

**TRAPPED IN MY THOUGHTS  
EDUCATION FOR ALL  
THE PREMONITION**

## Giffoni Film Festival

July 2019

Four Ajyal 2018 jurors, Fares Al Dehbi, Omar Al Saadi, Noor Fannik and Basma Hanbali, were on the youth jury at the 2019 Giffoni Film Festival. DFI is glad that our youth received the opportunity to be part of an international film festival where they could share their cultures with a group of their global peers.

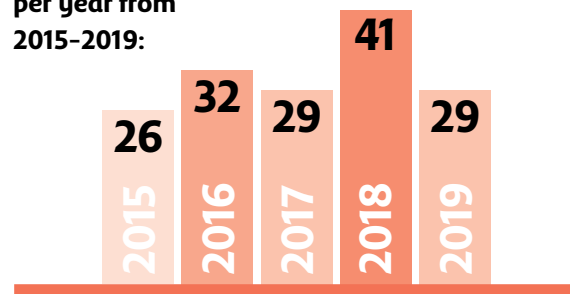




# DFI Internship Programme Preparing Youth for Careers in Film

**2019 saw DFI train 29 interns, equipping them to take their next steps into careers in film.**

Number of Interns per year from 2015-2019:



## Virginia Commonwealth University Qatar

For the third year running, DFI participated in VCUQ's Elective Module "Exploring Space Through the Lens – Production Design". Three short films were produced as part of this initiative and screened for students and faculty in May 2019. VCU's students also joined as Production Design Interns for DFI's Production 'Olayan'.

### MOU with Virginia Commonwealth University Qatar

DFI signed an MOU with VCU in 2019, allowing for an expanded collaboration between the two organisations, opening up greater opportunities for interns.

### DFI assists in the development of a Film Design Minor at VCUQ

The success of "Exploring Space Through the Lens" led to VCU's main campus in the USA expressing an interest in developing a 'Film Design' Minor. An initial syllabus draft has been created with DFI's input.

### DFI is Explores the Possibility of Producing Fashion Films

Working with VCUQ's Fashion Department, DFI is currently exploring the possibility of producing a series of short fashion films.

## Qatar University

DFI hosted 6 accredited Internships with Qatar University's Mass Communications Department.

## Northwestern University in Qatar

As part of our internship programme, we hosted two students who trained with us by joining the script development team and the 'Olayan' casting team.



# Our Interns Speak

**"It's life-changing. You get to know how things are done, you get to meet good, experienced people who are really supportive"**

Obadha Bahri

**"Great people, awesome atmosphere. I wasn't treated like a baby and they gave me lots of responsibility, which forced me to learn and improve quickly!"**

Theunis Knoetze

**"I love the teamwork environment: it encourages you to meet new people and learn from their skills and experiences"**

Ahmad Al Ali

**"Being on set is different than just learning by reading or watching videos: it makes you realize what it is actually like to work in the film industry"**

Ahmad Al Ali

**"This was my first time working with a professional team and it was eye-opening to see how hard working everyone is make sure that the final shot is perfect "**

Sahan Methmal

**"DFI puts you right into the deep-end of film production and I think that's a very eye opening process and it allows you to understand how much effort goes into each of these films. You get to see and experience everything the professionals do and you're right in on the "action". It's tough and it's hard, exhausting work but the experience and knowledge that you absorb is priceless and it will allow you to further yourself in the film-making industry. Highly, highly recommended! "**

Sahan Methmal



# Our Education Partners

## Local

**Qatar University**  
**Qatar Foundation**  
**Northwestern University in Qatar**  
**Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar**  
**Virtuocity**  
**Institut Francais Qatar**  
**French Embassy in Doha**  
**FNAC**  
**Fifty One East**

## International

**La Fémis** - France  
**Beirut Cinema Platform** - Lebanon  
**EAVE** - Luxembourg  
**IFP** - USA  
**Les Gobelins** - France  
**VIA University College** - Denmark  
**FID Marseille Lab** - France  
**Royal Film Commission of Jordan**  
**Centre Cinematographique Marocain** - Morocco  
**Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Tunisien** - Tunisia  
**Sundance Institute** - USA  
**Bophana Center** - Cambodia





# FUNDING

Funding initiatives of DFI are aimed at bringing out original and compelling film content. Our funding enables emerging, talented filmmakers from across the globe to tell their stories, by developing their ideas into viable film projects. A top priority for DFI is to support projects that have regional relevance. Our ultimate goal is to assist the emergence of a diverse slate of original films that can contribute to a more balanced, global, storytelling platform.

**DFI's Qatari Film Fund, our Grants Programme and Co-Finance are the three mechanisms we use to channel funding into projects that make their way into our funding portfolio.**



# Qatari Film Fund

**By investing in the development of national talent, the Qatari Film Fund equips, empowers and elevates the skills and talents of Qatari filmmakers.**

The Qatari Film Fund (QFF) finances up to eight short films per year. The funds QFF infuses into projects go towards development and production support. In the feature film category, QFF supports up to four feature films per year. Since its inception in 2015, QFF has surpassed all expectations and helped bring out a cadre of talented, local filmmakers who are elevating the local film industry.



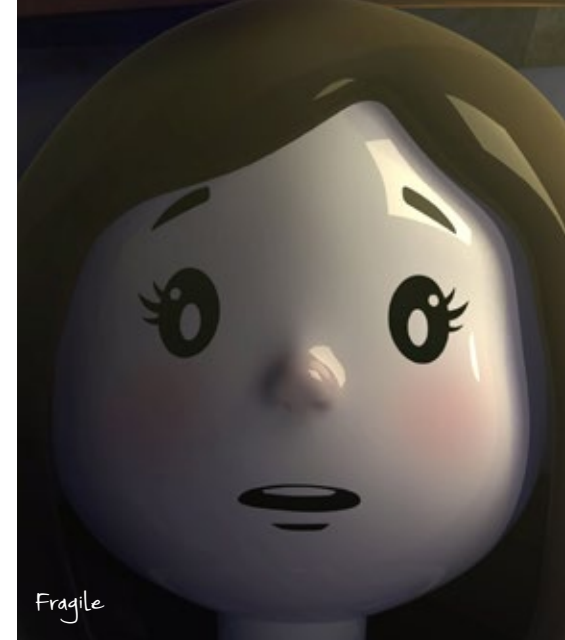


# Film Fund Awardees



## End of the Road

By Ahmad Adnan Al-Sharif



## Fragile

By Kholoud Al Ali

## Ya Hoota

By Latifa Al Darwish, Abdulaziz Yousef



## 6 QFF Films in Production

**Al Tabbab**  
**Emsa7ar**  
**Fre7a**

**Olayan**  
**Pastimes**  
**Pearl Banks**

## Qatari Film Fund in Numbers

**7** Films in Development

**6** Films in Production

## 7 QFF Films in Development

**Khattaba** Web Series

**Connect** Shorts

**Hitch 60** Shorts

**Dawiha** Feature

**Khuzama** Feature

**The Pearl** Feature

**The Grey Horse** Feature

**4** Features

**2** Shorts

**1** Web Series



# QFF Films Rise in Visibility at Festivals Around the World

Given an opportunity to shine first at DFI's Qumra and our Ajyal Film Festival, the below QFF supported films made their mark at a large number of international film festivals around the world, with some winning awards or proudly securing a place amongst the in-flight entertainment selection on Qatar's national carrier.



## Amphitheater

by Mahdi Ali Ali Al-Sharshani

**Ajyal Film Festival** | Qatar | 2018  
**Chicago International Film Festival** | USA | 2019  
**POFF Black Nights Film Festival** | Estonia | 2019  
**Doha Palestine Cinema Festival** | Qatar | 2019  
**Cardiff International Film Festival** | UK | 2019  
**Polish International Film Festival** | Poland | 2019  
**Beijing International Short Film Festival** | China | 2019  
**Short to the Point Film Festival** | Romania | 2019

## Sh'hab

by Amal Al-Muftah

**Ajyal Film Festival** | Qatar | 2018  
**Aarhus Arab Film Festival** | Denmark | 2019  
**Orchids International Children's Film Festival** | India | 2019  
**Great Message International Film Festival** | India | 2019  
**International Women's Film Festival "Regards De Femmes"** | Tunisia | 2019  
**YOUKI International Youth Media Festival** | Austria | 2019  
**Doha Palestine Cinema Festival** | Qatar | 2019  
**Chihuahua International Film Festival** | Mexico | 2019  
**Bogota Short Film Festival BOGOSHORTS** | Columbia | 2019  
**Marcellus Mini Movie Family Film Festival** | USA | 2019



**At the China International New Media Short Film Festival, China, 2019**  
**Sh'hab won the Special Jury Award for a Female-themed Short Film.**

## Nasser Goes to Space

by Mohamed Al Mahmeed

**Ajyal Film Festival** | Qatar | 2018  
**Orchids International Children's Film Festival** | India | 2019  
**Great Message International Film Festival** | India | 2019  
 | **AWARD Best Editing**  
**Doha Palestine Cinema Festival** | Qatar | 2019  
**Marcellus Mini Movie Family Film Festival** | USA | 2019  
**Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival Market** | France | 2019  
**Berlinale EFM Market** | Germany | 2019  
**Cannes Short Film Corner Market** | France | 2019  
**Sarajevo Film Festival Market** | Bosnia | 2019  
**Arab Film Festival Tübingen Market** | Germany | 2019

**Nasser Goes to Space secured a place on the Qatar Airways In-Flight Entertainment Selections in December 2019.**

## I Am Not My Father

By Naif Al-Malki

**Ajyal Film Festival** | Qatar | 2018  
**Orchids International Children's Film Festival** | India | 2019  
**Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival Market** | France | 2019  
**Berlinale EFM Market** | Germany | 2019  
**Cannes Short Film Corner Market** | France | 2019  
**Sarajevo Film Festival Market** | Bosnia | 2019  
**Arab Film Festival Tübingen Market** | Germany | 2019

**I Am Not My Father secured a place on the Qatar Airways In-Flight Entertainment December 2019 Selections.**





# Grants Programme

**Our Grants Programme seeks to discover and support emerging talent. DFI's focus through its grants programme is to unveil the talent of first-and-second time filmmakers from Qatar, the wider Arab region, and around the world by funding their productions, giving their films the opportunity to reach audiences.**

DFI's Grants Programme facilitates exchanges of creativity, knowledge and professional collaborations among filmmakers. We assist our Grantees interact, connect, evaluate and grow through our own events such as Qumra and Ajyal. We ensure that the exposure and the experience they gain thereafter is utilized as a springboard to go beyond, tour international festivals and capture the attention of audiences across the globe. In order to keep pace with evolving trends in the industry and to reach growing audiences who use technologies that go beyond traditional cinema, DFI funds work that includes television and web series.

In 2019, DFI granted films had over 10 theatrical releases, earned more than 85 awards at major international film events, in addition to several more at smaller festivals and exceeded over 390 festival selections. 79 of our 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.

## Grants Programme in Numbers for 2019

**10+**

Theatrical releases in selected territories

**85+**

Awards throughout festival circuits

**390+**

Festival selections



# Grants Film Highlights

## The Orphanage

Feature Narrative | By Shahrbanoo Sadat

## Froth

Feature Documentary | By Ilya Povolotsky

## 143 Sahara Street

Feature Documentary | By Hassen Ferhani

## Bombay Rose

Feature Narrative | By Gitanjali Rao

## Talking About Trees

Feature Documentary | By Suhaib Gasmelbari

## The Cave

Feature Documentary | By Feras Fayyad

## To Live To Sing

Feature Narrative | By Johnny Ma

## The Unknown Saint

Feature Narrative | By Alaa Eddine Aljem

## You Will Die at Twenty

Feature Narrative | By Amjad Abu Alala





# DFI Making Headlines

## Cannes Film Festival

In 2019 DFI set another first in the Arab region. One of our co-financed projects, Elia Suleiman's 'It Must Be Heaven', was selected as the Official Selection, at the 72nd Cannes Film Festival. This nomination makes DFI the only cultural organisation in the MENA region to have had four co-financed films in the Official Selection, Competition to date. In 2019, a further six films supported by our Grants programme and six short films under the theme 'Short Cuts to Qatar' were also screened to global audiences in key sections of this prestigious festival.



## “ DFI has emerged as possibly the most influential Arab player on the international circuit

“During the past five years, the DFI has emerged as possibly the most influential Arab player on the international circuit, thanks to strong ties with programmers worldwide, as well as sheer dedication in pushing its films to premiere on the best possible platforms”.

31 May | Joseph Fahim | Cannes | France

## Qatar is already at the Top of the International Cinema Poster

“At the Cannes Film Festival, it will be evident that a significant number of films have been produced thanks to the Doha Film Institute”.

27 May | Jean-Michael Frodon | Cannes

## Putting the spotlight on Arab cinema more than ever

“Nowhere is that focus more apparent than in the cinema culture DFI fought so hard to create, as the recent presence of seven films supported by the Doha Film Institute at the Cannes Film Festival proved.”

7 July | E. Nina Rothe | Thrive Global | Cannes



## Toronto International Film Festival

In 2019 a strong contingent of 12 DFI supported films, were in the spotlight at the prestigious 44th Toronto International Film Festival. Our films made up one of the largest selections at TIFF. Four of the productions made their world premieres and eight of them made their North American premieres.



## “ 12 Doha Film Institute-backed films to screen at Toronto festival

“The 12 films selected to screen at Toronto are truly representative of the kind of films DFI supports – diverse, compelling, and innovative, with powerful human stories at their centre.”

5 September | The Peninsula | Qatar

## 12 DFI-backed films selected for 2019 Toronto Film Festival

“In addition to presenting compelling voices in filmmaking from the Arab world, the selection also includes new voices in global cinema as part of our focus on nurturing the upcoming generation of talent”.

5 September | Qatar Tribune | Doha





Through DFI's Co-Financing programme, we seek to invest in film production using strategic, creative partnerships as a collaborative mechanism to encourage participation that transcends borders. Our interest is particularly focused on film projects that are both culturally relevant and commercially viable. In addition, we also seek Co-production opportunities between international and Qatar-based filmmakers.

Through our Co-Finance Programme, we provide training and internship opportunities at all stages of production for local filmmakers. Further, our Co-Finance investments also strengthen the regional industry by providing valued opportunities for cooperation.

It Must be Heaven

Director / Writer: Elia Sulieman

Filmmaker Elia Suleiman travels to different cities and finds unexpected parallels to his homeland of Palestine.

67 Festival Screenings

NOMINATIONS

Cannes Film Festival 2019  
Palme d'Or  
Cannes Film Festival 2019  
Winner of the Jury Special Mention and FIPRESCI Critics' Award

Jameson CineFest - Miskolc International Film Festival 2019  
Emeric Pressburger Prize for Best Feature Film

Munich Film Festival 2019  
CineCoPro Award  
Seville European Film Festival 2019  
Golden Giraldillo for Best Film

Toronto International Film Festival 2019  
Best Canadian Feature Film

Transatlantyk Festival: Lodz 2019  
Transatlantyk Distribution Award for "New Cinema"

IT MUST BE HEAVEN TOURS THE WORLD

Asia Pacific Screen Awards  
Australian Cinémathèque /Brisbane International Film Festival  
Melbourne International Film Festival  
Australia

Viennale  
Austria

Bahamas International Film Festival  
Bahamas

Brussels Film Festival  
Festival International De Comédie De Liège  
Belgium

Sarajevo Film Festival  
Bosnia

São Paulo International Film Festival  
Brazil

Diaspora Film Festival  
Festival De Films Cinemania  
Toronto International Film Festival  
Vancouver International Film Festival  
Canada

Santiago International Film Festival  
Festival Internacional De Cine De Valdivia  
Chile

Shanghai International Film Festival  
China

Subversive Festival  
Croatia

Cairo International Film Festival  
Egypt

Cannes  
Festival La Rochelle Cinéma  
Rhizomes Festival  
France

Filmfest München  
Germany

Hong Kong French Film Festival  
Hong Kong

Cinefest  
Hungary



International Film Festival of India  
International Film Festival of Kerala  
Kolkata International Film Festival  
Mumbai Film Festival  
India

Cannes a Rome et Milan  
Italy

Tokyo Filmex "Special Screening"  
Japan

Arab Film Festival Amman  
Jordan

Almaty Film Festival - Competition  
Kazakhstan

Kaunas International Film Festival  
Lithuania

Ficunam  
Los Cabos Film Festival  
Mexico

Movies That Matter Festival  
Netherlands

New Zealand Film Festival Trust  
New Zealand

Lima Film Festival  
Peru

Camerimage International Film Festival  
Letnia Akademia Filmowa  
Transatlantyk International Film Festival  
Warsaw Film Festival  
Poland

Qumra & Ajyal Film Festival  
Qatar

International Film Festival Pacific Meridian  
Russia

Busan International Film Festival  
South Korea

Seville European Film Festival  
Spain

Vevey International Funny Film Festival  
Black Movie Festival  
Switzerland

BFI London Film Festival  
Inverness Film Festival  
Leeds International Film Festival  
UK

American Film Institute Film Festivals  
Arabian Sights Film Festival,  
Washington DC Film Festival  
Bam / Brooklyn Academy of Music  
Boston Palestine Film Festival  
Chicago International Film Festival  
Cinecina Film Festival NYC  
Cleveland International Film Festival  
Denver Film Festival  
Mizna Arab Film Festival in Minneapolis  
Palestine Writes Festival  
Palm Springs International Film Festival  
Philadelphia Film Festival  
San Francisco Arab Film Festival  
Santa Fe Independent Film Festival  
USA





# To the Ends of the Earth

Director / Writer: Kiyoshi Kurosawa

A young Japanese woman named Yoko who finds her cautious and insular nature tested when she travels to Uzbekistan to shoot the latest episode of her travel variety show.

7 Festival Screenings

Locarno Film Festival  
Toronto International Film Festival  
New York Film Festival  
London Film Festival  
Busan  
AFI  
Ajyal Film Festival



To the Ends of the Earth

# Capernaum

Director / Writer: Nadine Labaki

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



Capernaum

## AWARDS

Amanda Awards 2019  
Best Foreign Feature Film

FEST International Film Festival 2019  
FEDEORA Jury Award Critics Award  
FIPRESCI Serbia Award Critics Award - Main Selection  
Jury Prize - Best Director

German Camera Award 2019  
German Camera Award for Feature Film

International Sound & Film Music Festival (ISFMF) 2019  
Crystal Pine Best Original Score

Rotterdam International Film Festival 2019  
Audience Award

The Lebanese Movie Awards 2019  
LMA Best Cinematography In A Lebanese Motion Picture

Vilnius International Film Festival 2019  
Audience Award Best Feature Film

Young Artist Awards 2019  
Breakout Performance Award  
Humanitarian Award

38 Festival Screenings

## NOMINATIONS

Academy Awards 2019  
Best Foreign Language Film of the Year

Golden Globes 2019  
Best Motion Picture - Foreign Language

Munich Film Festival 2019  
CineCoPro Award

BAFTA Awards 2019  
Best Film Not in the English Language

Alliance of Women Film Journalists 2019  
EDA Award for Best Non-English Language Film  
EDA Female Focus Award for Best Woman Director

Broadcast Film Critics Association Awards 2019  
Critics Choice Award for Best Foreign Language Film

César Awards 2019  
César Best Foreign Film

German Camera Award 2019  
German Camera Award

Globes de Cristal Awards, France 2019  
Globe de Cristal Best Foreign Film

Motion Picture Sound Editors 2019  
Golden Reel Award for Outstanding Achievement in Sound Editing

North Carolina Film Critics Association 2019  
NCFCA Award for Best Foreign Language Film

Online Film & Television Association 2019  
OFTA Film Award for Best Foreign Language Film

Palm Springs International Film Festival 2019  
FIPRESCI Prize for Best Foreign Language Film

The Lebanese Movie Awards 2019  
Best Lebanese Motion Picture  
Best Lebanese Director - Motion Picture  
Best Ensemble Cast - in a Lebanese Motion Picture  
Best Writing - in a Lebanese Motion Picture  
Best Cinematography - in a Lebanese Motion Picture  
Best Editing - in a Lebanese Motion Picture  
Best Soundtrack - in a Lebanese Motion Picture  
Best Sound Design - in a Lebanese Motion Picture  
Best Make-Up and Hair - in a Lebanese Motion Picture

World Soundtrack Awards 2019  
Public Choice Award



# Highlighted Awards and Nominations



Of Fathers and Sons



Brotherhood



Midnight Traveler



What We Left Unfinished



Abou Leila



Papicha

## 92nd ACADEMY AWARDS

### 1 Nomination

**Of Fathers and Sons**  
Best Documentary | Talal Derki

## SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

### 2 Selections

**Brotherhood**  
Meryam Joobeur

**Midnight Traveler**  
Hassan Fazili

## BERLIN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

### 5 Selections & 4 Awards

**Midnight Traveler**  
Hassan Fazili |  
Special Mention from Ecumenical Jury &  
Special Mention for the Peace Film Prize

**Talking About Trees**  
Suhaib Gasmelbari |  
Glashütte Original for Best  
Documentary & Panorama  
Audience Award

**Mother, I Am Suffocating.  
This Is My Last Film About You**  
Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese

**Of Fathers and Sons**  
Talal Derki

**What We Left Unfinished**  
Mariam Ghani

## FESTIVAL DE CANNES

### 6 Selections

**Abou Leila**  
Amin Sidi-Boumédiène

**Adam**  
Maryam Touzani

**Papicha**  
Mounia Meddour

**To Live to Sing**  
Johnny Ma

**The Orphanage**  
Shahrbano Sadat

**The Unknown Saint**  
Alaa Eddine Aljem

## SARAJEVO FILM FESTIVAL

### 4 Selections

**Abou Leila**  
Amin Sidi-Boumédiène

**The Orphanage**  
Shahrbano Sadat

**The Unknown Saint**  
Alaa Eddine Aljem

**You Have the Night**  
Ivan Salatić

## LOCARNO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

### 3 Selections & 1 Award

**143 Sahara Street**  
Hassen Ferhani |  
Best Emerging Director Award

**In Vitro**  
Larissa Sansour

**South Terminal**  
Rabah Ameer-Zaïmeche

## VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

### 6 Selections & 7 Awards

**All This Victory**  
Ahmad Ghossein | Grand Jury Prize,  
Audience Award & Hotel Saturnia Award  
for Best Technical Contribution

**Bombay Rose**  
Gitanjali Rao | Critics' Week, Opening  
Film

**A Son**  
Mehdi Barsaoui | Best Actor, NTERFILM  
Award for Promoting Interreligious  
Dialogue

**Sanctorum**  
Joshua Gil | Critics' Week, Closing Film

**Scales**  
Shahad Ameen | Verona Film Club Award

**You Will Die at Twenty**  
Amjad Abu Alala | Lion of the Future

## TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

### 10 Selections & 2 Awards

**1982**  
Oualid Mouaness | NETPAC Award

**The Cave**  
Feras Fayyad | The Grolsch People's  
Choice Documentary Award

**143 Sahara Street**  
Hassen Ferhani

**Adam**  
Maryam Touzani

**Bombay Rose**  
Gitanjali Rao

**Ibrahim: A Fate to Define**  
Lina Alabed

**My English Cousin**  
Karim Sayad

**Noura's Dream**  
Hinde Boujemaa

**South Terminal**  
Rabah Ameer-Zaïmeche

**You Will Die at Twenty**  
Amjad Abu Alala

## INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL IN AMSTERDAM

### 12 Selections & 1 Award

**143 Sahara Street**  
Hassen Ferhani

**A Comedian in a  
Syrian Tragedy**  
Rami Farah

**Amussu**  
Nadir Bouhmouch

**Froth**  
Ilya Povolotskiy | Jury Special Mention

**Ibrahim: A Fate to Define**  
Lina Alabed

**It Comes By Night (Aswang)**  
Alyx Ayn Arumpac

**Midnight Traveler**  
Hassan Fazili

**Speak So I Can See You**  
Marija Stojnic

**Talking About Trees**  
Suhaib Gasmelbari

**The Cave**  
Feras Fayyad

**The Forbidden Strings**  
Hasan Noori

**Tiny Souls**  
Dina Naser

## INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ROTTERDAM

### 7 Selections & 1 Award

**Divine Wind**  
Merzak Allouache

**Long Day's Journey Into Night**  
Gan Bi

**Sofia**  
Meryem Benm'Barek

**The Load**  
Ognjen Glavonić

**The Day I Lost My Shadow**  
Soudade Kaadan

**Too Late to Die Young**  
Dominga Sotomayor | KNF Award

**You Have The Night**  
Ivan Salatić



# The International Influence of DFI's Funding

**A team of researchers led by Joelle Farchy (dir.), Gregoire Bideau et Steven Tallec from the School of Media at La Sorbonne (EMNS), set out to take a deep dive into the growth of film and the development of film projects that reached the level of competition at international film festivals.**

Seeking to conduct a Research under the title "In competition - A decade of international film festivals", the research team hoped to trace the footprint of cinematic creations that entered competing from 2010 onwards, while creating space to offer the researcher's perspective on what took place during this time span and who played a significant role.

In the paper, published by Presses des Mines, Les Cahiers de l'EMNS, the nation of Qatar drew attention. Given that Qatar, through DFI had taken up an influential role, funding film projects that made their mark at International Film Festivals, the Research shone a light on the role the DFI played. The paper also pointed out the growth of female filmmakers and recorded the arc of their progress. The following translated excerpt offers a glimpse into the project.

## En compétition.

### Une décennie de festivals internationaux de cinéma.

By Joelle Farchy (dir.), Gregoire Bideau et Steven Tallec

#### Qatar – Moving From Black Gold To The Seventh Art

Qatar has gained a reputation for being a nation where the internationalization of film production is being pushed to its peak. While being a relatively small nation that has experienced rapid economic development thanks to its natural resources, Qatar has expressed its desire to become a major cultural player in the Arab world. Culture, and particularly cinema, has become a geopolitical tool of soft power. With the ubiquitous presence of the Middle East's media power, the international broadcaster Al-Jazeera being housed in Qatar, the country has stepped up to invest more and more in film production. In the oil-rich country, films are emerging as fast as skyscrapers.

**Before 2010, there was no trace of Qatari funding in the films presented at festivals. Then, between 2010 and 2018, we count 93 different films financed in part by Qatar, all co-produced and corresponding to 169 festival selections with a spike of 52 films selected at festivals in 2017.**

Among the co-producing countries, we find in first place France (41 films) and second Germany (21 films). Thus, 67% of the films presented at festivals are the fruit of a collaboration with France or Germany.

**The approach of the Doha Film Institute (DFI), created in 2010, is unique in that so far, we have not noticed the presence of directors of Qatari nationality in the filmmaking scene. Khalil Benkirane, DFI's Head of Grants said at Cannes in 2016 that the objective of this funding was to "create a space for a family of filmmakers from around the world, where they can exchange and ideally collaborate at a given time".**

The analysis of films co-produced by Qatar revealed that half of the filmmakers come from countries of the Maghreb or the Middle East: Palestine in particular showed a presence with seven directors along with Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Iran, Egypt, Kuwait, Syria, Algeria, Iraq, and Jordan. Originally destined exclusively for Arab Cinema, DFI's funding is also open to productions from directors of countries further away from its borders, like China and Singapore in 2016 or Brazil in 2018.

**It should also be noted that the proportion of women directors records a significant number (41%) and that the films are often shot in Arabic language than in English (respectively 53% and 16% of films).**

The choice of languages spoken in a film can indeed reveal the intentions of its director, its producer and even the programmer of a festival.

\* Farchy, J., Bideau, G., & Tallec, S. (2019). En Compétition Une Décennie De Festivals Internationaux De Cinéma., (p.56-57).



# QUMRA

15 March —  
20 March  
2019

Qumra expands on DFI's existing support mechanisms for filmmakers, taking them beyond financial assistance alone, into a more complex and meaningful level of support.

Having built a firm reputation as a one-of-its-kind film event in the Arab region, Qumra prioritises the advancement of emerging talent. Qumra focuses particularly on first and second-time filmmakers and contributes steadily to their growth by carving out pathways and opening up unparalleled opportunities for them.



# Experience



**Qumra connects leading film professionals, with emerging talent, creating valued interactions, exchanges and networking opportunities, playing a unique role as a true industry catalyst, assisting in the creation of truly remarkable films.**

2019 marked the 5th Edition of Qumra and brought together more than 150 acclaimed filmmakers, industry professionals and experts to nurture 36 projects from around the world in various stages of development. Of the 36 projects, 26 were recipients of the Doha Film Institute's Grants programme.

In keeping with Qumra's goal, in 2019 Qumra continued to provide mentorship, nurturing and hands-on development for emerging filmmakers from Qatar and around the world.

## Connections

Qumra connected DFI's local, regional and international grantees and co-financed projects, the Qatari Film Fund, and year-round education and development participants with leading industry professionals and cinema masters to complete the life cycle of successful film projects.



**Qumra's 2019 programme featured a robust calendar of industry meetings designed to assist with and propel projects to their next stages of development. These included masterclasses, work-in-progress screenings, bespoke matchmaking sessions and tailored tutorials with industry experts. The creative exchanges at Qumra took place alongside a programme of public screenings curated with input from the Qumra Masters.**

## Qumra Masters

**Throughout the six-day initiative, the Qumra Masters shared their experience with the filmmakers behind the 36 projects. They provided invaluable feedback by drawing on their own inspiring journeys through the cinematic world during their masterclass and Master Screening.**

Throughout the six-day initiative, the Qumra Masters shared their experience with the filmmakers behind the 36 projects. They provided invaluable feedback by drawing on their own inspiring journeys through the cinematic world during their masterclass and Master Screening.

This year's Qumra Masters included Academy Award® winning Mexican production designer Eugenio Caballero, Italian writer and director Alice Rohrwacher, prolific Japanese director and writer Kiyoshi Kurosawa, and Polish auteur Paweł Pawlikowski, with a special masterclass honouring the French new wave Master Agnès Varda. The Moderators for Qumra 2019 were Richard Peña; the former program director of the Film Society of Lincoln Center and a Professor of Professional Practice at the School of The Arts at Columbia University and Jean-Michel Frodon; journalist, critic and historian of cinema.

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.

**Richard Peña** was the Programme Director of the Film Society of Lincoln Center and the Director of the New York Film Festival from 1988 until 2012. At the Film Society, Peña organised retrospectives of many film artists, as well as major film series devoted to numerous national cinemas. Together with Unifrance, in 1995 he created Rendez-Vous with French Cinema, the leading American showcase for new French cinema. He is Professor of Film Studies at Columbia University, where he specialises in film theory and international cinema, and has served as a Visiting Professor at the Sorbonne, Beijing University, UNAM Mexico City and the University of São Paulo. He also currently hosts WNET/Channel 13's weekly 'Reel 13' about Jean Eustache, which will be published at the end of this year.

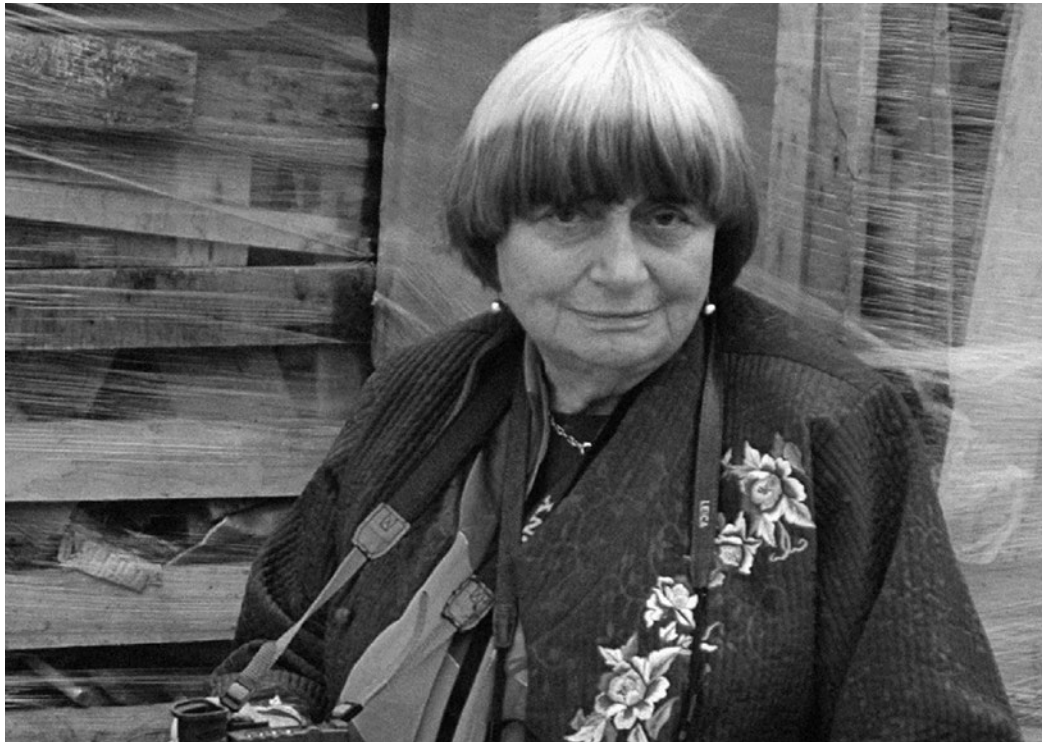
**Jean-Michel Frodon** is a world-renowned journalist, film critic, writer and historian of cinema. He has worked at the weekly 'Le Point' (1983- 1990), and 'Le Monde' (1990-2003), and was editorial director of 'Cahiers du Cinema' between 2003 and 2009. Since then he has written for the website slate.fr and on the blog 'Projection Publique'. He is also a member of the editorial board and permanent writer for 'Caiman, Cuadernos de Cine' (Spain) and founder of the thinktank 'L'Exception'. A professor at Sciences Po Paris (Political Sciences Institute), Jean-Michel Frodon is associated with Prof. Bruno Latour for the SPEAP project. Since September 2012, he is Professorial Fellow in Film Studies and Creative Industries at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland.





## Meet the Masters

# Agnès Varda



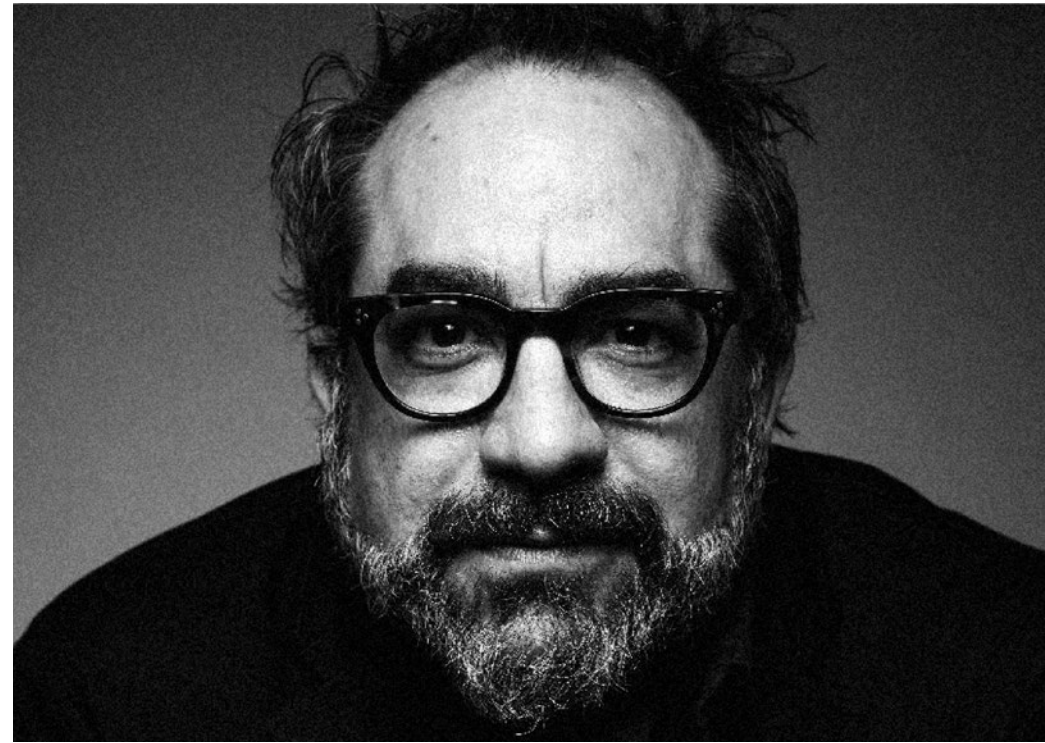
**Honorary Qumra Master - French film director, photographer and artist Agnès Varda.**

La Pointe Courte, Vagabond, The Gleaners and I, Faces Places



**Master's Selection**  
**The Gleaners and I**  
By Agnès Varda

# Eugenio Caballero



**Academy Award-winning production designer Eugenio Caballero**

Roma, Pan's Labyrinth, The Impossible



**Master's Selection**  
**Pan's Labyrinth**  
By Guillermo Del Toro



## Meet the Masters

# Paweł Pawlikowski



**Academy Award-winning director  
Paweł Pawlikowski.**

Ida, Cold War

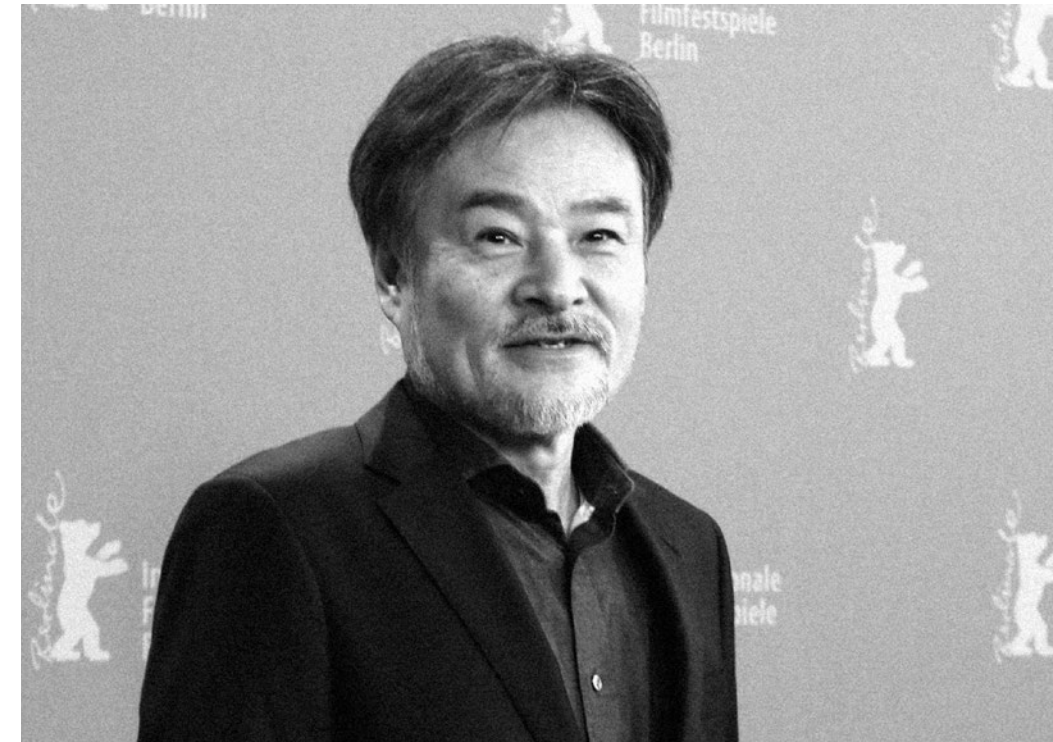


**Master's Selection**

**Ida**

By Paweł Pawlikowski

# Kiyoshi Kurosawa



**Master Japanese film director  
Kiyoshi Kurosawa.**

Cure, Pulse, Tokyo Sonata



**Master's Selection**

**Tokyo  
Sonata**

By Kiyoshi Kurosawa



## Meet the Masters

# Alice Rohrwacher



**Celebrated Italian auteur  
Alice Rohrwacher.**

Heavenly Body, The Wonders, Happy as Lazzaro



**Master's Selection**

## Happy as Lazzaro

By Alice Rohrwacher

## Qumra

# Through the Masters Eyes

“

I think Qumra is fantastic. I mean the quality of the mentors here is incredible. There are so many stories around this region, I think it's a really lively, rich area and where there's a lot of great cinema and important cinema to be made. It's great that Qumra is at the heart of that.

Paweł Pawlikowski

”

“

I have always had the desire to ask other filmmakers if I am doing it right, or what they would do. Qumra gave people that kind of occasion and opportunity. The ability to share and learn is what makes Qumra a very important event.

Kiyoshi Kurosawa

”

“

I was very surprised by the beautiful and serious approach here. Qumra is so important for the projects of new directors! I was also surprised by the projects themselves. I had five to analyse and talk about with the directors, and they were all so different and so special, that you feel there is beauty in this life. It's how you protect evolution.

Alice Rohrwacher

”

“

Qumra is very, very important. I have to say that I am surprised by the choice of bringing a production designer - such as myself to be a part of Qumra. But I think it is a good choice. Because it's very hard to get information on the other crafts, which are involved in cinema. Gatherings between creators is very important. I also think that the future of film comes from the emerging film industry. And this region has had a big impact on film.

Eugenio Caballero

”





# Qumra Projects

**26 feature-length and 10 short film projects at various stages of production were selected to benefit from the experience of the Qumra Masters, as well as bespoke mentorship and business meetings with international experts.**

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 tutorial sessions. 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.







# Qumra Shines Brighter Than Ever

**36** Projects  
**19** Countries  
**26** Features  
**10** Shorts  
**13** Features in Development  
**5** Works-in-progress Projects  
**8** Features in Picture Lock  
**5** Qatar-based Works-in-Progress  
**5** Shorts in the Development Stage

## Qatari Feature Documentary



### Places of the Soul

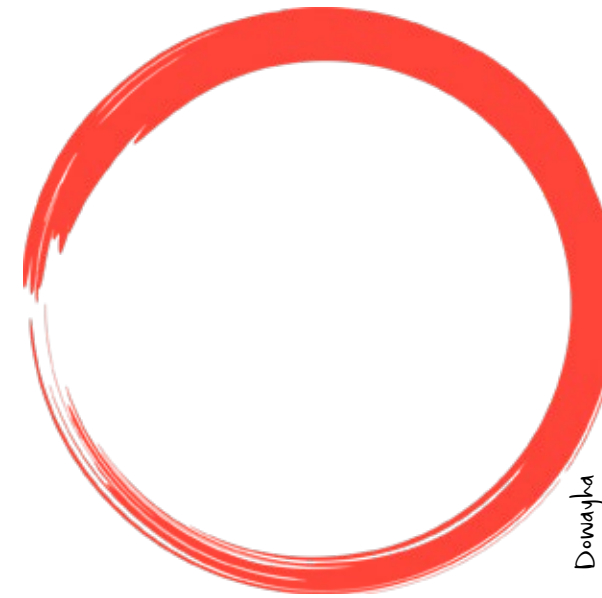
by Hamida Issa





# Fostering and Nurturing a Vibrant Film Culture in Qatar

**DFI stays true to its mission and focuses fully on developing a sustainable film industry in Qatar. Qumra proudly plays a significant role towards this and contributes directly to this national goal.**



**Behind Closed Doors**

by Hend Fakhroo

**Dowayha**

by Mahdi Ali Ali

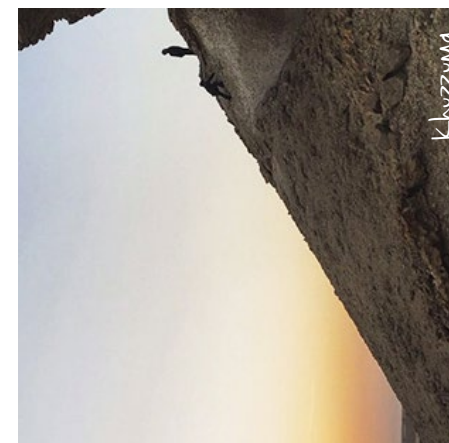
**Khuzama**

by A.J. Al-Thani



Investing in and developing homegrown projects is one of Qumra's ambitions. In our quest to inspire and develop wide-spread film appreciation, we begin at the grassroots, identifying and nurturing local talent. In 2019, Qumra ushered in a large number of local projects, taking pride in their journey from script to screen.

## The Feature Narrative Projects Under Development by Qatari Talents





# Qumra Shorts by Qatari Talents

QUMRA



Border

## Msa7ar

By Hassan Al-Jahani

## Border

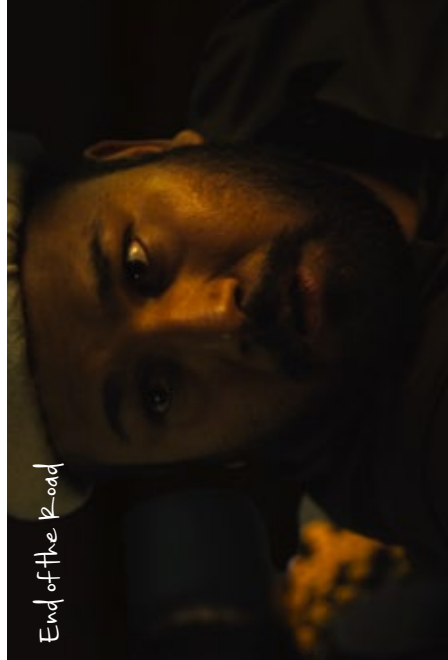
By Khalifa Al-Thani

## End of the Road

By Ahmad Sharif

## The Black Veil

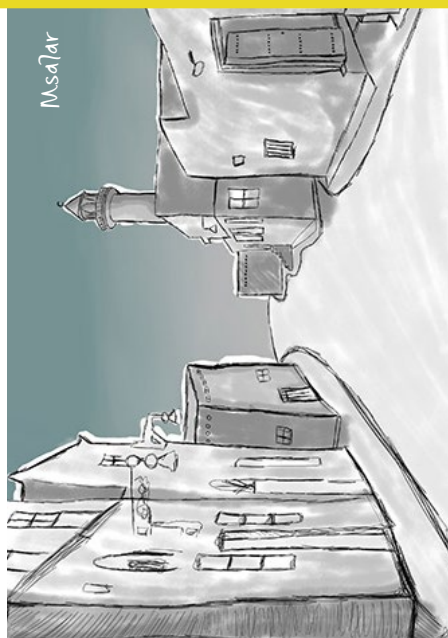
By A.J. Al-Thani



End of the Road



The Black Veil



Msa7ar

## Feature Documentary Project Under Development by Qatari Talents



## Qatar Stars

By Nouf Al Sulaiti

## Feature Documentary Project Under Development by Qatari Talents



## Places of the Soul

By Hamida Issa



# The Impact of Qumra 2019 in Our Filmmaker's Words



**"I am here at Qumra for the second year with this new film and I want to understand what I need to do to develop the story further. This initiative is an amazing opportunity for young Arab filmmakers to learn from global film experts and contribute to the future development of the industry. It's an exciting time for us as we start to see critical and commercial success of films from the region."**

**Qumra Project: Khalifa Al-Thani**  
Filmmaker, 'Border'

**"What differentiates Qumra from other initiatives is the quality of the advice here is very specific to our project. The advice I got has inspired new ideas for my script and given me reassurance about the strength of my central story."**

**Qumra Project: Lofti Achour**  
Director, 'Severed Head'



**"The fact that this initiative is organised and delivered in the region makes it special. The networking opportunities it offers are also second-to-none."**

**Qumra Project: Afsaneh Salari**  
Producer, 'The Forbidden Strings'



**“I think Qumra has a huge role in helping young Qataris – especially women – to tell their stories to the world. The advice I’m getting from people in the industry about my film is really helping me now that I’m in the editing phase. After that, I want to get my film out there and I hope that the connections I’m making here will help me to do that.”**

**Qumra Project: Hamida Issa**  
Director, ‘Places of the Soul’



**“I have attended every edition of Qumra and the experience I have gotten from the initiative is really amazing.”**

**Qumra Project: A.J. Al-Thani**  
Director, ‘Khuzama’

**“Thank you very much for this festival. What excellence! What quality! What generosity! And what a great opportunity you give us all.”**

**Khadija Leclere**  
Director/Screenwriter, ‘My Little One’



**“The support I am receiving at Qumra is unmatched by any other filmmaking lab that I have attended. The Qumra filmmaking mentors arrive well prepared, so their advice is very specific and relevant. That, along with the amazing access I have to the Qumra Masters has made this a hugely enriching experience.”**

**Qumra Project: Gitanjali Rao**  
Director, ‘Bombay Rose’





# Qumra Industry

**150 acclaimed filmmakers, industry professionals and experts gathered at Qumra 2019 to nurture the 36 Qumra Projects by first and second-time filmmakers. Several of them have formed strong bonds with this unique event, which has become an important platform and project incubator for new voices and compelling stories in Arab and world cinema.**

The 2019 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. The international delegates at Qumra came from countries ranging from Chile to Italy, Canada to Japan and the UK to the USA among others. Attendees from the region included delegates from Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Turkey, Syria and Tunisia.

This year's Qumra drew on the expertise of several Film Consultants who were available to offer their advice to a number of Qumra projects. These Consultants included Filmmakers Rithy Panh, Ghassan Salhab, Tala Hadid, Annemarie Jacir, Karim Ainouz, cinematographer Sofian El Fani; Editor Sebastian Sepulveda, Amazon marketing expert Ashley Hasz, Producer Joslyn Barnes and Jean des Forêts.

Among industry leaders who attended Qumra included Franklin Leonard, Founder of The Blacklist; Michel Reilhac, Head of Studies at Venice biennale College and VR expert, Funa Maduka, Content Acquisition for Independent Feature Films & Documentaries at Netflix; Bobby Allen Vice President of Content at MUBI and Sam Morrill, Director of Curation at Vimeo.

Festivals Directors of Berlinale, Toronto, Rotterdam, Karlovy Vary, Marrakech, Sarajevo, IDFA, Visions du Reel, and Programmers from Directors Fortnight and Critics Week in Cannes, Venice Biennale, Locarno, Tribeca and Mumbai among others, also attended the work in progress screenings of projects in post-production.

There was also a strong representation of film institutes and funds such as: Sundance Institute, Tribeca Institute, Arab Fund for Arts and Culture, World Cinema Fund, Eurimages Fund, Luxembourg Film Fund, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, Centre Cinematographique Marocain, Centre National du Cinema et de l'image Tunisien, Independent Filmmaker Project (IFP), Torino Film Lab, and Venice Biennale.

In addition, Qumra also drew International Sales and Distributors including Wild Bunch, The Match Factory, New Europe Film Sales, Stray Dogs, Films Boutique, Doc & Films, Bac Films, MC Distribution, among others.

The Qatar-based organisations who were at the event included teams from Qatar TV, Al Rayyan TV, Al Jazeera Media Network, and Al Jazeera Documentary.



# Qumra Industry

## Thoughts and Thanks

“

“ To have a gathering like this in Doha, and to be a part of it is one of the most exciting things that I think I'll have the opportunity to do because, well there's been films that have been overlooked from this region, and to be able to provide support for the industry as a whole as it emerges and evolves, it's just incredibly exciting ”

**Franklin Leonard**

Founder of The Black List

“ For Arab filmmakers today, there are not a lot of places they can go for support. Qumra is really unique in the region as a vehicle to help develop the talent of the next generation of Arab filmmakers. I wish that this kind of initiative had been available when I was starting out in the industry ”

**Annemarie Jacir**

Director, 'Wajib'

“ Just wanted to say a warm thank you for welcoming me in Qumra. It was a great insight in what you're doing there, with very interesting films and projects to discuss. Hope we'll take care of as many Doha - supported films as we did in the past year ”

**Lison Hervé**

Stray DogsOkra Film

“ I'm continually impressed by the format and curation of Qumra. It is such a wonderful event, and this year was no exception. I'm particularly impressed with, and always enjoy, the curation of the international industry. Everyone attends with such generosity of spirit so access to everyone is easy, and career-long bonds are forged ”

**Paul Federbush**

Head of Feature Films, Sundance

“ This was my fourth time in Doha and by far, the most productive and enjoyable. The quality of projects you had this year left us all giddy. We can't wait to see them and hopefully bring some to Karlovy Vary this year ”

**Joseph Fahim**

Programmer/Critic

“ I'd love to thank you very much for another amazing experience at Qumra. It was great to be back. Once again it was a very efficient stay. Extremely interesting projects and an impeccable organization of a devoted and very kind team. Congratulations! ”

**Karel Och**

Artistic Director, 54th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

“ You are doing an amazing job at pulling together an awesome event. The professionalism of every-one is outstanding. From vision, strategic planning to the most minute detail, everything in your organization, planning and implementation of Qumra is truly remarkable. And the amazing human warmth that everyone shows makes the whole experience a total pleasure. I felt welcome every second and loved every exchange I had ”

**Michel Reilhac**

Producer/Programmer of VR

“ Each year I'm impressed by the high calibre of projects I see at Qumra. These are a bunch of really smart kids whose projects are bold and diverse. As well as offering advice from my experience, I am inspired by the work I see at Qumra, the energy of the young filmmakers here, and the new processes and ways that they work ”

**Tala Hadid**

Director, 'House in the Fields'

”



# Qumra Public Screenings

From the 15th to the 20th of March 2019, Qumra opened its screening venues, offering the public the opportunity to enjoy 5 handpicked films by the Qumra Masters and a selection of films brought out by New Voices in Cinema.

# 10

Screenings

# 1,255

Audience Members

## Qumra 2019 on Social Media #Qumra in Numbers

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

**550,000** Total social media impressions

**20,000** Video views on Twitter

**20,000** Video views on Instagram

**220,000** Instagram impressions

**280,000** Twitter impressions



# New Voices in Cinema

**Qumra 2019 showcased  
a selection of acclaimed  
films made with the support  
of DFI's Grants Programme  
and Filmmaking Labs.**

## Constructions

By Fernando Martín Restelli

## Sofia

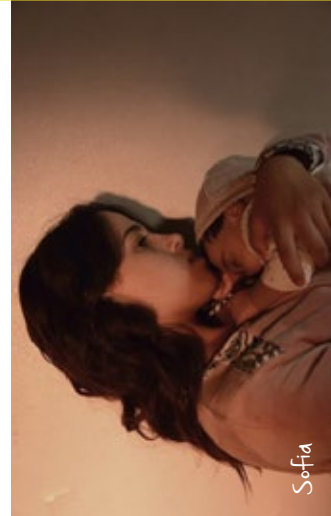
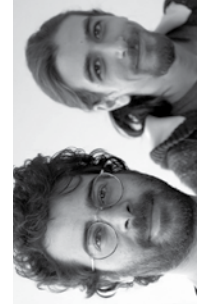
By Meryem Benm'Barek

## Of Fathers and Sons

By Talal Derki

## Still Recording

By Ghiath Ayoub, Saeed Al Batal



# New Voices in Cinema Shorts

## Gubgub

By Nouf Al Sulaiti

## Amphitheater

By Mahdi Ali Ali

## The Wake

By Zahed Bata

## Hope

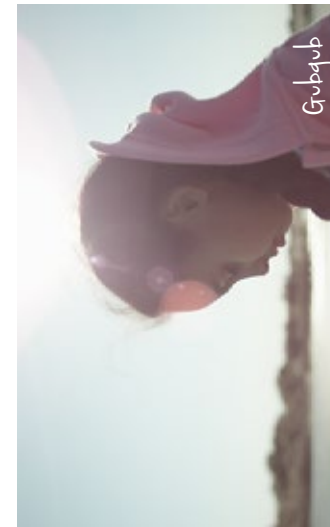
By Mohammed Shaikhow

## Just Another Memory

By Mariam Al-Dhubhani

## Sh'hab

By Amal Al-Muftah





As an unparalleled event in the region, Qumra passionately promotes growth. That is why, every element of Qumra's programme is specifically curated to draw from the wealth of talent available at the event. The ultimate goal of Qumra is to enrich the projects of those who are determined to break into the industry and craft compelling cinematic creations.



The 2019 programmes offered one-on-one attention, group interactions, networking opportunities, and shared ideas. The special industry guests who were invited to Qumra became fully invested in local and international projects. The new talent present were immersed in an environment of opportunity and benefitted from the advice of industry experts.



### The carefully curated programme included:

- 117** One-on-one bespoke tutorials with experts and mentors
- 21** Individual 'Meet the Masters' sessions with the Qumra Masters
- 4** Qumra Shorts one-on-one tutorials
- 273** Match-Made Meetings



# Qumra Talks

**Qumra Talks gathers 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. Qumra talks were held in partnership with Northwestern University in Qatar.**



## **The Black List: Revolutionising How Films Get Chosen** **Franklin Leonard, Founder of the Black List**

At the first Qumra Talk of 2019, The Black List founder and CEO Franklin Leonard spoke to a packed audience about the importance of bringing new and diverse voices into Hollywood and the role that his company has played in this area so far. Since its launch, more than one third 1,200 Black List scripts have been produced. The Qumra Talk was introduced by Rana Kazkaz, Assistant Professor of Communication in Residence at Northwestern University in Qatar, which has partnered with DFI for several years running to deliver Qumra Talks.

## **Welcome to the New Reality: How VR Is Changing Our World** **Michel Reilhac**

At the second Qumra Talk, virtual reality (VR) pioneer Michel Reilhac examined the huge potential of this technology to transform cinema. During his Qumra Talk, he demonstrated how filmmakers can learn from the revolutionary ways VR is being used in gaming. Reilhac's talk on virtual reality was complemented by the Qumra VR Lounge powered by Diversion Cinema. The lounge was open to the public and guests throughout Qumra, with over 100 visitors taking part in the experience.





Looking back, over the past five editions, Qumra has nurtured projects of international acclaim as one of the few standalone industry events globally and has contributed directly to their success. DFI is proud to say that Qumra's legacy continues far beyond the week-long event. The facts below are a testament to Qumra's growing legacy.

## 110

110 Arab projects selected in the past five years, out of which 52 were by Qatari nationals or residents.



## 36

Projects from 36 countries have taken part in Qumra since 2015.



## +100

Over 100 deals made or initiated during Qumra since its inception.

## 104

104 film projects in development went into production after being in Qumra.

## GLOBAL

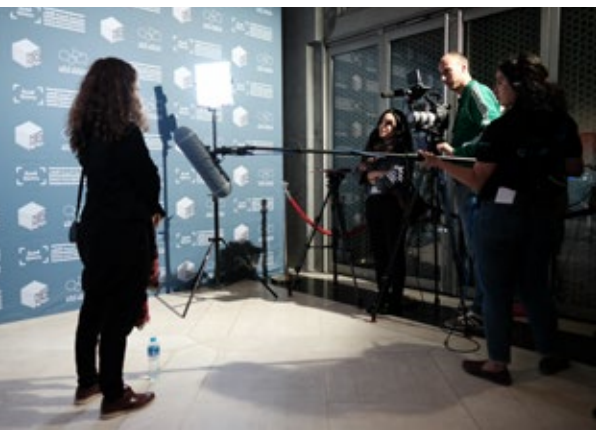
Qumra project films went on to premiere at Critics' Week, Directors Fortnight and Un Certain Regard at Cannes Film Festival, Venice Critics Week, IDFA, Berlinale, Locarno Film Festival and TIFF to name a few.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Some highlights of the nominations and awards acquired by Qumra projects include Best Motion Picture Foreign Language at Golden Globe Awards, Best First Film and Best Director at the César Awards, Leopard for Best Direction at Locarno, Camera D'Or and Best Screenplay and Cannes Film Festival, Venice International Film Festival Interfilm Award, Panorama Documentary Award at Berlinale, Heart of Sarajevo For Best Actor at SFF, Best Director of Photography Award and Best Screenwriter at Malmo Arab Film Festival, First Feature Competition at London Film Festival and Audience Award at Venice Critics Week.



# Qumra in Pictures





# Qumra Partners

## Cultural Partners



## Supported by



## Friends of Qumra



## Media Partner





# FILM SCREENINGS

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

**DFI takes the time to develop an extensive  
and diverse cultural experience through  
the curated films we screen. Our goal  
is to offer an exemplary film experience  
to the audiences in Qatar.**



# 2019's Film Screenings

## Screenings in Numbers

**12,290** Audience Members

**130** Screenings

**111** Short Films

**65** Feature Films

The 2019 Film Screenings included a Thematic Series, the Ajyal Film Series, Contemporary Releases, Cinema Under the Stars and Special Screenings of a variety of outstanding films. Through these screenings, DFI provided an opportunity for local audiences to enjoy exceptional cinematic creations.

DFI's Film Screenings are part of our year-round initiatives and they offer varied cinema experiences, making a valuable contribution to the diversity of screen culture in Qatar.





# Year-Round Programming

## Thematic Series

### In Search Of Lost Time

This program showcased tales of characters in search of lost time-be it time that has passed or still passing or has yet to pass. Whether through war-torn realities or life-threatening sicknesses, these characters represent stories of animators who want to keep searching for what once was, and what may come after.



## Features

### Alice

Director: Jan Švankmajer

### The Illusionist

Director: Sylvain Chomet



Alice



The Illusionist

## Shorts

### Weekends

Director: Trevor Jimenez

### Black Barbie

Director: Comfort Arthur

### Blind Vaysha

Director: Theodore Ushev

### Wild Life

Directors: Amanda Forbis, Wendy Tilby

### Sandburg's Arithmetic

Director: Lynn Diana Smith

### Begone Dull Care

Directors: Evelyn Lambart and Norman McLaren

### Late Afternoon

Director: Louise Bagnall

### The Street

Director: Caroline Leaf



Late Afternoon



The Street



Blind Vaysha



Weekends



# Indian cinema Summer hits



To celebrate the 'Qatar-India 2019 Year of Culture', Doha Film Institute in partnership with Qatar Museums and the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival, showcased a number of exciting and genre-bending works from India's freshest filmmaking voices.

## Village Rockstars

Director: Rima Das

## Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota

Director: Vasan Bala

## Andhadhun

Director: Sriram Raghavan



# Thematic Series Rhythm And Flow

'Rhythm and Flow' was a celebration and homage to movement and rhythm on camera.

## Summer Interlude

Director: Ingmar Bergman

## Birds in the Earth

Director: Marja Helander



## La La Land

Director: Damien Chazelle

## Dancer in the Dark

Director: Lars von Trier

## The Red Shoes

Directors: Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger

## Ballet After Dark

Director: B. Monét

## Lil' Buck: Real Swan

Director: Louis Wallecan

## Birds in the Earth'

Director: Marja Helander



# Women In Film

## An Indian Cinema Showcase

This programme highlighted the distinct role of women within the history of Indian cinema. It showcased how progressively they became involved as much more than just symbols (whether as rebellious muses or objects of desire) but also as storytellers and directors within an evolving landscape.

### Kaagaz Ke Phool

Director: Guru Dutt

### The Big City

Director: Satyajit Ray

### Mirch Masala

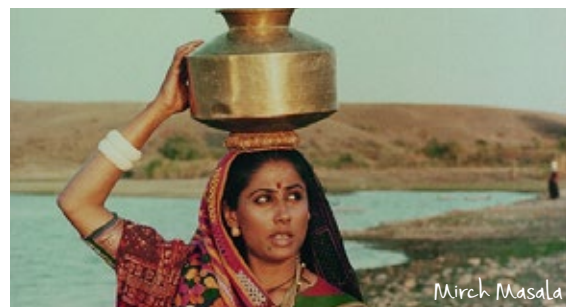
Director: Ketan Mehta

### Khamoshi The Musical

Dir. Sanjay Leela Bhansali

### Water

Director: Deepa Mehta



# Contemporary Showcase

### Yomeddine

Director: A.B. Shawky

### Long Day's Journey into Night

Director: Gan Bi

### The Wild Pear Tree

Director: Nuri Bilge Ceylan

### Rojo

Director: Benjamin Naishtat





# Ajyal Award Winners Screening

## You Will Die at Twenty

Director: Amjad Abu Alala

## For Sama

Directors: Waad Al-Kateab, Edward Watts

## The Farewell

Director: Lulu Wang

## 1982

Director: Oualid Mouaness



You Will Die at Twenty



1982



The Farewell



For Sama

# Short Film Programme

## Ajyal Award Winners

## The Unlucky Hamster

Director: Abdulaziz Khashabi

## Child of the Earth

Director: Claudio Fäh

## Falling Leaves

Director: Dimitri Yuri

## The Ostrich Politic

Director: Mohamad Houhou

## In The Middle

Director: Mariam Al-Dhubhani

## End of the Road

Director: Ahmad Adnan Al-Sharif

## Beit Byoot

Director: Mayar Hamdan

## Maradona's Legs

Director: Firas Khoury



The Unlucky Hamster



Child of the Earth





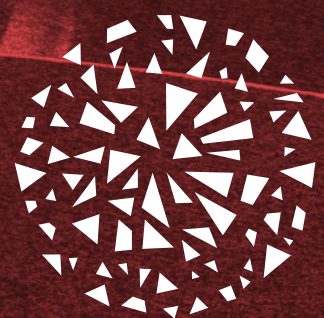
# Special Screening - Doha Forum

## Lost in Lebanon

Directors: Georgia Scott, Sophia Scott







أجيال  
مهرجان أجيال السينمائي  
Ajyal Film Festival

# AJYAL

Launched to empower the region's youth and to inspire film enthusiasts in Qatar and the region, the Ajyal Film Festival is truly a celebration of film at its finest.

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 over the span of six, action-packed days.



For seven consecutive editions since its inception, Ajyal has built bridges and brought generations together to enjoy cinematic expressions from around the world.

AJYAL

## 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.

# Empowered and Informed Youth for a Better Tomorrow.

Ajyal, Arabic for 'generations', unites people of all ages through screenings and events that inspire creative interaction and stimulate cinematic dialogue. The festival channels the true spirit of cinema and fosters a growing, strong, national, creative industry through an integrative exchange with youth and thought leaders from around the world.



As DFI's annual signature event, Ajyal is an immersive celebration of community and the permeating power of film. This year, Ajyal expanded its public screenings beyond Katara to include screenings at Novo Cinemas in the Pearl, VOX Cinemas at Doha Festival City and the Museum of Islamic Art Park.



# Ajyal at a Glance

**96** Films  
**39** Countries  
**23** Features  
**73** Shorts  
**50** Films from the Arab World  
**56** Films by Women Filmmakers  
**269** Volunteers

Over **16,000** Geekdom Visitors

Over **5,000**  
ARC Exhibition Visitors

**3.9** Million  
Social Media Impressions

**718,500** Views on YouTube

**330,600** Followers

**33,457,159**  
Reach of Media Encounters



# Ajyal 2019 From Pre-festival Events to Kick-Off



3rd November

## Press Conference

The Ajyal Press Conference, held at Novo Cinemas in the Pearl, was used to deliver important festival-related announcements to local press and media.

10th November

## Ambassador's Reception

An event held to reach out to the diplomatic community. During the reception, Doha Film Institute representatives shared the festival programme and promotional materials.

10th & 11th November

## Ajyal Jury Orientation

Prior to the festival, the Jurors' and their families attended the orientation to learn about their responsibilities as film critics and their overall schedule and requirements as a member of the Ajyal Jury.

14th, 15th and 16th November

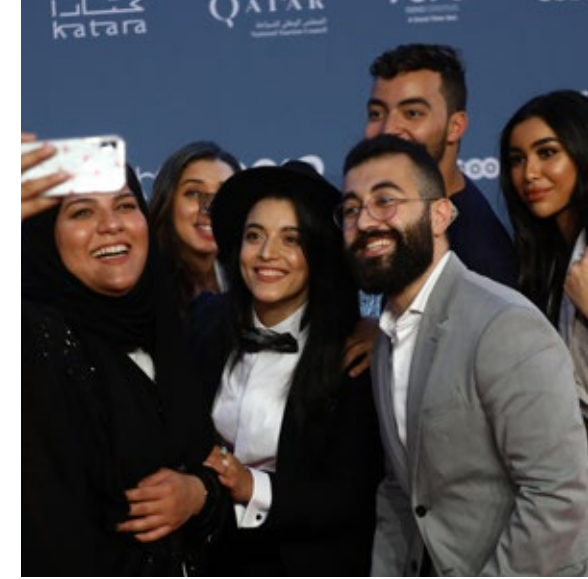
## Volunteer Orientation

Three-day orientation to educate volunteers about the structure of Ajyal, explain the programme, and generate excitement about the festival.

17th November

## Ajyal Jury Opening Ceremony

The Jury Opening Ceremony welcomed all jury members and kicked off their programme. The welcoming ceremony included a speech from HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Chairperson of the Doha Film Institute, and DFI's CEO and Ajyal Festival Director Fatma Hassan Al Remaihi.





# Opening Night



Ajyal commenced with an Opening Night Red-Carpet, drawing distinguished guests, senior officials and dignitaries from Qatar, DFI board members, as well as renowned regional and international talent. Local dignitaries and members of the DFI Board of Trustees in attendance included HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani; Chairperson of the Doha Film Institute, HE Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari; Minister of State, HE Sheikh Thani bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani; Member of DFI Board of Trustees, HE Issa bin Mohammed Al-Mohannadi; Managing Director Barwa Real Estate and Vice-Chairman of the DFI Board of Directors.



Filmmakers and creative talents who were present included actor and producer, Chace Crawford in partnership with belN and Sundance TV and British actor Kris Hitchen.

The Opening Night Ceremony included speeches from Doha Film Institute's Chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, CEO and Ajyal Festival Director Fatma Hassan Al Remaihi, CAO and Ajyal Deputy Director Abdulla Al Mosallam, local filmmakers Khalifa Al Marri and Nouf Al Sulaiti, as well a selection of jurors.



The Middle East premiere of DFI co-financed film 'It Must Be Heaven' by award-winning Palestinian director Elia Suleiman was also part of the Opening Night lineup. Winner of the Jury Special Mention and FIPRESCI Critics' Award at this year's Cannes Film Festival, and Palestine's entry for the Best International Feature Film at the 92nd Academy Awards, 'It Must Be Heaven' is a comic saga exploring identity, nationality and belonging. Following the film, all guests were invited to enjoy a live performance in the Ajyal Jurors' Hub by Zaid Hilal and his band from Palestine, who performed a mix of Palestinian songs from the Opening Film 'It Must Be Heaven' and their own creations representing a wide range of musical styles and genres.





# Ajyal's Jury Programme - The Story of Success Continues

## Success That Goes Beyond Borders

Hundreds of Ajyal Jurors from around the world returned to Katara to select the winners of the Ajyal Jury Competition. During the festival, they honed their film literacy, creative writing, and analytical thinking skills through a series of thought-provoking film screenings, talks and workshops. Equally importantly, they learnt to express themselves, create lifelong friendships, and broaden their understanding of the world around them.

## Successfully Structured

Categorized in three competition segments – Mohaq (ages 8-12), Hilal (ages 13-17) and Bader (ages 18-21), the Ajyal Jurors watch a diverse programme of feature films and short films from across the globe that help raise awareness of global issues, cultures and values.

## Success in Numbers

The Ajyal 2019 jury competition selections consisted of 15 feature films and a series of short programmes, which were reviewed by over 450 jurors from 45 nationalities including 36 international jurors who travelled to Doha for the event.





# A Closer Look at Ajyal's 2019 Jury

Ajyal's Jury in 2019 had a total of 452 jurors who worked in three age groups; Mohaq, Hilal and Bader. DFI provided our jurors with a great mix of feature and short film screenings, workshops, panels and 'Meet the Talent' sessions.



## Qatari Jurors

**92** Mohaq  
**77** Hilal  
**18** Bader

## Meet Our Juror Groups

### MOHAQ

Ages 8 to 12 | 221 Jurors

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

### HILAL

Ages 13 to 17 | 182 Jurors

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

### BADER

Ages 18 to 21 | 49 Jurors

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

**36** International Jurors

**452** Total Jurors

**187** Qatari Jurors

**221** Mohaq Jurors

**182** Hilal Jurors

**49** Bader Jurors



# Ajyal Film Programme

The cultural showcase of local and world cinema at Ajyal brings out some of the best in international family-friendly films. The entire experience we unfold at Ajyal unites filmgoers of all ages, bringing them together to enjoy unforgettable moments.



**3** Days of Screenings

**53** Schools

**2,081** Students

## 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. This year, Ajyal extended its reach throughout Doha, with screenings taking place at Novo Cinemas, The Pearl, VOX Cinemas in Festival City and the MIA Park.

## School Screenings

At the first of the school screenings, primary, preparatory and high school level students enjoyed a unique programme of short films followed by a discussion with the filmmakers, enabling the students to gain valuable experience as well as providing them with extraordinary learning opportunities. These school screenings were held on the 19th, 20th and 21st of November.



# Feature Films

2019's Feature Film 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.



**Winner of the Jury Special Mention and FIPRESCI Critics' Award at the Cannes Film Festival 2019**

## It Must Be Heaven

Director: Elia Suleiman  
France, Qatar, Germany, Canada, Turkey, Palestine  
Arabic, English, French | 2019 | 97 mins

**Winner of the NETPAC Award for World or International Asian Film Premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival 2019**

## 1982

**Doha Film Institute Supported Film**

Director: Oualid Mouaness  
Lebanon, USA, Norway, Qatar | Arabic, English | 2019 | 100 mins



## Bombay Rose

**Doha Film Institute Supported Film**

Director: Gitanjali Rao  
India, France, UK, Qatar | Hindi | 2019 | 93 mins

## Children of the Sea

Director: Ayumu Watanabe  
Japan | Japanese | 2019 | 112 mins



**Winner of the Audience Favourite Award at the Sundance Film Festival: London 2019**

## The Farewell

Director: Lulu Wang  
USA, China | English, Mandarin | 2019 | 98 mins

**Winner of the Golden Eye Documentary Prize at the Cannes Film Festival 2019**

## For Sama

Director: Waad Al-Kateab, Edward Watts  
Syria, UK | Arabic, English | 2019 | 95 mins

## Ailo's Journey

Director: Guillaume Maidatchevsky  
France, Finland | English | 2018 | 86 mins

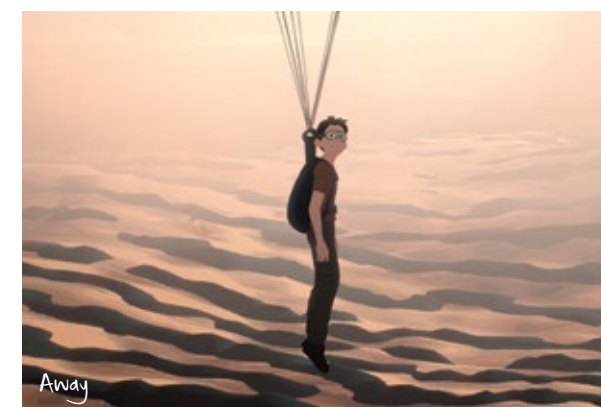
## The Arctic Camels

Director: Karl Emil Rikardsen  
Norway | Norwegian, Mongolian, English | 2019 | 75 mins

**Winner of the Contrechamp Award at the Annecy International Animation Festival 2019**

## Away

Director: Gints Zilbalodis  
Latvia | No dialogue | 2019 | 75 mins







**Winner of the Golden Strands Award  
for Outstanding Ensemble  
Cast at the Tallgrass International  
Film Festival 2019**

## Give Me Liberty

Director: Kirill Mikhanovsky  
USA | English, Russian | 2019 | 111 mins

**Winner of the Grand Jury Prize  
for Best Documentary Film  
at the Sundance Film Festival 2019**

## Honeyland

Director: Ljubomir Stefanov, Tamara Kotevska  
North Macedonia / Turkish / 2019 / 85 mins



**Winner of The Golden Butterfly  
for Best Animation at the International  
Film Festival for Children and Youth 2019  
(Isfahan)**

## Jacob, Mimmi and the Talking Dogs

Director: Edmunds Jansons  
Latvia, Poland | Latvian | 2019 | 70 mins



## Jean-Michel Othoniel, Artiste Enchanteur

Director: Philippe Lanfranchi, Stéphane Rossi  
France | French | 2019 | 52 mins

## Land of Ashes

Director: Sofía Quirós Ubeda  
Costa Rica, Argentina, Chile, France | Spanish | 2019 | 82 mins



**Winner of the Audience Award for Best  
European Film at the San Sebastián  
International Film Festival 2019**

## Sorry We Missed You

Director: Ken Loach  
UK, France, Belgium | English | 2019 | 100 mins

**Winner of the Panorama Audience  
and Glashütte Original - Documentary  
Awards at the Berlin International Film  
Festival 2019**

## Talking About Trees

Director: Suhaib Gasmelbari  
France, Sudan, Germany, Chad, Qatar | Arabic, English, Russian |  
2019 | 94 mins



## To the Ends of the Earth

**Doha Film Institute Supported Film**

Director: Kiyoshi Kurosawa  
Japan, Uzbekistan, Qatar | Japanese, Uzbek | 2019 | 120 mins



**Winner of the Luigi De Laurentiis  
Award for a Debut Film  
at the Venice Film Festival 2019**

## You Will Die at Twenty

**Doha Film Institute Supported Film**

Director: Amjad Abu Alala  
Sudan, France, Egypt, Germany, Norway, Qatar | Arabic |  
2019 | 105 mins

**Special Kids' Red Carpet Screening**  
**The Wizard of Oz**

Director: Victor Fleming  
USA | English | 1939 | 102 mins



# Screenings, Events & Attendance

1	Opening Ceremony
5,740	Total Attendance
2	Red Carpet Screenings
3	Outdoor Screenings
6	School Screenings
16	Juror Screenings
53	Public Screenings
108	Ticketed Screenings
4,503	Audience Members
2	Free Screenings with
773	Audience Members



# Short Films

## Made in Qatar

It is with pride and joy that DFI steps forward not just to foster but also showcase the talent of local filmmakers. The Made in Qatar Programme screens films of Qatari filmmakers and films made by those who call Qatar home.

Once again, Ajyal was pleased to celebrate the exciting state of filmmaking in Qatar. This year, some of the chosen shorts were shot internationally, attesting to the ever-expanding influence of our burgeoning film industry. The two programmes presented feature a selection of compelling short narratives, documentaries and thoughtful essays.



### Made in Qatar Programme 1

#### End of the Road

**DOHA FILM INSTITUTE  
SUPPORTED FILM**

Director: Ahmad Al-Sharif  
Qatar | Urdu | 2019 | 12 mins

#### Tick Tock

Director: Awad Karrar  
Qatar | Arabic | 2019 | 14 mins

#### The Artist: Yacoub Missi

Director: Tony El Ghazal  
Qatar | Arabic | 2018 | 5 mins

#### In the Middle

**DOHA FILM INSTITUTE  
SUPPORTED FILM**

Director: Mariam Al-Dubhani  
Yemen, Qatar | Arabic | 2019 | 14 mins



#### Falling Leaves

Director: Dimitri Yuri  
Qatar | English | 2019 | 9 mins

#### Refuge

Director: Maha Essid  
Qatar | Arabic, English | 2019 | 6 mins

#### F-57

Director: Abdulanaser Hassan Al Yafei  
Qatar | Arabic | 2018 | 10 mins

#### Socotra - The Invisible Island

Director: Ching Siew Hua  
Qatar | Arabic, English | 2019 | 10 mins

#### The Black Veil

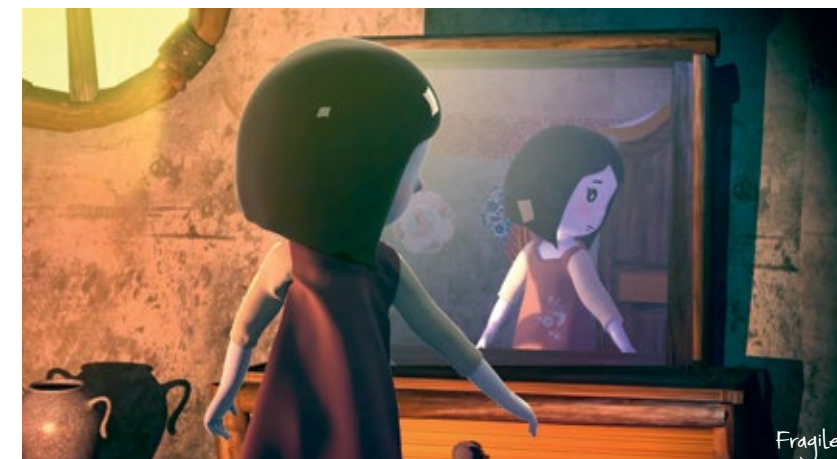
**DOHA FILM INSTITUTE  
SUPPORTED FILM**

Director: A.J. Al-Thani  
Qatar | Arabic | 2019 | 17 mins

#### Fragile

**DOHA FILM INSTITUTE  
SUPPORTED FILM**

Director: Kholood Al-Ali  
Qatar | No dialogue | 2019 | 11 mins



### Made in Qatar Programme 2

#### The Unlucky Hamster

**DOHA FILM INSTITUTE  
SUPPORTED FILM**

Director: Abdulaziz Mohammed Khashabi  
Qatar, Indonesia | No dialogue | 2019 | 6 mins

#### Revive the Lira's Glory

Director: Alessandra El Chanti  
Lebanon, Qatar | Arabic, English | 2019 | 4 mins

#### Desert Bounty

Director: Yassine Ouahrani  
Qatar | Arabic | 2019 | 11 mins

#### Batch 10

Director: Sana Al-Ansari  
Qatar | Arabic, English | 2019 | 8 mins

#### Ana Bas

Director: Tony El Ghazal, Ayah Awartani  
Qatar | English, Arabic | 2019 | 7 mins

#### Beit Byoot

**DOHA FILM INSTITUTE  
SUPPORTED FILM**

Director: Mayar Hamdan  
Jordan, Qatar | Arabic | 2019 | 10 mins

#### Maha'mel

Director: Dhabya AlMuhannadi  
Qatar | No dialogue | 2018 | 6 mins



#### Paper Kite

**DOHA FILM INSTITUTE  
SUPPORTED FILM**

Director: Nada Bedair  
Qatar | Arabic | 2019 | 7 mins

#### Doubled

Director: Rana Al Khouli  
Qatar | Arabic | 2018 | 16 mins

#### Ghassan's Green Door

Director: Lubna Mohsin, Munera AlDosari  
Qatar | Arabic | 2019 | 7 mins

#### Oh Ya Maal

Director: Majdy Naeem Al-Sukhnii  
Qatar | Arabic | 2019 | 18 mins

#### Beyond Boundaries

Director: Hemanth Madupu  
Qatar, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan | Arabic, English | 2019 | 4 mins

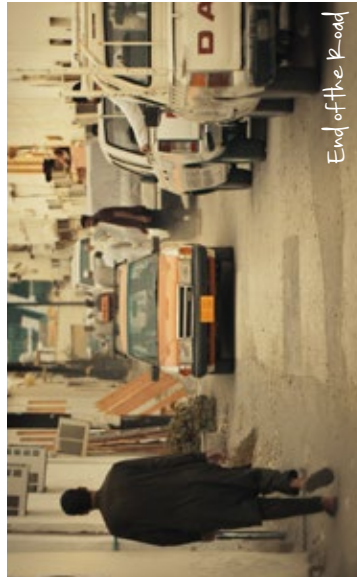


# This Year at Made in Qatar

- 22 Films in total
- 12 Documentary Films
- 7 Narrative Films
- 2 Animation Films
- 1 Experimental Film
- 3 MENA Premiere Films



In the Middle



End of the Road



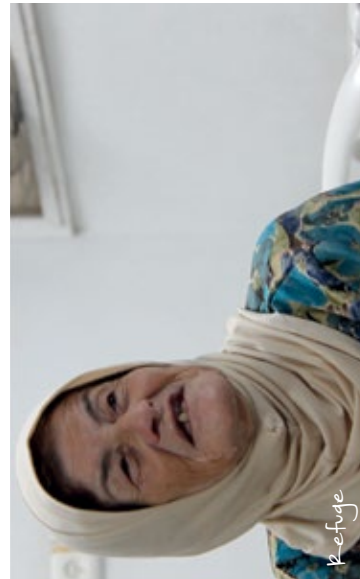
Tick Tock



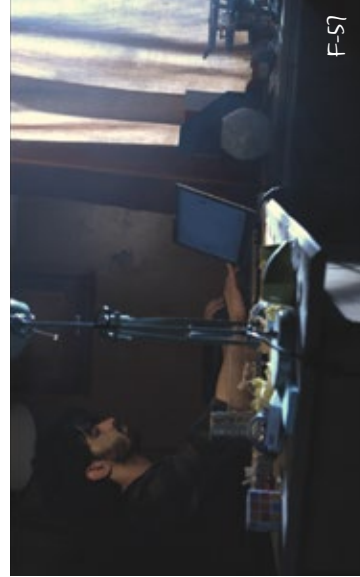
The Artist Yacoub Missi



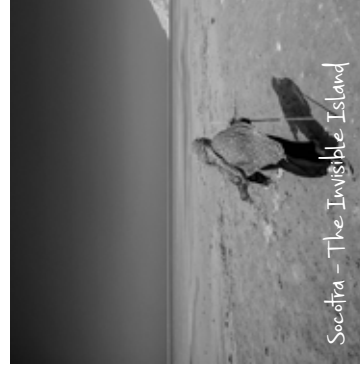
Falling Leaves



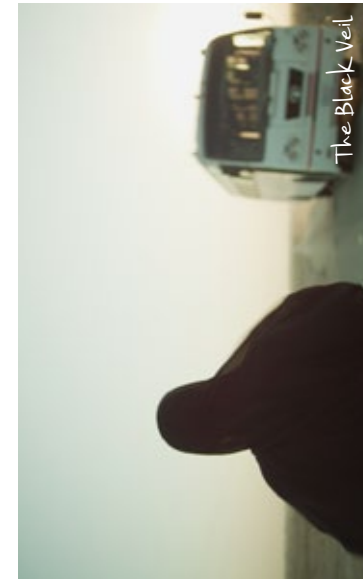
Refuge



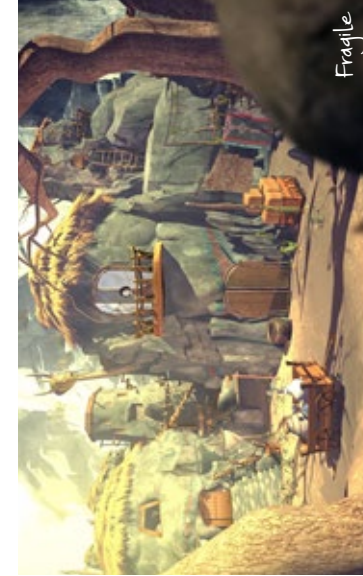
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Socotra - The Invisible Island



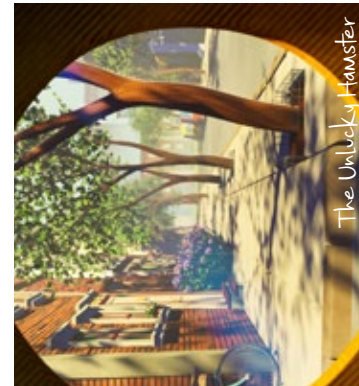
The Black Veil



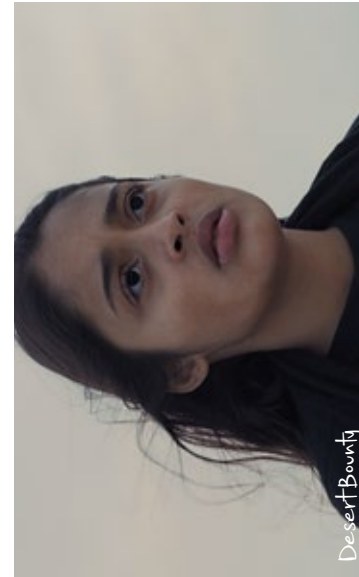
Fragile



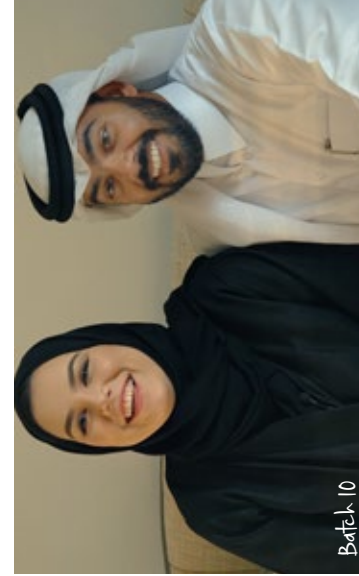
Revive the Lira's Glory



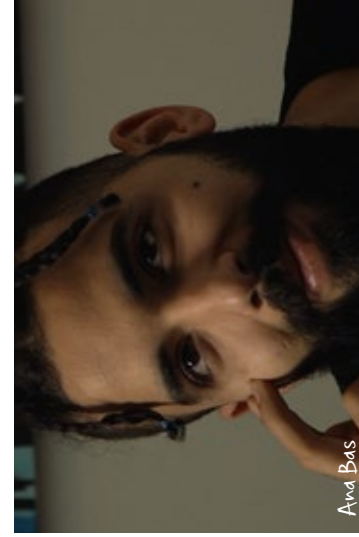
The Unlucky Hamster



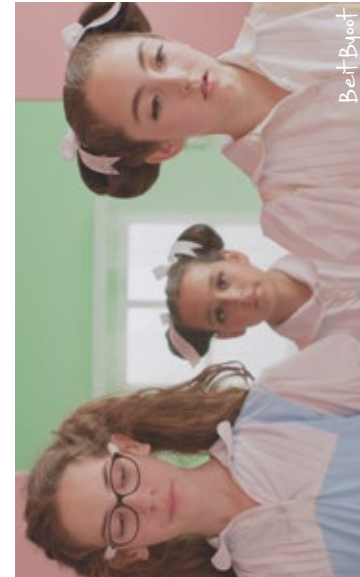
Desert Bounty



Batch 10



Ana Bas



Best Byoot



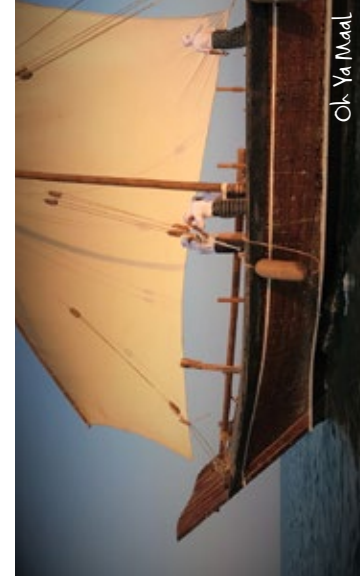
Makamel



Ghassan's Green Door



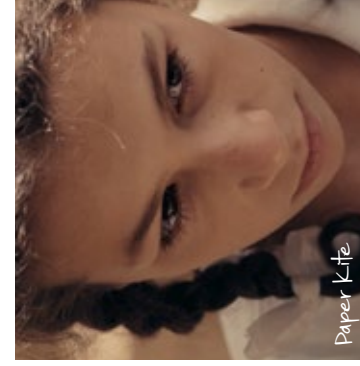
Doubled



Oh Ya Maal



Beyond Boundaries



Paper Kite





# MENA Premiere Films

**It Must Be Heaven**  
**Bombay Rose**  
**To the Ends of the Earth**



## Shorts Programme Feel



**We each have an innate sense of the world. Sometimes this comes from experience, and other times it is an inherent feeling. Through this programme at Ajyal, we explored the power of such intuition.**

### Belles Étoiles

Director: Naïma Di Piero, Elhadj Sidibe  
France | French | 2017 | 12 mins

### Like an Elephant in a China Shop

Director: Louise Chevrier, Luka Fischer, Rodolphe Groshens, Marie Guillon, Estelle Martinez, Benoit Paillard, Lisa Rasasombat  
France | No dialogue | 2017 | 6 mins

### Hedgehog

Director: Vaibhav Keswani, Jeanne Laureau, Colombine Majou, Morgane Mattard, Kaisa Pirttinen, and Jong-ha Yoon  
France | English | 2018 | 5 mins

### Maha'mel (Ships)

Director: Dhabya AlMuhannadi  
Qatar | No dialogue | 2018 | 6 mins

### The Stained Club

Director: Mélanie Lopez, Simon Boucly, Marie Ciesielski, Alice Jaunet, Chan Stéphanie Peang, Béatrice Viguière  
France | French | 2018 | 7 mins

### Beit Byoot

**DOHA FILM INSTITUTE SUPPORTED FILM**

Director: Mayar Hamdan  
Jordan, Qatar | Arabic | 2019 | 10 mins

### The Unlucky Hamster

**DOHA FILM INSTITUTE SUPPORTED FILM**

Director: Abdulaziz Mohammed Khashabi  
Qatar, Indonesia | No dialogue | 2019 | 6 mins

### Child of the Earth

Director: Claudio Fäh  
Switzerland, USA | English | 2018 | 12 mins

### The Kite

Director: Martin Smatana  
Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland | No dialogue | 2019 | 13 mins

### Paper Kite

**DOHA FILM INSTITUTE SUPPORTED FILM**

Director: Nada Bedair  
Qatar | Arabic | 2019 | 7 mins





# Shorts Programme Overcome

**Success is the child of perseverance, and this selection of shorts was a testament to the ability of people to overcome any obstacles in pursuit of their dreams.**

## Layla

Director: Celine Cotran  
UK | English, Arabic | 2019 | 18 mins

## Story

Director: Jolanta Bańkowska  
Poland | English | 2019 | 5 mins

## Youth

Director: Farida Zahran  
Egypt, USA | Arabic | 2018 | 11 mins

## Thermostat 6

Director: Maya Av-ran, Mylène Cominotti, Marion Coudert, Sixtine Dano  
France | French | 2018 | 4 mins

## Maradona's Legs

Director: Firas Khoury  
Germany, Palestine | Arabic | 2019 | 23 mins

## Esperança

Director: Cécile Rousset, Jeanne Paturle, Benjamin Serero  
France | French | 2019 | 5 mins

## Fault Line

Director: Soheil Amirsharifi  
Iran | Persian | 2018 | 15 mins

## Half and Half

Director: Baptiste Drapeau  
France | French | 2018 | 9 mins

## The Helmet

Director: Osama Khaled Yemen  
Arabic | 2019 | 9 mins

## Memo

Director: Julien Becquer, Éléna Dupressoir, Jules Durand, Viviane Guimarães, Ines Scheiber  
France | French | 2017 | 5 mins

## Refuge

Director: Maha Essid  
Qatar | Arabic, English | 2019 | 6 mins

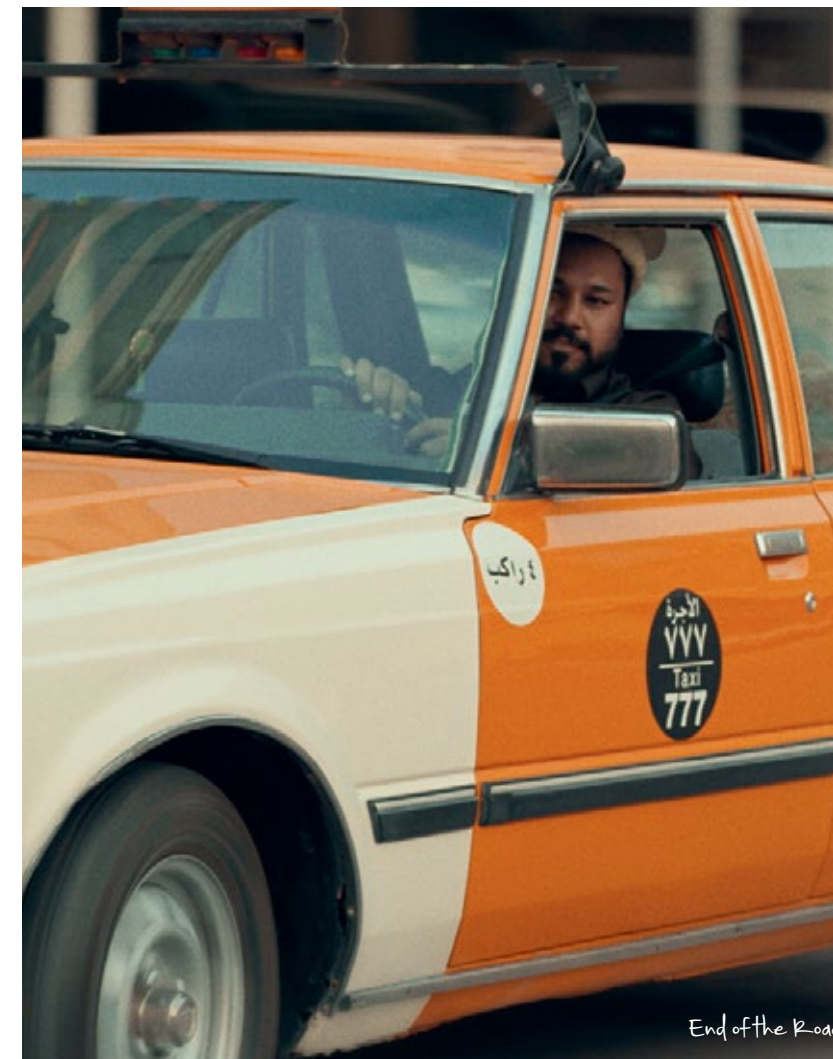
## Fragile

**DOHA FILM INSTITUTE  
SUPPORTED FILM**

Director: Kholood Al-Ali  
Qatar | No dialogue | 2019 | 11 min

# Shorts Programme Experience

**Some things in life cannot be taught—they must be experienced. This short programme at Ajyal showcased how valuable lessons can be learnt, even in hardship.**



## Patision Avenue

Director: Thanasis Neofotistos  
Greece | Greek | 2018 | 13 mins

## Ostrich Politic

Director: Mohamad HouHou  
France | English | 2018 | 6 mins

## It's a Long Way From Amphioxus

Director: Kamal Aljafari  
Germany | Arabic | 2019 | 17 mins

## Aziza

Director: Soudade Kaadan  
Lebanon, Syria | Arabic | 2019 | 13 mins

## Ambience

Director: Wisam Al Jafari  
Palestine | Arabic | 2019 | 15 mins

## For the Sake of Yousef

Director: Yousef Al Baqshi  
Kuwait | Arabic | 2019 | 5 mins

## The Black Veil

**DOHA FILM INSTITUTE  
SUPPORTED FILM**

Director: A.J. Al-Thani  
Qatar | Arabic | 2019 | 17 mins

## Threads

Director: Torill Kove  
Canada, Norway | No dialogue | 2017 | 9 mins

## In the Middle

Director: Mariam Al-Dubhani  
Yemen, Qatar | Arabic | 2019 | 14 mins

## End of the Road

Director: Ahmad Al-Sharif  
Qatar | Urdu | 2019 | 12 mins



# Wonder & Under The Moonlight Cine-Concert

Ajyal was thrilled to welcome back the ever-popular Forum des Images to present the Qatar premiere of their latest cine-concert. In a delightful musical show full of sweetness and dreams, five short films told tales of the stars, sun and moon, and all the creatures that look up to them.

The series was accompanied by live musicians and is truly a feast for all the senses!

Wonder is the beginning of wisdom, and in this family-friendly selection of shorts, we showed how these seeds of knowledge can be nurtured from a young age.



## Sloth

Director: Julia Ocker  
Germany | No dialogue | 2018 | 4 mins

## Kuap

Director: Nils Hedinger  
Switzerland | No dialogue | 2018 | 8 mins

## White Crow

Director: Miran Miošić  
Croatia | No dialogue | 2018 | 9 mins

## Wings

Director: Christoffer Andersen  
France | No Dialogue | 2017 | 4 mins

## Cat Lake City

Director: Antje Heyn  
Germany | No Dialogue | 2019 | 7 mins

## Get the Moon

Director: Jutta Schünemann  
Germany | 2004 | 5 mins

## Sooner or Later

Director: Jadwiga Kowalska  
Switzerland | 2007 | 5 mins

## Lunette

Director: Phoebe Warries  
UK | 2016 | 3 mins

## A Little Star

Director: Svetlana Andrianova  
Russia | 2014 | 6 mins

## Little Wolf

Director: An Vrombaut  
UK | 1993 | 5 mins

# Made in India

To celebrate the 'Qatar-India 2019 Year of Culture', Ajyal in partnership with the Mumbai Academy of Moving Images (MAMI), was proud to present a selection of contemporary short films from up-and-coming Indian directors. Curated by the Mumbai Film Festival's programme coordinator, Kalpana Nair, the shorts offered us an insight into modern India and were a testament to the country's vibrant filmmaking heritage.



## Grandfather

Director: Umashankar Nair, Gaiti Siddiqui  
India | Hindi, Nepali | 2018 | 11 mins

## Apna Apna Andaz

Director: Avishkar Bharadwaj  
India | Hindi | 2019 | 5 mins

## Steam

Director: Harsh Hudda  
India | Hindi | 2019 | 5 mins

## Mother Promise

Director: Gautam Vaze  
India | Marathi | 2017 | 15 mins

## Batti

Director: Akshay Sarjerao Danavale  
India | Hindi | 2019 | 5 mins

## Hey Ram!

Director: Yashwardhan Goswami  
India | Hindi | 2019 | 5 mins

## Vacancy

Director: Anurag B. Worlikar  
India | English, Hindi | 2017 | 5 mins

## The Thought of You

Director: Ahmed Roy  
India | English | 2014 | 15 mins



# Inclusive Films

## Made In Qatar: An Inclusive Experience

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

Visually impaired audiences were able to view the film through sound alone, with audio description of those visual elements that cannot be understood through voice, music or sound effects. Recognising that our viewers who are deaf, hard-of-hearing or have difficulty understanding speech will benefit from enriched subtitles in Arabic and English, as well as sign-language interpretation we ensured that these elements were included to guarantee an inclusive experience for our audience.

By adapting the film to the needs of audiences with different abilities, DFI hopes to make cinema universally accessible. This year's inclusive screening featured a hand-picked selection of compelling works by local filmmakers.



### Treasures of the Past

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

### 1001 Days

**DOHA FILM INSTITUTE  
SUPPORTED FILM**

Director: Aisha Al-Jaidah  
Qatar | Arabic | 2017 | 12 mins

### Amer: An Arabian Legend

**DOHA FILM INSTITUTE  
SUPPORTED FILM**

Director: Jassim Al-Rumaihi  
Qatar | Arabic, English, French | 2016 | 23 mins

### Fragile

**DOHA FILM INSTITUTE  
SUPPORTED FILM**

Director: Kholood Al-Ali  
Qatar | No dialogue | 2019 | 11 mins

### Sh'hab

**DOHA FILM INSTITUTE  
SUPPORTED FILM**

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

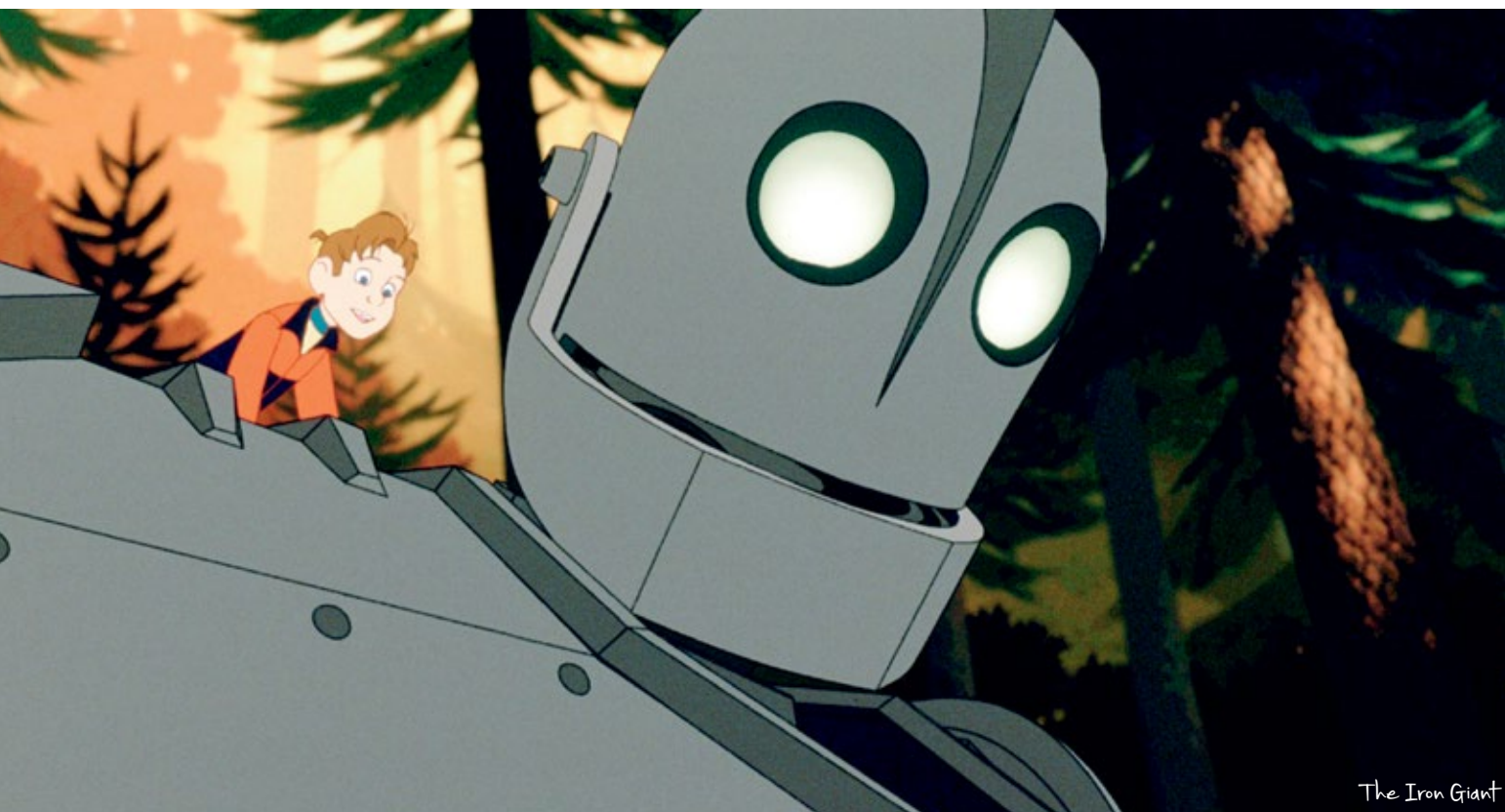


# SONY Cinema Under The Stars

Ajyal's ultimate outdoor cinema experience Sony Cinema Under the stars was welcomed back this year with an enjoyable collection of films for all audiences.

## The Iron Giant

Director: Brad Bird  
USA | English | 1999 | 90 mins



The Iron Giant



Makh'bz

## SONY Cinema Under The Stars: Shorts Programme

THIS PROGRAMME FEATURED FILMS PRESENTED  
IN PREVIOUS MADE IN QATAR COMPETITIONS

### Al-Johara

DOHA FILM INSTITUTE  
SUPPORTED FILM

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

### Al Muqana3

Director: Tarek Abu-Esber  
Qatar | Arabic, English | 2012 | 6 mins

### Where Are You Right Meow?

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

### The Palm Tree

Director: Jassim Al-Rumaihi  
Qatar | No dialogue | 2015 | 14 mins

### Smicha

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

### The Fishermen

Director: Obada Yousef Jarbi  
Qatar | Arabic, English | 2017 | 16 mins

### Makh'bz

Director: Aisha Al Muhannadi  
Qatar | No dialogue | 2015 | 4 mins

### Kashta

DOHA FILM INSTITUTE  
SUPPORTED FILM

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

### Voices from the Urbanscape

DOHA FILM INSTITUTE  
SUPPORTED FILM

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



# Ajyal Creativity Hub

**This year Ajyal Creativity Hub presented a vibrant programme of cultural and creative activities which included Qatar's one-of-its-kind pop-culture event Geekdom, a dynamic approach in the community in Qatar to discover and engage with alternate forms of media; the new Ajyal Tunes, which shined the spotlight on the country's underground music scene by bringing together Qatar-based performers and internationally acclaimed musicians; and the ARC Exhibition which celebrated the art of storytelling.**



## Geekdom

**Qatar's largest pop-culture event presented in partnership with Qatar National Tourism Council, Geekdom drew swarms of visitors to experience an exciting Cosplay Competition, special feature films, and Geekdom Talks on a variety of topics including Sci-Fi and fantasy production in Qatar.**





## Geekdom Tournaments

Among the highlights this year were the cosplay days, edge-of-your-seat video game tournaments, sing-along film screenings and panels. Geekdom tournaments are an arena for true gladiatorial combat and this year's contests included TEKKEN 7, Dragonball FighterZ, Street Fighter 5, FIFA20, Overwatch, Mortal Combat, UNI-ST, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Soul Calibur 6 and Pokemon GO.

## Artists Alley

This year through Artists Alley at Geekdom, 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.

## Geek Talks

Geekdom's 'Geek Talks' are a platform to inspire and be inspired, as both local and international geeky content creators share their projects and experiences with the community. This year included a talk by Qatari comic book writer Jassim Al Mohannadi, an exploration of Sci-Fi and fantasy production in Qatar with Ahmed Al Baker and Maryam Al-Sahli, a workshop held by Dawood Al-Anwari to help parents understand healthy gaming practices for their children, and a talk with Abby Trott, actor/singer and voice artist for many videogames.



## Geekfilms

### The Secret World of Arrietty

Directors: Hiromasa Yonebayashi  
Japan | Japanese, English, French |  
2010 | 95 mins

### Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse

Directors: Bob Persichetti, Peter Ramsey, Rodney Rothman  
USA | English | 2018 | 117 mins

### Anastasia

Directors: Don Bluth, Gary Goldman  
USA | Arabic | 1997 | 94 mins

**34** Exhibitors

**4** Geek Talks

**3** Screenings

**10** Tournaments

**28** Tournament Organizers

**368** Tournament Participants

**16,457** Total Attendees



“

Geekdom is the only platform available that gives us the kickstart we need. It's very inspiring!

**Noor Ali**  
Artist and filmmaker

When you find such a space with such a passionate audience, it motivates you to excel in your creative endeavours. This type of positive atmosphere is crucial for us. Imagine the possibilities if such energy was available year-round!

**Fahad Al-Qahtani**  
Professional gamer



This is the most beautiful gathering ever! It encourages us to meet and network with other geeks, and it helped me launch and sustain my own business.

**Nasser Al-Mosawi**  
Computer builder and designer

Being a part of Geekdom gave me the opportunity to meet with others who share similar interests. It enabled me to share my stories with the geeks of Doha.

**Kummam Al-Maadeed**  
Fantasy author

”



# ARC

**This multimedia exhibition represented some of the varied forms of creative expression featured at Ajyal 2019. Showcasing new works by 19 of Qatar's most promising artists and creative talents, ARC invited visitors to follow the chronological path of a narrative through multimedia art pieces divided into three distinct parts— Setup, Confrontation, and Resolution.**

The exhibition paid tribute to the determination and dedication of Qatar's thriving creative communities in media and visual artforms, exposing audiences to unique new forms of expression and reflection on cultural identity and storytelling perspectives. Just as every great narrative path is shaped by an arc, this exhibition traversed the various points in each artist's story through the visual expressions of our unique trajectories, ideas and experiences.

**19** Artists

**23** Artworks

**5,000** Visitors

## ARC Panel Discussions

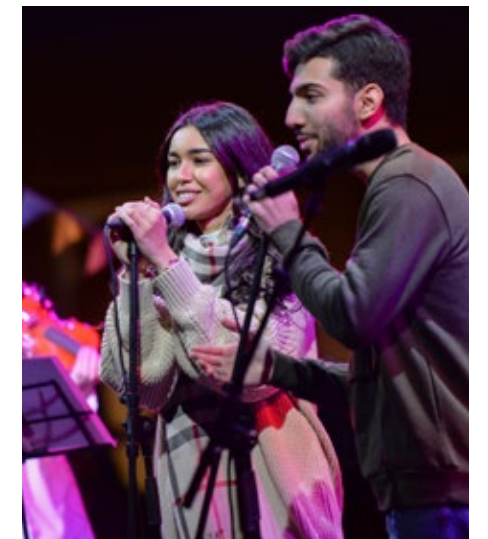
ARC hosted two exclusive panel discussions where artists shared with audiences the unique insight and creative foundations of their works. These panel discussions included "Storytelling & The Qatari Identity" moderated by Abdulaziz Yousef and featuring Qatari artists Ibrahim Al-Baker, Buthaina Al-Zaman and Roda Ahmad Al-Thani, and "Creativity Beyond Borders: The Yemeni Identity" moderated by Sana Uqba and featuring Yemeni artists Shaima Al-Tamimi and Ammar Al-Qamash.

Participating artists included: Majid Al-Remaihi, Kholood Al-Ali, Abdulaziz Yousef, Shaima Al-Tamimi, Anfal Al-Kandari, Noor Al-Nasr, Fatima Moussa, Roda Ahmad Al-Thani, Ibrahim Al-Baker, Maria Ovsyannikova, Abrar Jenahi, Haytham Sharrouf, Alaa Bata, Ammar Al-Qamash, Maryam Al-Homaid, Abeer Al-Kuwari, Ashma Guiamadin, Hayyan Omar, and Bothayna Al-Zaman.

# Ajyal Tunes

**An exciting celebration of musical talents from every discipline, Ajyal Tunes was part of the festival's growing artistic scope – showcasing and celebrating arts and culture from every discipline. This year, Ajyal turned a spotlight on Qatar's underground local music scene by bringing together local - based performers and internationally acclaimed musicians.**

Curated by Qatari artist Dana Al Meer, Ajyal Tunes combined 24 local artists including singers, and musicians and independent talents such as Mvrs, a rapper based in Doha, and Gaidaa, a Sudanese singer based in Amsterdam.





“

It's important to give new Artists a platform.  
It's important for this to continue as well.

**HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad  
bin Khalifa Al Thani**  
Chairperson of the Doha Film Institute

It's a brilliant exhibition, the artists produced great  
works of art.

**H.E Mr Salah Al-Ali**

I'm very thankful for this experience. Ajyal is one  
of the most amazing festivals in the region if not  
the world! The vibe during Arc were beyond words.

**Anfal Al-Kandari**  
Artist

This has been the best crowd and discussion I've ever  
been a part of.

**Ammar Al-Qamash**  
Artist



It's a beautiful exhibition and I'm happy  
to be a part of it. We are very different people,  
but we all have similar interests. The diversity  
makes this place unique.

**Maria Ovsyannikova**  
Artist

I don't want this exhibition to end.  
I've been having so much fun here.  
The energy is amazing.

**Buthaina Al-Zaman**  
Artist

I'm thankful to DFI for giving me this  
opportunity. I'm loving the crowd and getting  
to know my fellow artists.

**Abeer Al-Kuwari**  
Artist

This is my first time exhibiting and I am  
overwhelmed with joy. I am glad I said yes  
to this opportunity. I don't want it to end.  
Sad that it's not being extended.

**Ibrahim Al-Baker**  
Artist

”



# Ajyal Talks



## How to Dream with Your Eyes Open By Jason Silva in partnership with WISE

Jason Silva is an American television personality, filmmaker, futurist, philosopher, and public speaker best known for hosting the National Geographic documentaries: Brain Games and Origins. In his talk, he discussed the importance of creative thinking, and how to use your mind to expand on reality and create.



## in e kasař (Reflections) By Bouthayna Al Muftah

Bouthayna Al Muftah is quickly becoming one of the most sought-after contemporary Qatari artists. Her artistic style uses a unique brushstroke to depict elements of identity, culture and heritage. The artist discussed her influences, inspirations, and experiences with creating and exhibiting her art with the jurors.

# Meet the Talent



## HE Salah bin Ghanem Al Ali, Minister of Culture and Sports

### Moderated by Festival Director and DFI CEO Fatma Hassan Al Remaihi

The interactive talk gave Ajyal jurors the rare opportunity to ask questions and gain insight into the Minister's creative side. Highlighting the universal importance of cultural exchange, openness and acceptance, the Minister spoke about the value of learning and discovery to unlock unique opportunities for our youth.

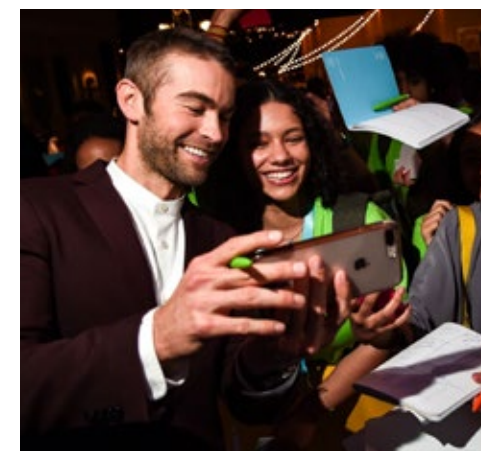


## Elia Suleiman

Following the session with Chace Crawford, the jurors exchanged thoughts with Elia Suleiman, award-winning Palestinian auteur.

## Chace Crawford

The jurors were lucky enough to have a 'Meet the Talent' session, in partnership with beIN and SundanceTV, with the prominent American actor and producer Chace Crawford, best known for his work on world-famous television series 'The Boys' and 'Gossip Girl'.



## Jean-Michel Othoniel, Artiste Enchanteur

From drawings to sculpture, installation to performance, Jean-Michel Othoniel exists in a universe of multiple contours. Ajyal screened his fascinating documentary, and audiences gained an insight into the creative process of this internationally acclaimed French contemporary artist and explored the inspiration behind his largest sculpture built to date, 'Alfa', which takes pride of place outside the National Museum of Qatar. Following the screening, the audience had the opportunity to ask questions with the artist himself, during a Q&A session.



## Meet the Filmmakers

Following their final screening and voting, jurors had the opportunity to meet with all the present filmmakers in a casual setting, asking questions, exchanging ideas and being inspired.



# Ajyal Honourary Awards

- Elia Suleiman
- H.E. Salah bin Ghanem Al Ali
- Chace Crawford
- Abby Trott
- Jassim Al Mohannadi



## Kid's Red Carpet The Wizard of Oz

Ajyal rolled out the special Kids Red Carpet once again for a fun screening of the cherished childhood classic *The Wizard of Oz* (1939) by Victor Fleming at VOX Cinemas, Doha Festival City. The heart-warming fantasy musical continued to enthrall generations of children as they follow Dorothy's path down the yellow brick road to the Emerald City to see the Wizard. Families were welcomed to the screening by a red-carpet wonderland, featuring giant flowers, the characters of Dorothy and The Cowardly Lion, and film-related props.

## Ajyaloona School Awards

This year, the Ajyaloona Awards were introduced with the support of the Ministry of Education. These awards were presented to the three schools that had the most students registered in the jury programme. The winning schools were presented a certificate by Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Fawzia Al Khater and a free workshop at their school next year. The three winning schools were:

- Albayan Secondary Independent School
- Qatar Academy
- International School of London



## Ajyal Awards

The festival culminated in a gala closing night reception and awards ceremony, where the winners of the Ajyal Jury Competition and Made in Qatar Competition were announced. In the presence of dignitaries, VIPs, filmmakers, jurors, and parents, each category was announced, and the winners presented with their award. A summary of the winners is listed below:

Made in Qatar Competition Awards presented by HE Salah bin Ghanem Al Ali, Minister of Culture and Sports and Ooredoo Director CSR, Sponsorship and Media, Ms. Moza Al Muhannadi:

- Special Jury Award: Beit Byoot (Jordan, Qatar/2019) by Mayar Hamdan
- Special Jury Award: The Unlucky Hamster (Qatar, Indonesia/2019) by Abdulaziz Mohammed Khashabi
- Abdulaziz Jassim Award for Best Performance: Abbas Riaz for his role in Ahmad Al-Sharif's *End of the Road* (Qatar/2019)
- Best Documentary Award: *In the Middle* (Qatar/2019) by Mariam Al-Dubhani
- Best Narrative Award: *Falling Leaves* (Qatar/2019) by Dimitri Yuri





# Our Chairperson Leads Ajyal To Greater Heights

Ajyal was delighted to welcome DFI's Chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani to the festival and have her inspire those present. Her Excellency had this to say about Ajyal and the impact of the Film Festival.



**Ajyal is more than just films. It is a journey that will stay with you forever – the people you meet and the things you see will not end with the festival, but in fact encourage you to continue to carry forward the spirit of what you learn over the next six days. Qatar's film industry will rise with our youth, so I encourage you to rise to this occasion and take this opportunity to learn together and become part of a global movement of youth that are making a difference.**

**HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani,**  
Chairperson of the Doha Film Institute



# Ajyal Through The Eyes of Our Guests

“

It's cool to see young jurors excited about the festival, excited about cinema. I think it is an important thing, and also to see this festival was a little bit different, which is really important to the young generation and getting them involved in the jury process, which makes them, forces them to really pay attention to films and learn how to think about making critically informed opinions which I think is really cool.

**Chace Crawford**  
Actor and Producer

I have come to almost every Made in Qatar since it was initiated. Every year the standard goes higher and higher and I can't wait to see what's next.

**A.J Al-Thani**  
Filmmaker

I just want to extend a huge thank you to you and your team for all of your work and assistance with my experience at Ajyal Film Festival. It was a beautiful experience and I have made some critical professional connections that will mutually and positively impact our work moving forward.

**Christine L Mendoza**  
Director of Education, Film at Lincoln Center



I am writing to thank you for a lovely experience in Doha. The Ajyal festival was really enjoyable and I was impressed by the film selection. It was so interesting to see so many short films by Middle Eastern filmmakers. And I have to say that the awards ceremony is the most fun awards ceremony I have ever attended; very refreshing to have all the young jurors and their excitement be at the front and centre.

**Torill Kove**  
Director - *Threads, Bader Shorts.*

We live in a world where we are interconnected but still don't understand each other. Experiencing films from different countries, decades and themes can help aspiring filmmakers grow. They must also understand the central value of teamwork and collaboration with directors, producers and actors to create a great film.

**Kiyoshi Kurosawa**  
Director

I wish such a platform existed in India. When I first heard about the Youth Film Festival, I heard that they got 500 - 800 kids from all over the world who watch films at the workshops. I think it is a tremendous opportunity. It is important for them to have this opportunity right now because it opens up their ideas of what the world is and it makes everybody more receptive to different cultures and I think that's a quality that is really needed in these times.

**Kalpna Nair**  
Curator, Mumbai Film Festival

”



# Ajyal Through Our Partners Eyes

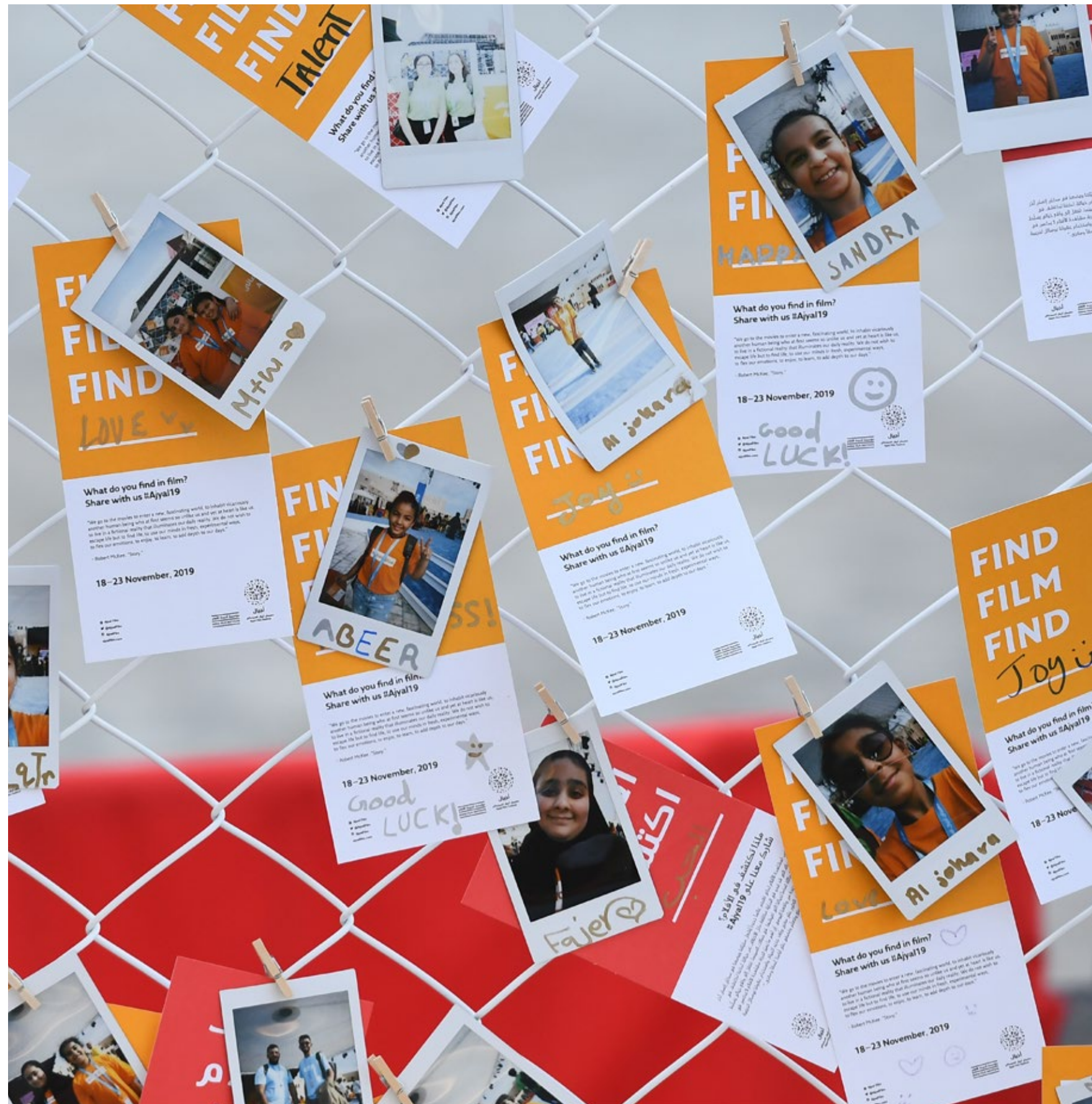
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We are so pleased that the festival was such a success. Congratulations to you all! As you know it takes team work to ensure the success of such an event so it is our pleasure to partner with you as we have over the years and to see how Ajyal Film Festival has grown and become a film festival leader, and I can only envisage this becoming a more global cultural platform in the years to come. Your work to showcase local talent and to give the opportunity to young filmmakers, as you are, is truly commendable. On behalf of my colleagues at QM we are proud to partner with DFI. Congratulations on the success of the festival!

**Louise Cutajar**  
Director of Events and Partnership, Qatar Museums

Firstly, congratulations on a really stunning event! Each time I was at Katara during the festival the whole area was buzzing with energy and everyone here is thrilled to have been able to support that.

**Rohan Stephens**  
Head of Programmes and Partnerships, British Council



On behalf of NTC, I would like to congratulate you and the entire DFI team for a successful edition of Ajyal and we look forward to delivering more fruitful events and festivals together!

**MHD Tarek Alolabi**  
Tourism Events & Festival Department,  
Qatar National Tourism Council

Thank you for choosing VOX as a platform for Ajyal Film Festival - it was an honour. We look forward to working with you again.

**Zeina Shanaah**  
Head of Production, VOX Cinemas

We were truly honoured to be part of the Ajyal Film Festival and to support this wonderful and truly inspiring event. We will be glad to once again work with you and the entire DFI Team.

**Zhan Temerkhanov**  
Managing Partner, Aldo Coppola Qatar

We want to thank you and everyone who was involved in putting together the Ajyal Film Festival 2019. It was an outstanding event from the red carpet, to the opening ceremony, screenings and all activities with talents and jurors. Thank you for all of your hard work!

**Sarah Abdul Sater**  
Marketing Communication |  
Commercial Affairs, beIN

”



# Ajyal Winners



## Mohaq:

### Best Short Film Award

#### Child of the Earth

Director: by Claudio Fäh  
Switzerland, USA | 2018

### Best Feature Film Award

#### 1982

Director: Oualid Mouaness  
Lebanon, USA, Norway, Qatar | 2019

## Hilal:

### Best Short Film Award

#### Maradona's Legs

Director: Firas Khoury  
Germany, Palestine | 2019

### Best Feature Film Award

#### The Farewell

Director: Lulu Wang  
USA, China | 2019



## Bader:

### Best Short Film Award

#### Ostrich Politic

Director: Mohamad HouHou  
France | 2018

### Best Feature Film Award

#### For Sama

Director: Waad Al-Kateab,  
Edward Watts  
Syria, UK | 2019

## Bariq:

### Best Short Film Award

#### Cat Lake City

Director: Antje Heyn  
Germany | 2017

### Ajyal Film Festival Audience Award presented by HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani

**You Will Die at Twenty**  
Director: Amjad Abu Alala

Sudan, France, Egypt, Germany, Norway, Qatar | 2019



# Ajyal Facts and Figures

## Highest Attendance at Screenings and Talks (Attendees/Capacity):

You Will Die at Twenty: **413/420 [98%]**

Made in Qatar Programme I: **412/420 [98%]**

Honeyland: **42/43 [98%]**

For Sama: **107/112 [96%]**

1982: **134/142 [94%]**

Sorry We Missed You: **133/142 [94%]**

It Must Be Heaven: **389/420 [93%]**

## Volunteers

**269** Volunteers

**50** Key Volunteers

## Community Outreach

**1,500** film guides, **12,000** stickers,  
**6,500** film recommendation cards distributed

**13** local cafés engaged

**17** social media and community groups reached

**17** days of Ajyal booths in

**8** different for Jury callout

**10** school visits with an approximate reach of

**1,000** students

**20** mass emails within external companies  
and universities with an approximate reach of

**40,000** people

**850** schools and **10** youth centres  
for Jury call out with the support of the  
Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture  
and Sports respectively



# Record-Breaking Social Media Stats

**3,980,000** Social Media impressions

**718,500** Views on YouTube

**675** Ajyal related posts on DFI platforms

**330** Videos posts on DFI platforms

**190,000** Video views on DFI platforms

**3,500** New followers across all DFI platforms

**35,000** 'Likes' during Ajyal alone

*Congratulations!!*





# From The Past To The Present— Letting Ajyal’s Numbers Tell The Story

STATISTIC	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of Films	65	92	83	81	103	81	96
Countries represented in programme	31	43	37	32	43	36	39
Languages represented in programme	15	20	23	23	20	18	19
Public Screenings	59	30	35	31	37	48	53
Red Carpet Screenings	7	6	5	4	4	4	2
Outdoor Screenings	4	5	5	2	4	3	3
School Screenings	8	11	10	9	8	7	6
Ajyal Jury Screenings	13	19	19	18	16	16	16
Total Attendance	5,569	6,237	6,255	5,941	6,621	6,617	5740
Volunteers	562	353	397	332	337	321	269
Ajyal Jurors (registered)	417	450	592	774	575	704	452
Total Guests (International)	172	179	201	206	170	109	146
Sponsors / Partners	24	24	26	19	22	21	25

\*excludes red carpet and free ticketed screenings



# DFI COMMUNITY OUTREACH

DFI's Community Outreach is a non-profit engagement platform, where our representatives promote initiatives locally and globally to secure prospects measured in overall community awareness and event attendees, while increasing talent opportunities and engagement on behalf of DFI.

Our Community Outreach Department optimises the introduction of cinema and the idea of building a new industry within the region to the community in Qatar.



# What We Do & How We Do It

Outreach works to identify targeted opportunities and talents within local communities in Qatar, making sure to engage and oversee the growth of the filmmaking community. Our job is to make it easy for the public to participate and be part of this growing industry.

The Outreach department not only represents DFI, but it also showcases DFI as the leading Film Institute in the region. Our goal is improving the productivity of DFI's engagement with external organisations while applying the best strategies to increase opportunities locally.

## Engagement and Presence Within the Community

Outreach recognises the importance of catering to the diverse communities in Qatar and prioritises the value of reaching every community. Ultimately, we want to spread awareness of DFI and communicate what DFI can offer. Our goal is to attract talented filmmakers of the future and engage film lovers of all ages.

Outreach is divided into two distinct sections:

- Public and Organisational Community Outreach.
- Filmmaking Community Outreach.



### In 2019 we worked with:

**45** Educational, Governmental & Private Organisations  
**308** Schools

## Year-round Activations

- Summer Camp at Youth Centres
- MIQ Short Films Community Screenings
- DFI Film Appreciation Sessions
- Qatar University Workshops
- Career Fairs, and Career Village (an initiative for pre-university students)

- Oxygen Park - Family Screenings
- Earth Hour Programmes (this year we hosted a local talent at Cue Café)
- 6** Universities Gatherings
- National Day at Darb Al Saie National Celebrations
- (12** days of workshops, exhibitions and screenings)

## Extended Summer Camp Activities

As part of an extended summer camp, we added sessions for Qatar University students, where we conducted a workshop on the art of lighting, how to use light effects in storytelling, camera operation and cinematography.

**Mentor:** Yaser Al Naiemi  
**Attendance:** 24

## Cue Café Discussion Forum

An organized discussion session with a Qatari filmmaker on her film in development, which was held in collaboration with Cue Café.

**Mentor:** Hamida Eissa  
**Attendance:** 29



## Screenings

**2** Year-round School Screenings

**5** Summer Screenings

**(370)** Average Attendance

**1** Pre-Ajyal Screening

**(100)** Attendance



## Partnering with Doha OIC Youth Capital

Outreach partnered with Doha OIC Youth Capital in the launch of a short film competition.

**129** Submissions

**35** Shortlisted films

## Indonesian Embassy Workshop

We collaborated with the Indonesian Embassy to hold a workshop with guest speakers for the Indonesian filmmaking community.

## Katara's "Our Culture is a School" Programme

Organized by Katara, DFI provided a session on film appreciation, screening 3 MIQ short films for 32 students.



## Screenings for International Cultural Events

Working in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, DFI's Outreach Team arranged special screenings of MIQ films for Tunisia, Cuba and Tajikistan.

## DFI Workshop Mentors Engage with the Community

- Outreach arranged for a special visit of an internationally renowned storyteller/writer, Rania Zghayer, to the National Library and Kids Maktaba in Westbay.
- Organised a fascinating discussion and a Q&A session with Emmy-nominated film director Fx Goby.



## Winners:

### 1st Prize The Return

Director: Muthna Majhool

### Second Prize The Lemon

Director: Hilal Al-Islam

### Third Prize My Right

Director: Mahmoud Al-Ghazawi



## Grassroot Campaign for Ajyal

- 13** local cafés involved in our campaign
- 5** Events
- 2** Days at Qatar University
- 3** Days at Education City
- 2** Days at Lusail Circuit
- 2** Days at Al Shaqab Longines family event
- 1** Day at Oxygen park screening
- 1** Day at charity week
- 2** Days at Night Market Qatar weekend
- 1** Day at Turba market Saturday brunch
- 1,570** Film guides distributed
- 6,500** Film recommendation cards
- 12,000** Stickers

## Volunteer & Juror Call Out for Ajyal

- 8** Different events
- 100**s of audience members
- 17** Social media and community groups sharing
- 10** School visits
- 1,000** Students
- 20** Mass emails for companies and universities
- 40,000** approximate reach of emails
- 850** Schools reached for Ajyal jury call out
- 10** Youth centres reached



# **QATAR NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS**

## **Celebrating Our Nation**

**DFI takes great pride in celebrating the nation of Qatar and applauding the historical journey of the country that is our home. Hence, Qatar National Day is a joyful occasion for us, and we commemorate the day by honouring Qatar and celebrating the past, present and future!**

**DFI would like to thank the Qatar National Day Committee for continuously supporting us to celebrate the legacy of our nation.**



# Making Our Presence Felt at Darb Al Saai

In celebration of this year's Qatar National Day, we set up a wide range of family and film-related activities in Darb Al Saai from the 12th to the 20th of December 2019, which delighted visitors of all age groups.



## Popular Activities for the Community

As part of the festivities, DFI hosted a variety of hands-on activities and workshops that spread across three tents; Geekdom, the largest pop-culture event in the country, ARC, an interactive art exhibition, and an interactive workshop space. Additionally, DFI also hosted screenings of Made in Qatar films at the main theatre located inside Darb Al Saai.





## An Opportunity to Learn Creative Arts

At the workshops and activities section, children and families had the opportunity to create and film their very own stories through the stop-motion shadow seminar and learn about the basics of film motion and animation through a Flipbook and Zoetrope workshop. There was also a studio dedicated to educating visitors of all ages about the production process.



## Screening Our MIQ Films

We had a selection of films screened at Darb Al Saai. We chose our flagship programme, 'Made in Qatar', which was followed by an engaging discussion with the Qatari filmmakers.



## Our Engagement Platforms Set up for All

This year at Darb Al Saai, we presented our widely acclaimed engagement platforms, which were a huge success during Ajyal Film Festival; Geekdom and ARC. ARC celebrated the 'Art of Storytelling' through an interactive art exhibition consisting of a three-act structure: the setup, the confrontation, and the resolution.



## Geekdom Enthralling the Community

Qatar's largest pop-culture event Geekdom was set up within Darb Al Saai as the only community engagement platform for all videogames and pop-culture fanatics. Geekdom drew large numbers of participants who entered into competition with each other in a fun and inclusive atmosphere.



# Thank You to Our Partners

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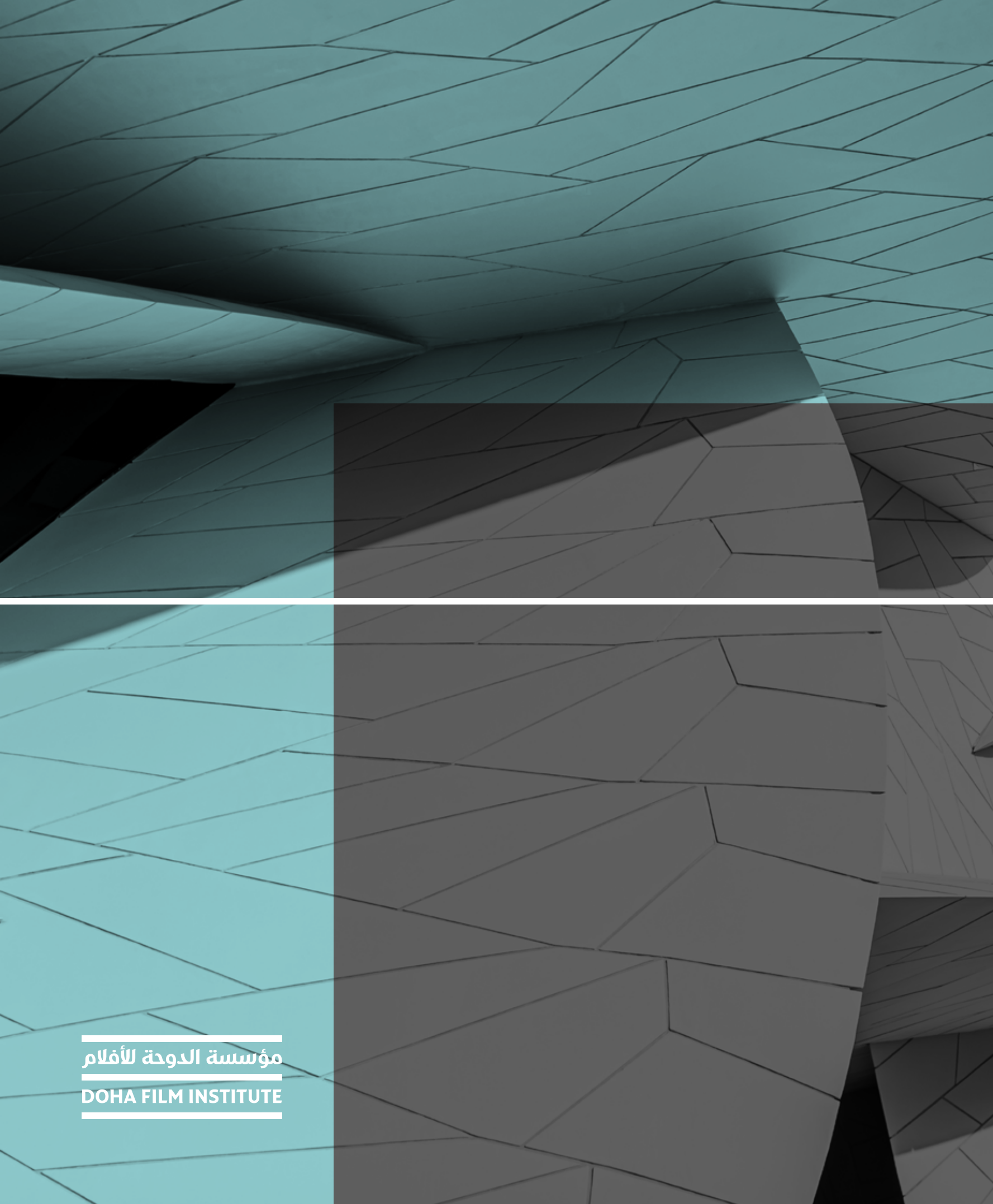
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