
Doha Film Institute

Annual Report 2020

Legal Disclaimer

This 2020 Annual Report (the “Report”) contains general data and information about Doha Film Institute, a Private Institute for Public Benefit, established under the laws of the State of Qatar (the “Institute”). It is intended for information and general interest purposes only.

This Report should, therefore not be relied upon for any purpose whatsoever. As a summary of the Institute’s annual activities, the Report is not complete, and does not include all material information about the Institute. Any person, body, agency or other legal entity seeking to rely, or who is relying, on information contained in this Report, therefore does so entirely at their own risk and cost.

To the fullest extent permissible under applicable law and regulation, the Institute disclaims any and all representations, warranties, conditions and guarantees, whether express, implied, statutory or of any other kind; nor does it accept any duty to any person, in connection with this Annual Report or otherwise. Without prejudice to (and without otherwise limiting) the generality of the foregoing, the Institute does not warrant or represent that the information or opinions contained in this Report are accurate or complete. To the maximum extent permissible under applicable law and regulation, the Institute shall furthermore not be liable for any loss, damage or expense whatsoever, whether direct or indirect, howsoever arising.



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

CONTENTS

Message from The Chair	06
Message from The CEO	07
Acknowledgements	08
Trustees	10
Executive Directors	11
Welcome to DFI	12
Our Digital Evolution	14
Training & Development	22
Funding	36
Qumra	50
Ajyal Film Festival	56
Film Screenings	66
Community Outreach	96
Production	100
Thank You to Our Partners	102



We will remember 2020 as the year that transformed the world with the unprecedented pandemic altering the way we live and work. Yet, in many ways, it was also a test of our resilience and ability to adapt to circumstances over which there was little control.

Almost a year later—as I write this message here in Qatar—we have proved not only our inner strength in addressing the challenges raised by the pandemic but also demonstrated to the world that we remain steadfast to our commitment, especially in delivering on our promise to support creative talent.

It is not surprising that the creative industry was one of the most adversely affected by the pandemic. As cinemas shut down, new production activities came to a stand-still, and people started exploring streaming platforms for entertainment. There was little thought placed on the impact of the crisis on our young and emerging filmmakers.

Their passion and dreams of cinema were practically being crushed in the face of uncertainty. It was important, more than ever, to support them because art is a vehicle of positive change, and as one of the most popular artforms, film has the strength to bring transformational impact on people. It was vital that cinematic voices continued to be nurtured.

At Doha Film Institute, we shouldered that task. We were among the first movers, perhaps globally,

in ensuring that our talented young filmmakers and storytellers continue to receive the support they get. We acted with agility and flexibility, moving our ongoing training programmes online, and conducting both our annual events—Qumra and Ajyal Film Festival—virtually.

The positivity our initiatives generated was tremendous. Industry professionals from across the world have been unanimous in supporting our ventures. As it is said about challenges leading to new opportunities, going virtual enabled us to expand the reach of our events to a wider global audience.

The success that the Doha Film Institute achieved in 2020—both as the voice of the industry and for shining the spotlight on Arab cinema, which has been sidelined even in the best of times—adds to my pride in our team.

Innovating how they work and displaying exceptional creativity, the team members of the Institute proved that challenges can be navigated when there is real commitment and a passion to make a difference.

With our film education programmes progressing online and our film financing programmes continuing to identify inspiring and bold new cinematic voices, we delivered on our founding mission even in the thick of the pandemic: Empowering emerging talent with the tools for creative storytelling and enabling them to share their voices with the wider world.

Our successful journey in 2020 would not have been possible without the support of organisations and individuals, who partnered with us in ensuring that upcoming filmmakers continue to receive the support they deserve.

The pandemic has not pushed back our plans; it has only made us stronger. We will continue to draw on the strengths of our experience in 2020 to support young film talents and help them realise their aspirations in cinema.

H.E. Sheikhha Al Mayassa bint Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani

Chair, Doha Film Institute

In her 1926 essay—a period when the world witnessed the influenza pandemic—renowned writer Virginia Woolf wrote: “Novels, one would have thought, would have been devoted to influenza; epic poems to typhoid; odes to pneumonia, lyrics to toothache.”

Will we now see films devoted to COVID-19, as nearly a century later with the world witnessing another pandemic? The coronavirus marched relentlessly for months and stifled most creative expressions. For us at Doha Film Institute, the situation called for a new approach to everything we have been doing for a decade.

As this once-in-a-generation challenge confronted us with lockdowns limiting movement and creative exchange, we pivoted swiftly to the online world. Identifying new opportunities for engaging with our stakeholders, especially young filmmakers, we were able to provide uninterrupted support—be it through mentoring sessions or online tutorials.

Through leveraging our digital capabilities, we also recognised new opportunities, enhancing, and extending our reach with audiences and partnerships. In fact, we decided to go ahead with the 2020 edition of Qumra entirely online, attracting a significant number of participants from across the world. It also enabled us to showcase the creativity and skills of Qatari and regional filmmakers and helped foster a new understanding of the cinematic voices emanating from our region.

The successful experience guided us as we hosted Ajyal Film Festival with a unique hybrid model, organising in-person events by following all safety protocols and hosting virtual sessions that allowed people worldwide to engage with the various activities at the festival. Showcasing 80 films from 46 countries, the festival had a befitting theme: ‘The Show Goes On.’ And it made us proud to watch 16 inspiring short form narratives and documentaries by Qatari and Qatar-based filmmakers at the festival.

The positive response we gained for the event underlined three core values we have always abided by: Dedication to our task at hand; the ability to innovate and find ways to address challenges; and the perseverance to pursue what really matters.



We continued to support first- and second-time filmmakers with 78 projects selected for our Spring and Fall 2020 Grants—the leading film funding programme in the region that supports emerging voices in film. Supporting feature, documentary, short film, TV series and a VR project, the grants also highlight our focus on promoting women in cinema with 34 projects helmed by female directors. The quality of the projects we support is evidenced in films supported by the Institute being selected for international film events including the first ever Qatari short selected to the prestigious 2020 Venice International Film Festival competition.

Continuing to inspire young talent and boosting their morale, especially during the pandemic, we also partnered with the Ministry of Education and Higher education for the ‘School Stars’ short film competition, where students were invited to submit short films that explore and express their views in relation to the pandemic.

With our ongoing calendar of activities, being organised seamlessly despite challenges, we look forward to 2021 with more hope and confidence. We believe that the work we have done in ensuring the continuing of creative voices will further raise the profile of our nation, our people and regional cinema across the world.

Fatma Hassan Alremaihi

Chief Executive Officer, Doha Film Institute

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2020 was an unprecedented year for us all, and we would like to extend our deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation to everyone who partnered with us during this challenging time. What we have accomplished and featured in this Annual Report could only have been made possible due to your unwavering support and cooperation.

- His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar
- His Highness Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani, Personal Representative of the Emir
- His Excellency Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani
- Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani
- Trustees
- Fatma Hassan Alremaihi
- 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 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 Al Ali**
Qatar's Minister of
Youth 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**
Qatar's Minister
of Culture



**H.E. Sheikh Saif
bin Ahmed bin
Saif Al-Thani**
Director
of the Government
Communication Office



**H.E. Mansour Ibrahim
Al-Mahmoud**
CEO of Qatar Investment
Authority (QIA)



**H.E. Issa bin
Mohammed
Al Mohannadi**
Vice Chairman
of Qatar Museums
Board of Trustees
Chairman of the Racing
and Equestrian Club
Member of the
Board of Directors
of Qatar Airways

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

WELCOME TO DFI

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

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

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

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

About DFI

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

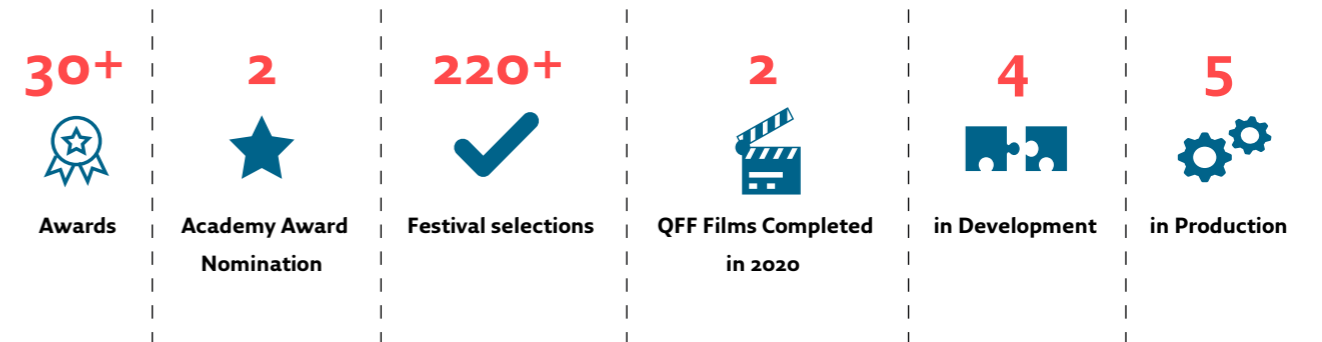
DFI supports the growth of the local film community through cultivating film appreciation, enhancing industry knowledge and contributing to the development of sustainable creative industries in Qatar.

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 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.

OUR DIGITAL EVOLUTION

In a year of unforeseeable disruption to the filmmaking industry, each of Doha Film Institute's departments adapted and overcame the many challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. From screenings to workshops, and our signature annual events—our teams worked tirelessly to create digital and at-home alternatives for our diverse audiences around the world.



Training & Development



Funding



Qumra



250+

Online Mentoring Sessions



200+

Match Made Meetings



34

Mentors from 18 Countries



46

Projects from 20 Countries



20

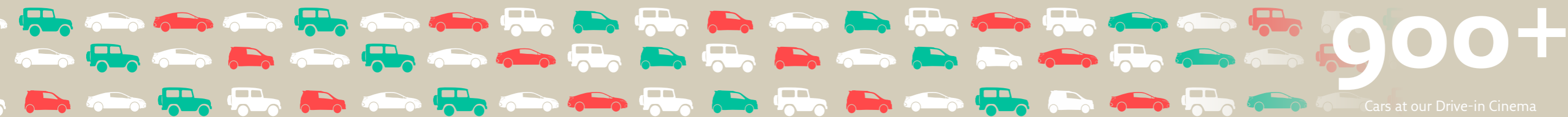
Projects by
Qatar-based talent



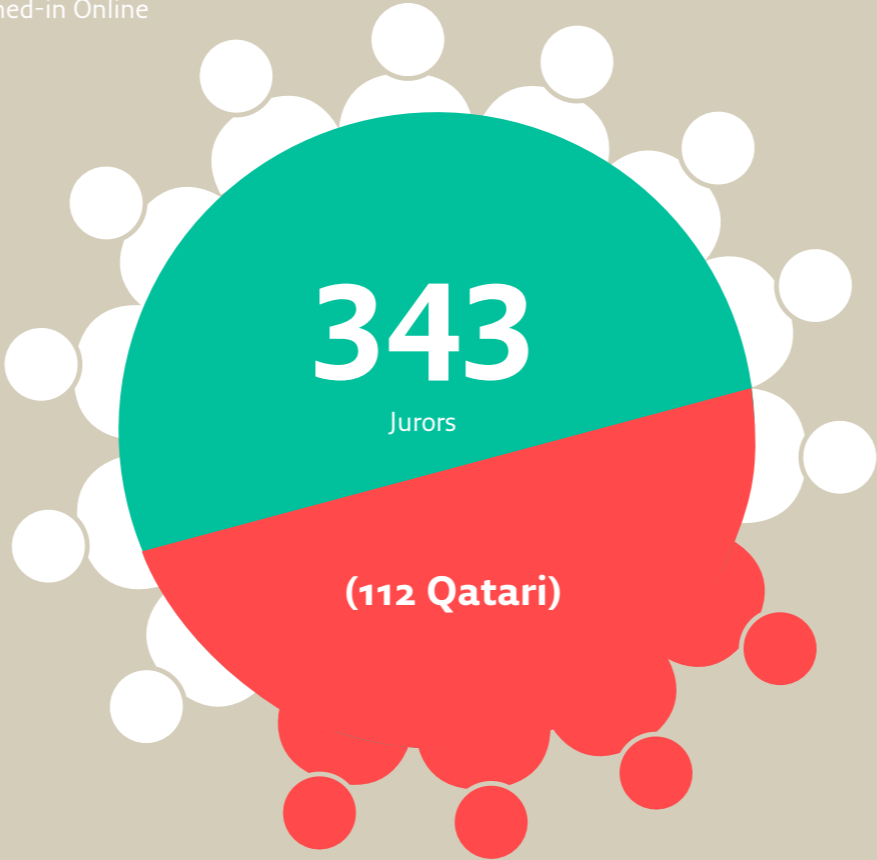
12

by Qatari nationals

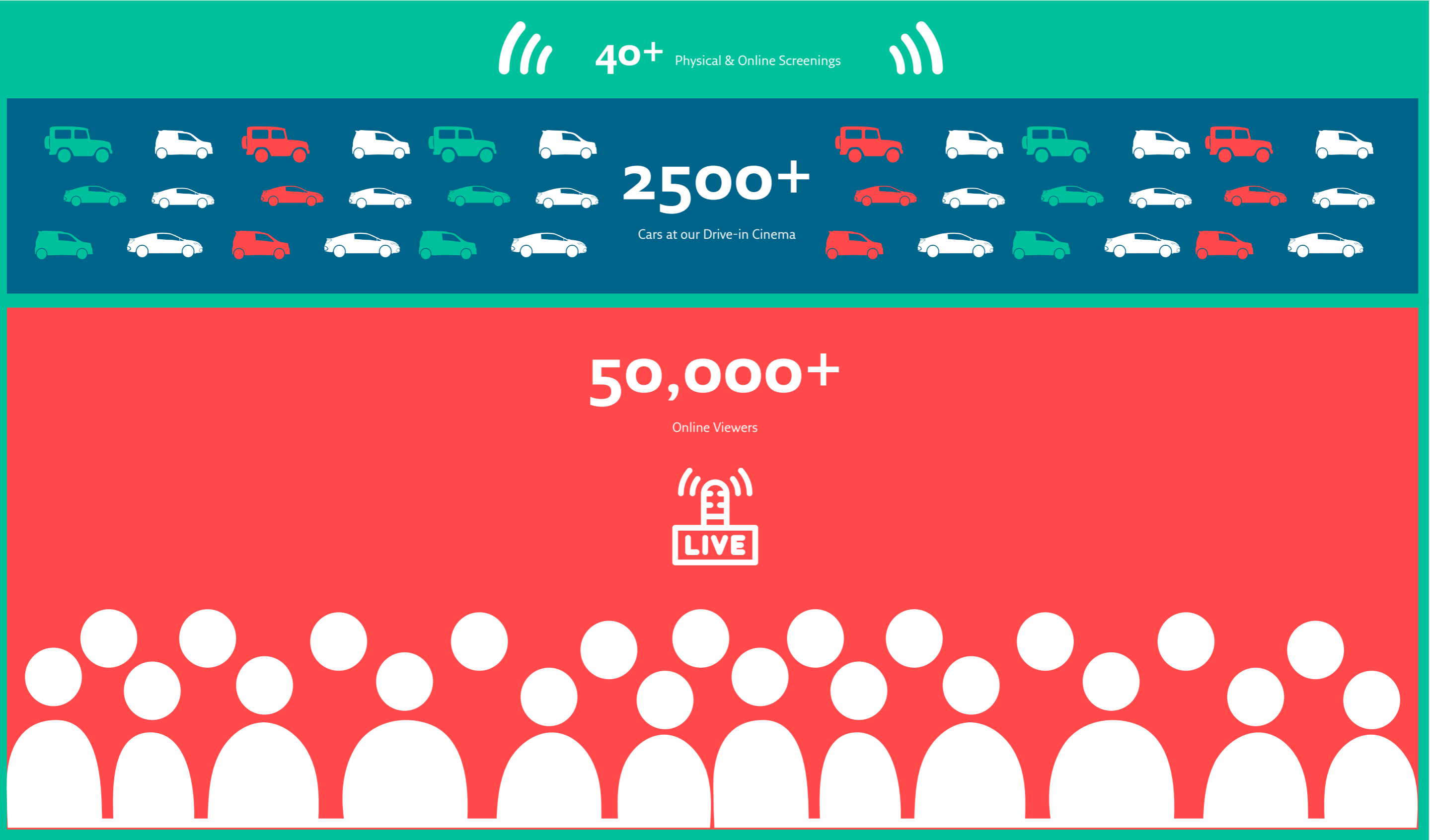
Ajyal



Countries Tuned-in Online



Year-round Screenings



TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Training & Development

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

Our programmes facilitate exchanges and collaborations between filmmakers and the wider industry through two parallel streams that provide opportunities for skills-sharing, feedback and direction from mentors.

Embracing Challenges

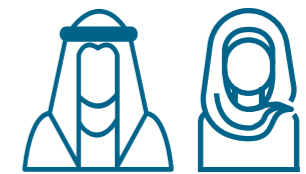
As the pandemic shuttered traditional educational institutes across the world, DFI adapted its Training & Development Programmes to meet the needs of filmmakers at home and abroad. By offering our invaluable workshops, labs and consultations online, we ensured that the knowledge transfer of essential filmmaking skills not only survived, but thrived during COVID-19 closures.

624 Participants

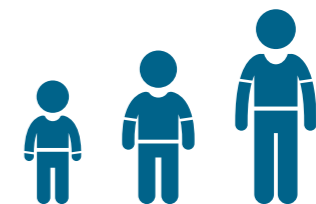


616 / 8

Online Physical
Participants



205 Qatari Participants



366 Participants under 18



33 Workshops / Labs



24 Educational Partners

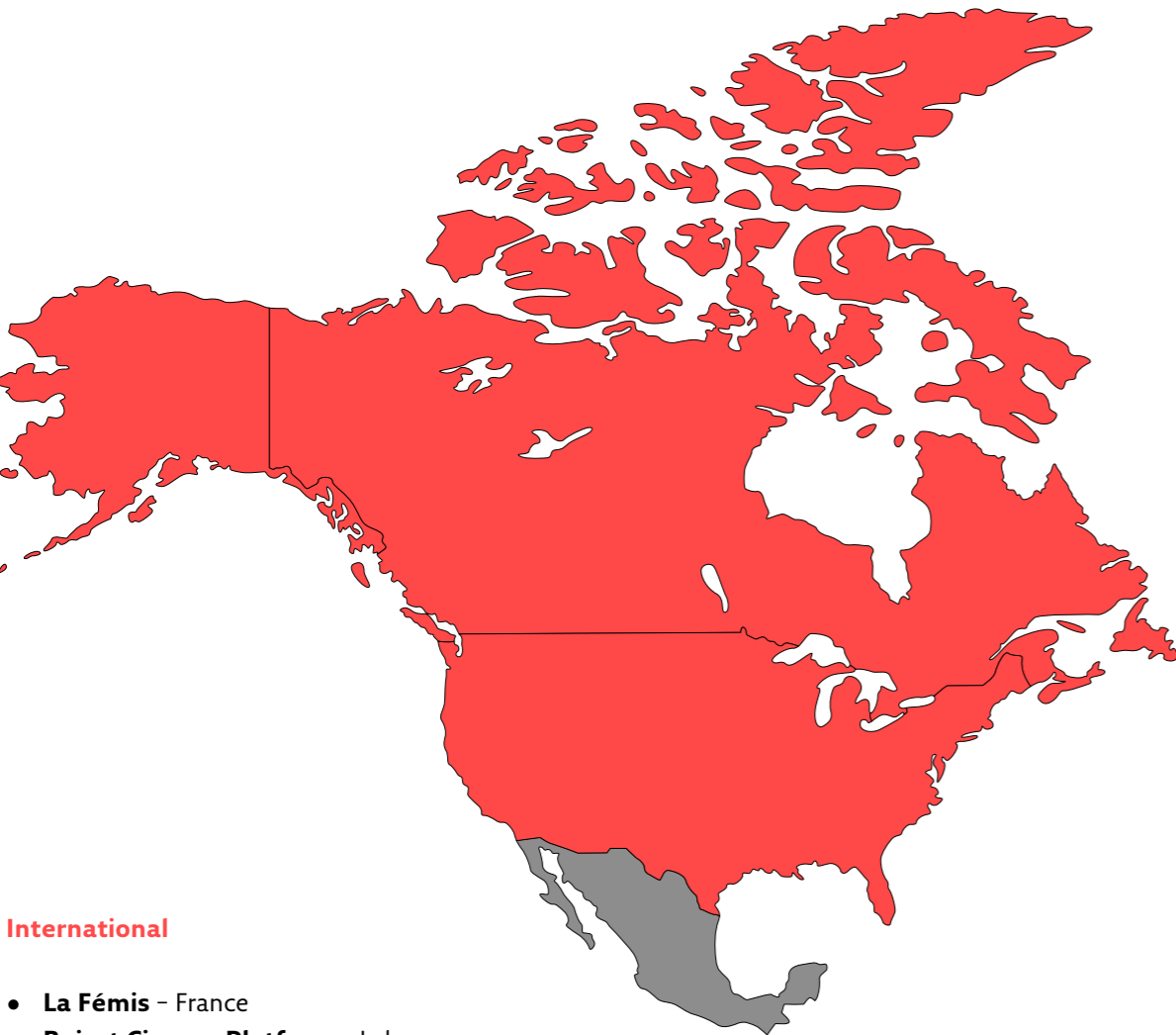


8 Shorts produced in 2020



84 Projects supported in 2020

A World of Expertise: Our Educational Partners in 2020

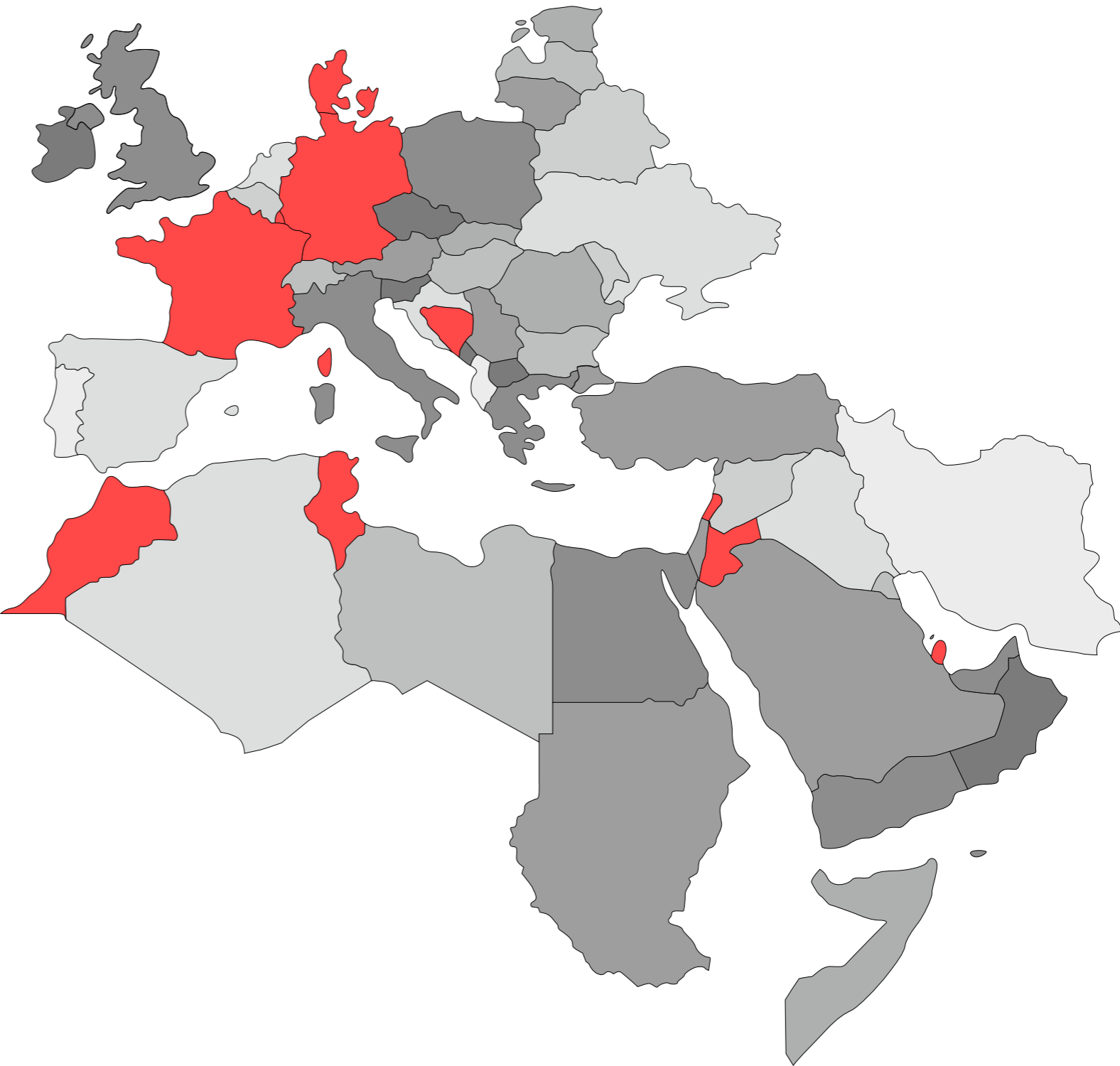


International

- **La Fémis** - France
- **Beirut Cinema Platform** - Lebanon
- **EAVE** - Luxembourg
- **IFP** - USA
- **Les Gobelins** - France
- **First Cut Lab** - France
- **The Animation Workshop / VIA University College** - Denmark
- **Pop Up Residency** - Slovakia
- **FID Marseille Lab** - France
- **Royal Film Commission of Jordan** - Jordan
- **Centre Cinématographique Marocain** - Morocco
- **Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Tunisien** - Tunisia
- **Sundance Institute** - USA
- **Bophana Center** - Cambodia

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**





Workshops & Labs: An Online Evolution

The workshops and labs that our Training & Development Programme provide combine theory, demonstrations, and practical exercises to train participants on the technical aspects of filmmaking. Led by world-renowned mentors, our programmes aim to inspire and impart tangible knowledge in all areas of the filmmaking process. Meeting the unique challenges of 2020, many of these sessions began to be held online from March onwards.

Short Scriptwriting Lab

January – February 2020

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. Supporting 8 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.

Projects:

- **'Venus and Mars'**
by Mohamed Al-Mahmeed (Qatar)
- **'Repression'** by Mike Malajalian
(Lebanon/Armenia)
- **'Shower Talks'** by Sila Unlu (Turkey)
- **'In Case There's an Absence of Hope'**
by Sufian Arara (Libya)
- **'Dead ASF'** by Nadia Al-Khater (Qatar)
- **'The Passport'** by Rakan Mayasi
(Palestine/Lebanon)
- **'Sunrise'** by Alina Mustafina (Kazakhstan)
- **'Seeking Dawn'** by Beshr Idlbi (Syria)

Mentors:

Matthieu Darras (Lab Advisor)
Bassem Breche (Script Editor)
Britta Krause (Script Editor)

Hezayah Screenwriting Lab

June 2020 – January 2021

Our Hezayah Screenwriting Lab assisted emerging screenwriters and writer-directors from the region in developing and writing an original feature-length screenplay. Participants worked in small groups with the support of experienced mentors. The transformative lab consisted of three sessions of five-day workshops, which took place intermittently over a period of six months.

Mentors:

Annemarie Jacir (Director)
Joelle Tuma (Script Consultant)
Matthieu Darras (Projects Coach)

Projects:

- **'The Photographer'** by Anas Khalaf (Syria)
- **'Sabah'** by Ben Robinson (UK/Qatar)
- **'Passports'** by Hamad Al Tourah (Kuwait)
- **'Will I Ever Be Good Enough'** by Khalifa Al Marri and Abdulla Fakhroo (Qatar)
- **'President's Speech'** by Nadia Al-Khater (Qatar)
- **'Cotton Queen'** by Suzannah Mirghani
(Sudan/Russia)
- **'The Hearse to the Final House of Happiness'**
by Wisam Al Jafari (Palestine)
- **'Sweet Disposition'** by Youssef Michraf (Morocco)



Qumra Inspired: Roundtables with Film Experts

The overwhelming feedback received during our online edition of Qumra inspired us to extend our supporting activities into the digital space. We witnessed a strengthened sense of community among the industry that we felt was critical to encourage and nurture.

In the challenging environment that the pandemic presented, we strove to embrace the uncertainties facing the film industry as a whole and refocussed them as an opportunity to redefine our priorities and rethink our structures together.

As a result, we organized a series of online roundtable discussions and group tutorials to address some of the most pressing topics that faced filmmakers and the wider industry in 2020.

Roundtable 1: What Will Happen to the Films of 2020?

May 2020
226 participants

From Q2 onwards, many unique questions were faced by filmmakers, concerned about premiering their films as part of an online festival. Should they opt to screen their films online and not delay their festival release? Should filmmakers still try to meet deadlines for the upcoming summer and autumn festivals? Or should they further postpone their premieres instead? We discussed these important topics with a panel of industry experts.



Panelists:

- **Cara Cusumano**
Festival Director and VP of Programming, Tribeca Film Festival and Tribeca TV
- **Carlo Chatrian**
Artistic Director, Berlin International Film Festival
- **Giona A. Nazzaro**
General Delegate of Venice International Film Critics' Week, and programmer and curator for Visions du Réel.
- **Orwa Nyrabia**
Artistic Director, IDFA

Moderator:

Jovan Marjanović, Head of Industry, Sarajevo Film Festival.

Roundtable 2: Online Distribution: New Models and Viewing Habits

June 2020
115 participants

As theatres remain shuttered and potential audiences stayed home watching more content than ever—it became a prosperous time for online film distribution and consumption. While distribution models were undergoing drastic disruptions, we wanted to explore the opportunities for filmmakers and producers in the ever-growing online world. Our lively, timely and insightful discussion shed light on crucial elements of online distribution models and viewing behaviours.

Panelists:

- **Ashley Hasz**
Marketing Specialist
- **Bobby Allen**
SVP Content, MUBI
- **Jeffrey Bowers**
Senior Curator at Vimeo
- **Mathilde Henrot**
Co-founder and COO, Festival Scope

Moderator:

Jovan Marjanović, Head of Industry, Sarajevo Film Festival.

Online Group Tutorial on Crowdfunding

May 2020
79 participants

Kickstarter's Senior Director of Film, Elise McCave, took participants through the best practices for launching a successful film crowdfunding campaign. Elise unpacked crowdfunding from start to finish, exploring two case studies to show what works and what doesn't. She talked about everything from creating a project video, to designing compelling rewards, and deciding on campaign length and choosing a funding goal.

Series Lab

July 2020 – January 2021

The Series Lab is dedicated to screenwriters developing scripted series projects created for distribution on all platforms (including television, digital or web). It provides participants with the scriptwriting tools and industry access to help move their projects and careers forward.

Mentors:

Ryan O’Nan (Lab Leader, TV Writer and Showrunner)
Bassem Breche (Writer/Director)
Neerja Narayanan (Industry Advisor)
Gabrielle Capolino (Industry Advisor)
Frédéric Pittoors d’Haveskercke (International Production & Distribution Advisor at Series Mania)

Projects:

- **‘Faraya’** by Wadih Safieddine & Nadim Tabet (Lebanon)
- **‘Oddity Tales from a Strange Land’** by Ahmad Samara Ala Alhussan (Jordan)
- **‘Ren’s Deception’** by Amna Al-Binali (Qatar)
- **‘The Source’** by Erige Sehiri (Tunisia)
- **‘Under This Roof’** by Areej, Mahmoud (Lebanon)

First Cut Lab

June 2020

This special online ‘First Cut Lab’ was designed to assist three feature films and one short film in the editing phase from Qatar or the MENA region. Film teams from Qatar were also given the opportunity to apply with their short films in the editing phase. The main goal was to foster the artistic potential of the selected rough cuts and, at the same time, to increase the sales, festival and circulation potential of the completed films.

Mentors:

Matthieu Darras (Director of First Cut Lab)
Benjamin Mirguet (Editor Mentor)
Sebastián Sepúlveda (Editor Mentor)
Sata Cissokho (Industry Advisor)
Myriam Sassine Industry Advisor
Gudula Meinzolt (Industry Advisor)
Wim Vanacker (Industry Advisor)

Projects:

- **‘Searching for Kikhia’** by Jihan Kikhia (Libya)
- **‘The Maiden’s Pond’** by Bassem Breche (Lebanon)
- **‘Antarctica’** by Hamida Issa (Qatar)
- **‘Olayan’** by Khalifa AlMarri (Qatar)



Film Analysis Workshop

June 2020

15 participants

‘Watching the Classics’ was an online programme during which filmmakers and cinephiles alike could deepen their knowledge of film history. Presented by renowned scholar Richard Peña, this series of three lectures each focused on one of the below world cinema classics.

- **‘Citizen Kane’** | 1941 | Orson Welles | USA
- **‘The Rules of the Game’** | 1939 | Jean Renoir | France
- **‘Late Spring’** | 1949 | Yasujiro Ozu | Japan

Filmmaking Workshop with Elia Suleiman

September 2020

This intensive filmmaking workshop with Elia Suleiman offered an opportunity for participants to receive in-depth mentorship on their current projects from the acclaimed visionary filmmaker. The lab was aimed at filmmakers from the MENA region working on their first or second narrative feature films—who were interested in receiving feedback and guidance on the next steps of their projects at any given stage (development, production or post-production).

Projects:

- **‘The Metamorphosis’** by Nabil Bellahsene (Algeria)
- **‘A Taste of Paradise’** by Cynthia Sawma (Lebanon)
- **‘Vanishing’** by Lucien Bourjeily (Lebanon)
- **‘Widad’** by Malak Abubaker (Palestine)
- **‘Kleptocracy’** by Yasmine Ghorayeb (Lebanon)
- **‘In the Vacuum’** by Angela Al-Souliman (Syria)

Moderator: Kamal Aljafari.

Screenwriting for Beginners

May 2020

26 participants

In this workshop, participants discovered the creative process of writing for the screen, all from the comfort of their own home. This fascinating lab included the foundations of screenwriting, with mentors covering the ‘architecture’ of screenplays (storytelling, screenplay guidelines, non-verbal storytelling and characterization) and the ‘formatting’ of a screenplay (visual grammar and Celtx/Final Draft).

Mentors:

Anthea Devotta

Amna Al-Binali

Fahad Ahmed Al-Kuwari

Short Documentary Lab with Rithy Panh

August – September 2020

During this workshop, 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. Attending filmmakers were encouraged to find their own narratives that explored the idea of identity and origins by truly living, working, and breathing with their subjects.

Participants:

Majid Al-Remaihi (Qatar)

Mariam Al-Dhubhani (Yemen)

Mariam Al-Misned (Qatar)

Maysaa Almumin (Bahrain)

Noor Abunaba’a (Jordan)

Noor Al-Nasr (Qatar)

Obada Yousef Jarbi (Jordan)

Suzannah Mirghani (Sudan)

Mentors:

Rithy Panh (Lead Mentor, Documentary Filmmaker)

Socheat Cheng (Supporting Mentor)

Séverin Favriau (Sound Designer Mentor)

DFI/IFP Podcast Lab 2020

October 2020

11 participants

Working in partnership with the IFP—the oldest and largest non-profit in the United States dedicated to storytelling in all its forms—this programme provided participants with the knowledge, resources, and mentor support for developing their project. Both creatively, through story development and sound editing workshops, and strategically, with discussions on industry landscape, pitching, marketing, and releasing their audio project in today’s audio landscape.

Projects:

- **‘Keep it in the AM with Friends’** by Ali Alhajri, Joy Atrash & Abdulla Alsulaiti (Qatar)

- **‘Rethinking Refugees’** by Dina Pasic & Giovanni Fontana (Qatar)

- **‘A Legacy in the Making: World Cup Qatar 2022’** by Juan Antonio Cepeda Gutiérrez (Mexico)

- **‘On The Go’** by Lulwa Bint Abdulla Al-Misned (Qatar)

- **‘Ballads of Others’** by Salman Ahad Khan, Omama Othman & Hisham Bin Hashim (Pakistan, Egypt)

- **‘Dardasha’** by Salwa Sadek (Palestine)

Mentors and Guests Speakers:

Alexandra Blair (IFP Team, Lab Programme Producer)

Kerry Donahue (Independent Strategist)

Rhea Chedid (Reyzin Media)

Henry Molofsky (Pineapple Street Studios)

Lindsay Abrams (CNN)

Ryan Dilley (Pushkin Industries)

Stephanie Kuo (PRX)

Ramsey Tesdell

(Co-Founder & Executive Director SOWT)

Mayss Al Alami (Business development SOWT)



Behind the scenes from ‘Kashta’ by A.J. Al Thani

Producers Lab

November 2020

DFI recognizes the rise of emerging talent in the region and the fundamental role producers play in defining, supporting and influencing the voice of filmmakers. 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 9 projects. The intensive seven-day programme focused on the creative, artistic and strategic aspects of producing feature-length documentary and fiction films.

Projects:

- **‘Yalla Parkour’** by Areeb Zuaiter & Basel Mawlawi (Jordan)

- **‘Searching for Kikhia’** by Jihan Kikhia (Libya)

- **‘Becoming Omar Khairy’** by Alyaa Sirelkhatim Musa (Sudan)

- **‘Five Football Dreams’** by Bassel Ghandour & Hashem Sabbagh (Jordan)

- **‘Cotton Queen’** by Suzannah Mirghani (Sudan)

- **‘Backstage’** by Afef Ben Mahmoud (Tunisia)

- **‘Shout Louder’** by Ben Robinson (Qatar)

- **‘Occurrences’** by Nizar Sfair (Lebanon)

Mentors:

Jovan Marjanović (Head of Industry, 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)

Myriam Sassine (Producer)

YOUTH PROGRAMMES

The Next Generation of Filmmaking

Our year-round Youth Programmes are designed to empower and equip young people to make films on issues that are important to them.

We help our budding participants gain the confidence to explore film production, while having fun and creating films that tell their stories, in their own unique way.

Youth Summer Camps: Staying Connected Through Film

Continuing with the spirit of the Ajyal Film Festival, in 2020 we expanded our offering with a selection of online workshops from internationally acclaimed mentors.

Open to participants aged between 8-17 years old, these inspiring workshops were designed to nurture storytelling skills through hands-on personal projects that encourage both creative and critical thinking.

Led by world-renowned artists and filmmakers, each of our three workshops was centred on the values of the Ajyal Film Festival and followed a curriculum and philosophy of active learning.

Animated Stories Workshop

June – July 2020
8 participants

In this fascinating workshop, we traced back into the footsteps of basic storytelling. Inspired by a presentation of short animated films, theoretical discussion, and practical exercises—students learned how to develop an idea into a compelling narrative and produce their own short animation.

Mentors:

Fadi Syriani (Animator)
Gcina Mhlophe (Poet & Director)

Photography and Visual Arts Workshop

July 2020
5 participants

During this inspiring workshop, participants learned all about the theoretical basis of image composition and sketching visual stories to help them gain a deeper insight into different types of cinematography. Engaging in hands-on photography, each student produced their own content for an e-book that members of the class collectively conceptualized.

Mentors:

Tanya Habjouqa
Bayan Dahdah

Contribute to Your Own Film Workshop

June – July 2020
3 participants

This thought-provoking workshop was a well-rounded introduction to the essential tools of filmmaking. Through hands-on exercises, participants learned all the technical and practical techniques required to make a documentary film, starting with the basic elements of narrative development and visual storytelling—to the actual production of the story.

FUNDING

DFI's funding initiatives 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.

An integral 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.

The Qatari Film Fund, our Grants Programme and Co-Finance are the three mechanisms we use to channel funding into projects.

Qatari Film Fund

Through investing in the development and success of local talent, the Qatari Film Fund equips, empowers and elevates the skills and expertise of Qatari filmmakers.

The Qatari Film Fund (QFF) finances up to eight short films per year, which goes 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 develop a community of dedicated and talented local filmmakers who are now making their mark on the international stage.

2 QFF Films Completed in 2020:

Emsa7ar, Al Tabbab

4 QFF Films in Development:

Dowayha, Khuzama, The Pearl, Our Legend

5 QFF Films in Production:

Olayan, Freiha, And Then They Burn the Sea, Hitch 60, The Pearl Banks



QFF Films on the World Stage

Qatari Film Fund supported films made their mark at a large number of international film festivals around the world in 2020, with some winning awards.

Amphitheater

by Mahdi Ali Al-Sharshani
14 Festivals



Sh'hab

by Amal Al-Muftah
44 Festivals / 9 Awards

- The Quarantine Film Festival | Bulgaria | 2020 | AWARD
- Beirut International Children and Family Festival | Lebanon | 2020 | AWARD Best Short Film
- Varese International Film Festival | Italy | 2020 | AWARD Best Cinematography, Best Actress
- Chatham-Kent International Film Festival | Canada | 2020 | AWARD Best Director, Most Promising Individual | Joori Al Darwish
- Women X: A Rianne Pictures Event | United Kingdom | 2020 | AWARD Best Cinematography
- PITT CLAP Festival | France | 2020 FINALIST Top 8
- Belgaum International Film Festival | India | 2020 | AWARD Best Director



Nasser Goes to Space

by Mohamed Al-Mahmeed
2 Festivals / 1 Award

- Waco Family & Faith International Film Festival | USA | 2020 | AWARD



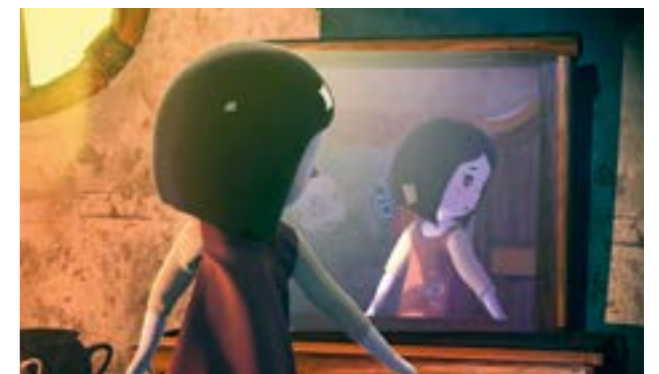
I Am Not My Father

by Naif Al-Malki
2 Festivals



Fragile

by Kholoud Al Ali
13 Festivals



End of the Road

by Ahmad Al Sharif
5 Festivals / 2 Awards

- Ethereal Horror Fest | USA | 2020 |
AWARD Best Foreign Language Short
- Marcellus Mini Movie Family Film Festival | USA |
2020 | AWARD Best Horror Short



The Black Veil

by AJ Al-Thani
1 Festival



Ya Hoota

by Latifa Al Darwish & Abdulaziz Yousef
2 Festivals

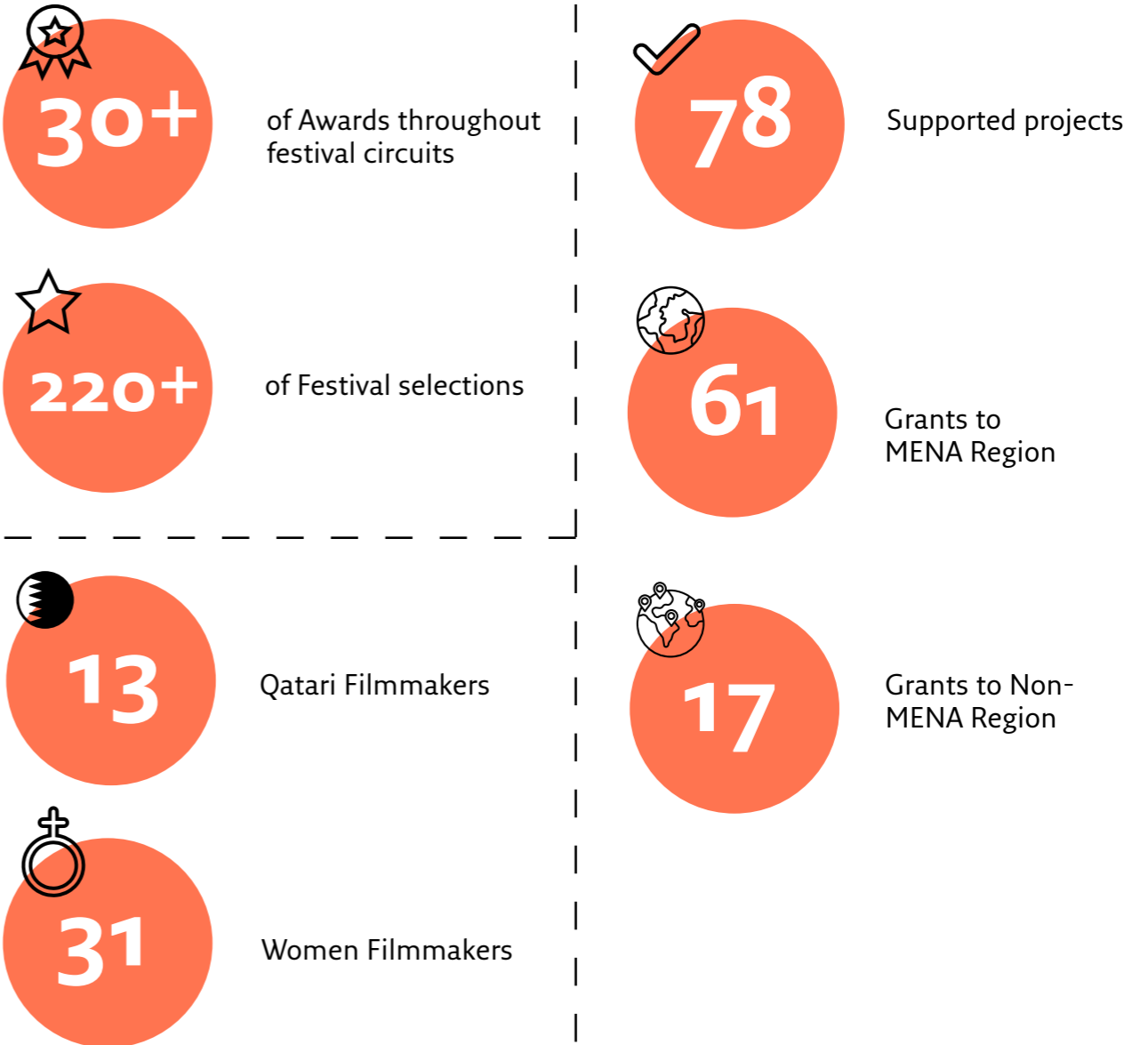


GRANTS PROGRAMME

Our Grants Programme seeks to discover and support the emerging talent of first-and-second time filmmakers from Qatar, the wider Arab region, and around the world. By funding their productions, we facilitate exchanges of creativity, knowledge and professional collaborations among our 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.

To keep pace with evolving trends in the industry and to reach growing audiences who use technologies that go beyond traditional cinema, DFI also funds work that includes television and web series.



Grants Programme in Numbers for 2020

Supported Countries in 2020 (31)

- Algeria
- Bangladesh
- Belgium
- Bolivia
- Cambodia
- China
- Colombia
- Croatia
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- France
- Haiti
- Iran
- Iraq
- Italy
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Oman
- Palestine
- Philippines
- Qatar
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Sweden
- Syria
- Tanzania
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Yemen

Supported Countries Since Inception (83)

- Afghanistan
- Algeria
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Belgium
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Cambodia
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Croatia
- Dominican Republic
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Haiti
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Italy
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- KSA
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Libya
- Madagascar
- Mauritania
- Mexico

- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palestine
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Portugal
- Puerto Rico
- Qatar
- Romania
- Russia
- Serbia
- Singapore
- Slovenia
- Somalia
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syria
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- UAE
- UK
- Ukraine
- USA
- Yemen

Grants Film Highlights

- 200 Meters by Ameen Nayfeh
- A Rifle and a Bag by Cristina Hanes, Isabella Rinaldi, and Arya Rothe
- Al-Sit by Suzannah Mirghani
- An Unusual Summer by Kamal Aljafari
- Gevar's Land by Qutaiba Barhamji
- I Am Afraid to Forget Your Face by Sameh Morsy
- Merry Christmas, Yiwu by Mladen Kovacevic
- Nardjes A. by Karim Aïnouz
- The Disqualified by Hamza Ouni
- The Last Hillbilly by Diane Sara Bouzgarrou and Thomas Jenkoe
- The Marriage Project by Atieh Attarzadeh and Hesam Eslami
- The Present by Farah Nabulsi
- The Translator by Rana Kazkaz and Anas Khalaf
- Their Algeria by Lina Soualem
- Under Her Skin by Meriem Mesraoua



'200 Meter' by Ameen Nayfeh

CO-FINANCE PROJECTS

Through our 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.

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.



Notturmo

Director / Writer: Gianfranco Rosi

Filmed over three years on the borders between Iraq, Kurdistan, Syria, and Lebanon, Gianfranco Rosi's documentary is an immersive portrait of those trying to survive in the war-torn Middle East.

Festival Highlights:

Venice Film Festival 2020 – Official Competition

- Winner: Arca CinemaGiovani Award
- Best Italian Film
- Winner: Sorriso Diverso Venezia Award
- Best Italian Film
- Winner: UNICEF Award - Gianfranco Rosi
- Nominee: Golden Lion - Best Film

Seville European Film Festival 2020

Winner: Best Cinematography

Nominee: Golden Giraltillo - Best Film

Critics' Choice Documentary Awards 2020

Nominee: Best Cinematography

Toronto International Film Festival

Telluride Film Festival

New York Film Festival

International Documentary Film Festival
Amsterdam (IDFA)

Busan International Film Festival

Tokyo International Film Festival

San Francisco International Film Festival

El Gouna Film Festival

Cinema Eye Honors Awards

British Independent Film Awards

QUMRA

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 focuses particularly on first and second-time filmmakers and contributes unwaveringly to their growth by carving out pathways and creating invaluable opportunities for them.

Qumra connects leading film professionals with emerging talent, creating fruitful interactions, exchanges and networking opportunities—playing a unique role as an industry catalyst and assisting in the creation of truly significant films.

Qumra 2020: The Online Edition

Over the past six years, Qumra has been an essential professional incubator crucial to the success of filmmakers from the Arab world and beyond. Due to the global concern regarding the COVID-19 outbreak, and assuming responsibility for the management of the health and safety of Qatar's residents and international visitors, the decision was made to adapt the 2020 edition of Qumra.

We moved many of Qumra's activities online while cancelling any elements that required a physical presence. The decision came as part of the Institute's contribution to manage and reduce the risk of further spread of the virus. All guests received digital versions of our Qumra publications, including the projects catalogue and delegates guide.



46
20 Projects from
Countries



250+
Online Mentoring Sessions



20 Projects by Qatar-based
talent, including **12** by Qatari
nationals.



34
18 Mentors from
countries



200+
Match Made Meetings

Qumra Series: An Exciting New Chapter

In 2020, Qumra introduced a new element to its programme—Qumra Series. This followed the recent expansion of DFI’s Grants programme and various training, and development labs dedicated to the creation of original and compelling TV and web content in Arabic.

During the event, serialised format projects in development were presented to a group of international industry professionals and experts. These sessions were dedicated to exploring and developing series format projects from the region. The participating TV series projects by Qatari talent included ‘Al Zubara’ by Hamad Al Mansouri and ‘The Life of Abdulla’ by Abdulla Al-Abdulla.

Qumra Projects: Broadening Horizons

- 15 Feature Film Projects in Development Stage (11 Narrative / 4 Documentaries)
- 13 Feature Film Projects in Post-Production Stage (7 Narrative / 6 Documentaries)
- 11 Short Film Projects in Post-Production Stage
- 7 Series Projects in Development Stage

Of our 46 Projects:
33 were recipients of the DFI’s Grants Programme,
3 are supported through the Qatari Film Fund
1 is supported through the Institute’s Co-financing Programme.

Twenty-eight feature-length, eleven short film, and seven series projects at various stages of production were selected to benefit from the experience of bespoke mentorship and business meetings with international experts. Directors and producers of these projects met with industry experts in online sessions specifically tailored to each project’s needs, and according to their stage of development.

Projects in development benefited from script consulting, legal, sales, marketing and co-production advice, along with individual matchmaking and tutorial sessions. While 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.

Covering the complete script-to-screen journey and beyond—and with the inclusion of VoD and online platforms—filmmakers at Qumra 2020 were encouraged to look beyond conventional platforms and empowered to take their projects to a broader audience.

- Possible Projects to Feature:**
- Olayan (Qatar) by Khalifa Al Marri
 - Arabnovela (Qatar) by A.J. Al-Thani
 - Behind Closed Doors (Qatar) by Hend Fakhroo
 - Al Zubara (Qatar) by Hamad Al Mansouri
 - And Then They Burn the Sea (Qatar) by Majid Al-Remaihi



46 Projects from
20 Countries



34 Mentors from
18 countries

Qumra Industry

Over 100 acclaimed filmmakers, industry professionals and experts met online during Qumra 2020 to nurture the 46 projects by first and second-time filmmakers. Many have formed strong bonds through this unique event, which has become an important platform and project incubator for new voices and compelling stories in Arab and world cinema.

Qumra's Online edition included global film industry experts from over 29 countries such as filmmakers Rithy Panh, Ghassan Salhab, Tala Hadid, Annemarie Jacir, Karim Ainouz, editor mentor Matthieu Taponier, sales expert Gabor Grener and producer experts Joslyn Barnes, Didar Domeri and Jean des Forêts among others.

The event attracted international delegates from Argentina, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Switzerland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Turkey, France, the United Kingdom and the United States. Attendees from the region included delegates from Jordan, Lebanon, Iran, Syria, Morocco and Tunisia.

Notable industry leaders and producers included Jani Thilges (Head of Studies at EAVE), Thanassis Karathanos (Pallas Film), Catherine Dussart (CDP), Joslyn Barnes (Louverture Films), Georges Schoucair (About Productions), Dora Bouchoucha (Nomadis Image), David Kaplan (Animal Kingdom), Jason Kliot (Open City Films) and Elise McCave (Kickstarter).

In attendance were film festival representatives from Berlinale, Venice Film Festival, Settimana della Critica, Festival du Cannes, Quinzaine, La Semaine, Locarno, Marseille Festival of Documentary Film, Tribeca Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, Karlovy Vary, Sarajevo Film Festival, International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, Vision du Reel, Mumbai International Film Festival and Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival.



There was also a strong representation of film institutes and funds, including the Sundance Institute, Tribeca Institute, the Royal Film Commission Jordan, Moroccan Centre for Cinematography (CCM), ARTE France Cinéma, Eurimages, Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée (CNC), the Hubert Bals Fund, the World Cinema Fund, and Metafora Production.

In addition, Qumra drew International Sales and Distributors including Wild Bunch, the Match Factory, Indie Sales, Memento International, Pyramide International, Films Boutique, UDI, LuxBox, New Europe Film Sales, Outlook Filmsales, Stray Dogs, Moving Turtle, Metropolis Art Cinema, and Empire Entertainment among others.

Also in attendance were streamers, broadcasters and drama series markets such as Netflix, Mubi, Amazon, Sony International Productions / Columbia Pictures, Independent Filmmakers Project, TRT, TV Drama Vision, and Drama Series Days - European Film Market. As well as Qatar-based organisations including teams from Al Jazeera Media Network, BeIN Media, Qatar TV and Al Rayyan TV.

A Legacy Continues...

Qatari projects participating in Qumra 2015-2020

66



Projects

29



Features

35



Shorts

2



Series

Making Connections Through Qumra

"Thank you very much for all the effort, for making these calls happen in very challenging times, and most importantly for the great choice of mentors. We were given an incredible amount of strategic advice, on how we should package our project, who we should talk to and all the options that we have out there to help make our project happen...This was extremely valuable."

- **Wadih Safieddine** | Producer of Faraya (Lebanon, Qatar)

"I hope you know how much I care for the work you guys do...it's always great for me as a professional and also as a human being to be connected with people from all over the world, hearing their concepts, stories and plans."

- **Gabriele Capolino** | IFP Senior Manager, Episodic and International Programming

"Countless thanks to all of you and mentors for making it happen - you're amazing. It was great getting feedback and tangible advice for forthcoming steps."

- **Meriem Mesraoua** | Director of Under Her Skin (Qatar, Algeria, France)

"Qumra is always a great experience, whether online or in person."

- **Suzannah Mirghani** | Director of Al-Sit (Sudan, Qatar)

AJYAL

Launched to empower and inspire the region's youth, the Ajyal Film Festival is truly a celebration of film at its finest. For eight consecutive editions since its inception, Ajyal has built bridges and brought generations together to enjoy cinematic expressions from around the world.

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.

Rising to the Challenge

In this year of unprecedented challenges, Doha Film Institute wanted to continue with its commitment to community and youth development and build on the success of Ajyal Film Festival and its remarkable programme.

For 2020, the festival was reimagined into a new hybrid format that extended the spirit of Ajyal into a virtual space, with most activities running online as well as carefully selected physical events and activities.

Safety Above All

Ajyal's audience and participants' safety was the top priority. In addition to adhering strictly to government guidelines, DFI established and enforced, in collaboration with Qatar's Ministry of Public Health, strict procedures for capacity control, social distancing and precautionary measures at all Ajyal events.

Ajyal 2020: Online and Around the World...

17 Countries Tuned-in to Ajyal 2020!


- Algeria
- Egypt
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Italy
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Oman
- Palestine
- Qatar
- Spain
- Sudan
- UAE
- UK
- USA


 **6** Days

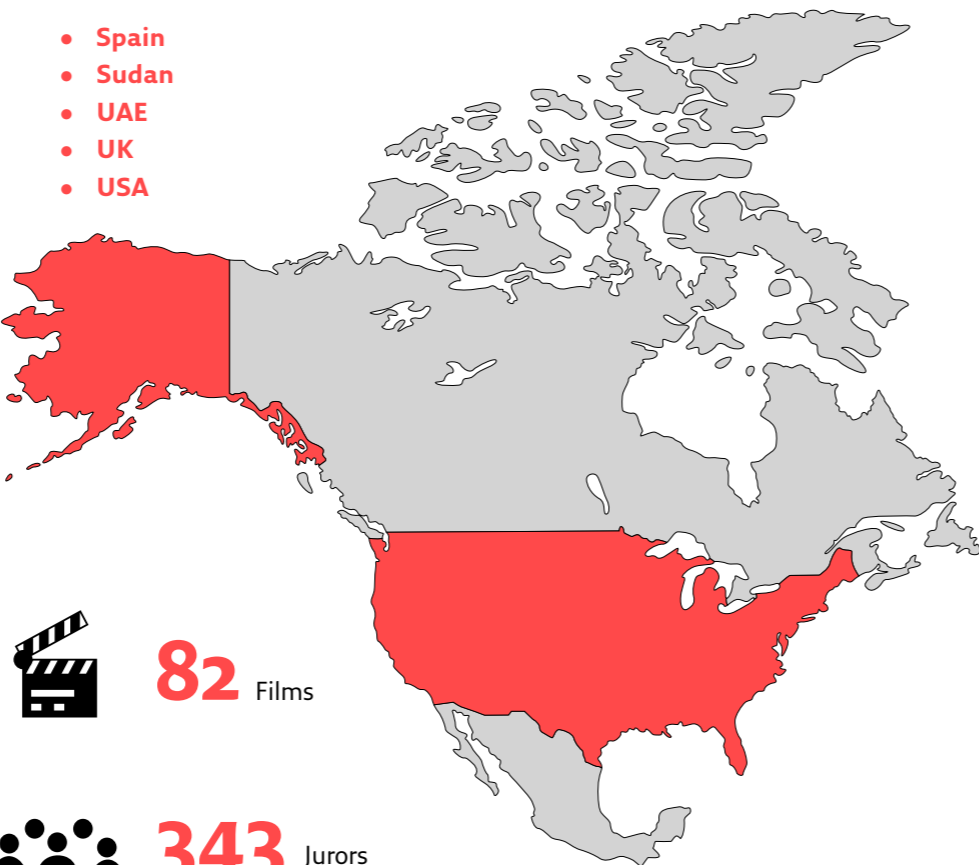
 **46** Countries

 **24** Features

 **58** Shorts

 **31** Films from the Arab World


 **30** Films by Women Filmmakers



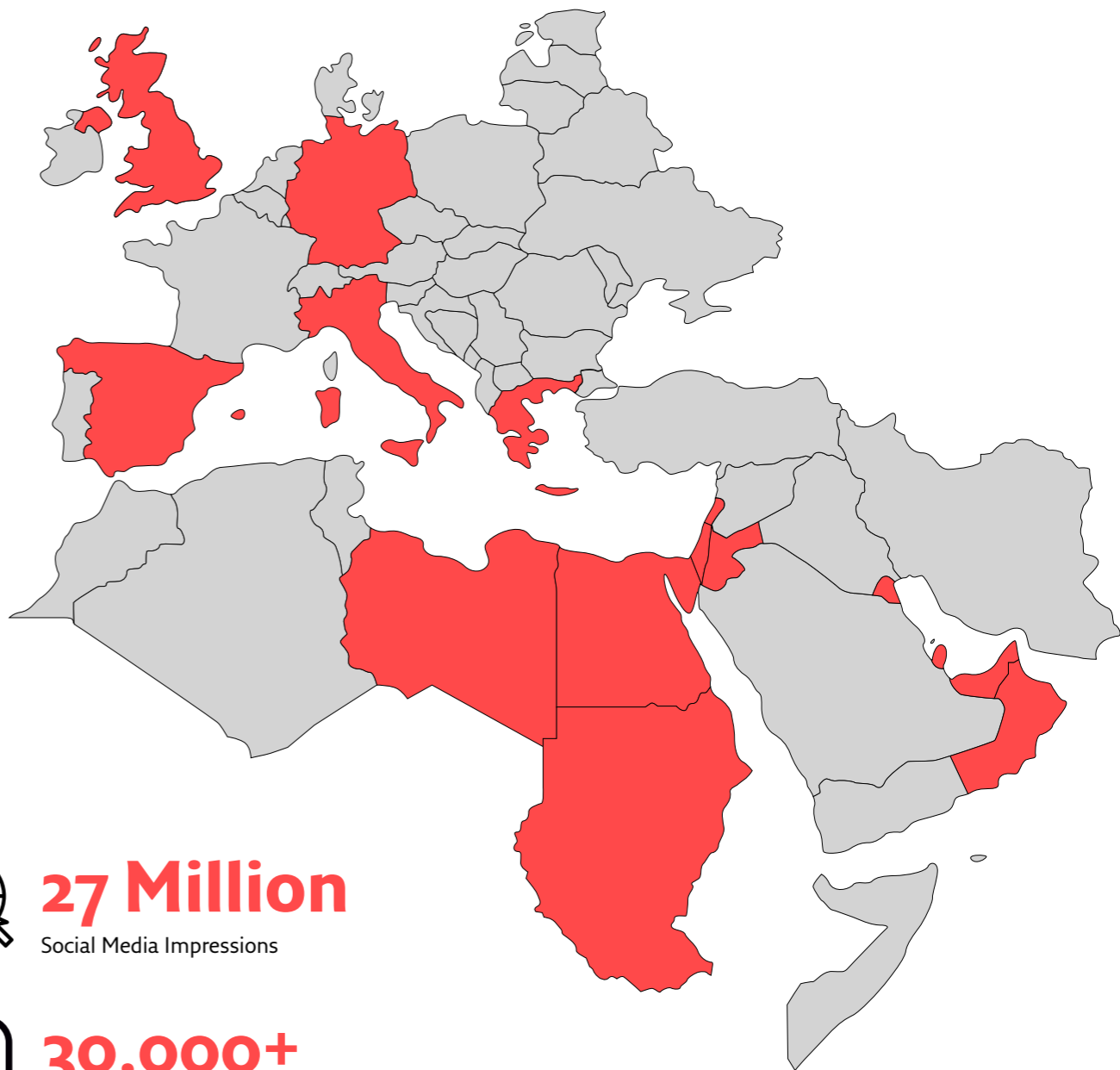
 **82** Films

 **343** Jurors

 **112** Qatari Jurors


959
cars at drive-in screenings


336
cars at Ajyal Tunes concerts



 **27 Million**
Social Media Impressions

 **30,000+**
Highest Instagram engagements in the history of the festival

 **16,000+**
Highest Twitter trailer views on the Ajyal account in the history of the festival

Opening Night

The online Jury Opening Ceremony welcomed all jury members and signified the start of their programme. The 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 Alremaihi.

Our Ajyal Jury

As always, engagement of young people at the Ajyal Film Festival centres on the juries of the Ajyal Competition, who select the festival's award winners. This year, due to Ajyal's hybrid format, jurors both locally and internationally were able to take part from the comfort of their own homes.

Mohaq

Ages 8 to 12 | (136 jurors)

Ajyal's youngest jurors enjoyed one programme of short films, four feature-length films, one workshop and six Ajyal Spotlight sessions.



Hilal

Ages 13 to 17 | (133 jurors)

Hilal jurors enjoyed one programme of shorts, four feature films, two workshops/masterclasses, three Ajyal Talks and six Ajyal Spotlight sessions.



Bader

Ages 18 to 25 | (74 jurors)

As the young adults of the festival, Bader enjoyed a full schedule including two programmes of shorts, five feature films, two workshops/masterclasses, three Ajyal Talks and six Ajyal Spotlights.



Ajyal Film Programme

This year's public film programme built on Ajyal's strong reputation for curating the best in international cinema with a line-up of 82 films from 46 countries—31 of these by incredible Arab filmmakers and 30 helmed by extraordinary women directors.

Feature Films

Sun Children

MENA Premiere

Director: Majid Majidi

Iran / Farsi / 2020 / 99 mins

Winner of the Lanterna Magica Award at Venice Film Festival, 2020.



The 180° Rule

MENA Premiere

Director: Farnoosh Samadi

Iran / Farsi / 2020 / 83 mins



200 Meters

Doha Film Institute Supported Film

Director: Ameen Nayfeh

Palestine, Jordan, Qatar, Italy, Sweden / Arabic, English, Hebrew / 2020 / 96 mins



Bikes

MENA Premiere

Director: Manuel J. García

Spain / English / 2019 / 80 mins



Digimon Adventure: Last Evolution Kizuna

Director: Tomohisa Taguchi

Japan / Japanese / 2020 / 95 mins



Dino Dana

MENA Premiere

Director: J.J. Johnson

Canada / English / 2019 / 76 mins



Father

Director: Srđan Golubović

Serbia, France, Germany, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina / Serbian / 2020 / 120 mins

- Winner of the Panorama Audience Award at the Berlin International Film Festival, 2020.



Gevar's Land

Doha Film Institute Supported Film

Director: Qutaiba Barhamji

Qatar, France / Arabic, French / 2020 / 75 mins



I Am Gretta

Director: Nathan Grossman

Sweden / English, Swedish / 2020 / 97 mins



Lupin III. The First

MENA Premiere

Director: Takashi Yamazaki

Japan / Japanese / 2020 / 93 mins



Microplastic Madness

MENA Premiere

Directors: Atsuko Quirk, Debby Lee Cohen
USA / English / 2019 / 76 mins

- Winner of the Grand Jury Award at Greenpoint Film Festival 2020



My Favorite War

MENA Premiere

Director: Ilze Burkovska

Latvia, Norway / English, Latvian / 2020 / 80 mins

- Winner of the Annecy Feature Film Contrechamp Award, 2020.



The Reason I Jump

MENA Premiere

Director: Jerry Rothwell

UK, USA / English / 2020 / 82 mins

- Winner of the Sundance World Cinema Documentary Audience Award, 2020.



Their Algeria

Doha Film Institute Supported Film

Director: Lina Soualem

Algeria, France, Switzerland, Qatar / Arabic, French / 2020 / 72 mins

- Winner of the CCU – CROUS Student Award for First Work at the Montpellier Mediterranean Film Festival, 2020.

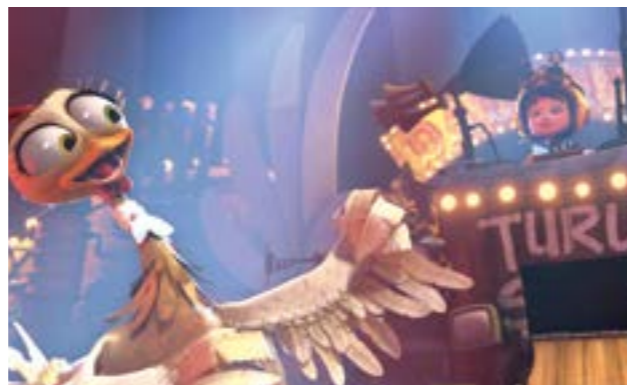


Turu, The Wacky Hen

MENA Premiere

Director: Victor Monigote, Eduardo Gondell

Spain, Argentina / English / 2019 / 80 mins



An Unusual Summer

Doha Film Institute Supported Film

MENA Premiere

Director: Kamal Aljafari

Palestine, Germany / Arabic, English / 2020 / 80 mins



The Wolves

MENA Premiere

Director: Samuel Kishi Leopo

Mexico / Spanish, Cantonese, English / 2019 / 95 mins

- Winner of the Grand Prize of the Jury KPlus at the Berlin International Film Festival, 2020.



Yalda, A Night for Forgiveness

MENA Premiere

Director: Massoud Bakhshi

France, Germany, Switzerland, Luxemburg, Lebanon, Iran / Farsi / 2019 / 89 mins

- Winner of the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize for Drama at the Sundance Film Festival, 2020.



AJYAL'S SCREENINGS & EVENTS

12 Screenings at VOX



28 Online Screenings



9 Ajyal Drive-in Screenings



17 Ajyal Jury Screenings



2 Red Carpet Screenings



3 Ajyal Talks



Short Films

Made in Qatar Programme 1

Presented by Ooredoo

As always, the Ajyal Film Festival was delighted to celebrate the exciting state of filmmaking in Qatar. The two programmes presented featured a selection of compelling short narratives, animations, and documentaries.

Hope

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
Director: Abdulla Mohammed Al-Janahi
Qatar, Indonesia / No Dialogue / 2020 / 6 mins



Under Her Skin

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
MENA Premiere
Director: Meriem Mesraoua
Qatar, France, Algeria / Arabic / 2020 / 15 mins



Emsahar

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
Director: Hassan Al-Jahni
Qatar / Arabic / 2020 / 6 mins



Stranger

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
Directors: Yasser Mustafa, Christophe Buffet
Qatar, France / No Dialogue / 2020 / 11 mins



Al-Sit

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
Director: Suzannah Mirghani
Sudan, Qatar / Arabic / 2020 / 20 mins



Woman of Steel

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
World Premiere
Director: Obada Yousef Jarbi
Jordan, Qatar / Arabic / 2020 / 16 mins



Ya Hoota

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
MENA Premiere
Director: Abdulaziz Yousif, Latifa Al-Darwish
Qatar / Arabic / 2019 / 11 mins



Al Tabbab

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
Director: Khalifa Al Mana
Qatar / Arabic / 2020 / 5 mins



J'ai Le Cafard

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
Director: Maysaa Almunin
Kuwait, Egypt, Sudan, Qatar / Arabic
/ 2020 / 14 mins



Made in Qatar Programme 2

Presented by Ooredoo

Watar El Ghurbah

World Premiere

Director: Alessandra El Chanti

Qatar, USA / Arabic, English / 2019 / 10 mins



Smile You Deserve It

Doha Film Institute Supported Film

World Premiere

Director: Ibrahim Albuainain

Qatar / Arabic / 2020 / 4 mins



Beyond Broken Walls

World Premiere

Director: Hissa G. Al-Mannai

Qatar / English / 2020 / 4 mins



Ander

Doha Film Institute Supported Film

MENA Premiere

Director: Alina Mustafina

Qatar, Kazakhstan / English, Kazakh, Russian / 2020 / 14 mins



Shringar

World Premiere

Director: Muhammed Noufal

Qatar / Malayalam / 2020 / 11 mins



No Words

MENA Premiere

Director: Mariam Al-Dhubhan

Yemen, Qatar, UK / Arabic / 2020 / 6 mins



Under the Lemon Tree

Doha Film Institute Supported Film

Director: Noor Al-Asswad

Qatar, Palestine / Arabic / 2020 / 10 mins



Shorts Programme

A Winding Road

The longer we live, the more beautiful life becomes. This selection of shorts explored kinship and its ability to endure the toughest of challenges.

How My Grandmother Became a Chair

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
Director: Nicolas Fattouh
Germany, Lebanon, Qatar / No Dialogue / 2020 / 10 mins



The School Bus

Director: Ramazan Kılıç
Turkey / Turkish / 2019 / 14 mins



Napo

Director: Gustavo Ribeiro
Brazil / No Dialogue / 2020 / 16 mins



En Route

Director: Marit Weerheijm
The Netherlands / Dutch / 2019 / 10 mins



Bethlehem 2001

Director: Ibrahim Handal
Palestine / Arabic / 2020 / 14 mins



The Visit

Director: Azadeh Moussavi
Iran / Farsi / 2019 / 14 mins



The Present

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
Director: Farah Nabulsi
Palestine, Qatar / Arabic, English, Hebrew / 2019 / 24 mins



Shorts Programme

Matter of Integrity

There is nothing that can dim the light which shines from within. In this programme of shorts, our protagonists all faced compelling internal struggles.

I am Afraid to Forget Your Face

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
Director: Sameh Alaa
Egypt, France, Qatar, Belgium / Arabic /
2020 / 15 mins



David

Director: Zach Woods
USA / English / 2020 / 12 mins



Witness

Director: Ali Asgari
France, Iran / Farsi / 2020 / 14 mins



Nightshift

Director: Karim Shaaban
Egypt / Arabic / 2020 / 14 mins



Clouds

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
Director: Muzna Al-Musafer
Oman, Qatar / Arabic / 2019 / 14 mins



Why Slugs Have No Legs

Director: Aline Höchli
Switzerland / No Dialogue / 2019 / 11 mins



Shorts Programme

Dare to Imagine

This programme of shorts showed us that to accomplish great things in life; we must not only act but also dream.

Matilda and the Spare Head

Director: Ignas Meilūnas
Lithuania / Lithuanian / 2020 / 13 mins



Moonjump

Director: Lasse Holdhus
Germany / English, German / 2019 / 5 mins



Falafel Cart

Director: Abdullah Al-Wazzan
Kuwait / No Dialogue / 2019 / 14 mins



Encountering Samir

Director: Rand Beiruty
Jordan, Germany / No Dialogue / 2020 / 5 mins



The Best Orchestra in the World

Director: Henning Backhaus
Austria / German / 2020 / 14 mins



Watchmaker at Time's End

Director: Shaheen Sheriff
India / Malayalam / 2020 / 5 mins



We Have One Heart

Director: Katarzyna Warzecha
Poland / Polish / 2020 / 10 mins



Left Foot

Director: Falah Al-Baghdadi
Iraq / No Dialogue / 2020 / 2 mins



Shorts Programme

Wild at Heart

This short programme invited viewers to come with us on a fantastical journey into nature to meet up with some very amiable animals from around the world!

A Lynx in the Town

Director: Nina Bisiarina
France / No Dialogue / 2019 / 7 mins



Knock Knock

Director: Ivana Guljašević
Croatia / No Dialogue / 2019 / 4 mins



Small Spark

Director: Julie Rembauville, Nicolas Bianco-Levrin
France / No Dialogue / 2019 / 3 mins



The Concrete Jungle

Director: Marie Urbánková
The Czech Republic / No Dialogue / 2019 / 8 mins



The Goofylympics

Director: Salomé Hammann
France / No Dialogue / 2019 / 4 mins



Leaf

Director: Aliona Baranova
Belarus, The Czech Republic / No Dialogue / 2020 / 6 mins



Shorts Programme

Co-curated with Clermont-Ferrand ISFF

Mémorable

Director: Bruno Collet
France / French / 2019 / 12 mins



Pile Poil

Director: Lauriane Escaffre, Yvonnick Muller
France / French / 2018 / 21 mins



To Hell with Codes

Director: Léopold Legrand
France / French / 2018 / 14 mins



Nefta Football Club

Director: Yves Piat
France / Arabic, French / 2018 / 17 mins



Traces

Director: Hugo Frassetto, Sophie Taver Macian
France, Belgium / No Dialogue / 2019 / 13 mins





Local Filmmakers in Made in Qatar Red Carpet

Made in Qatar: An Inclusive Experience

We worked in partnership with the Translation and Interpreting Institute of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Hamad bin Khalifa University, to once again 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, we aim to make cinema universally accessible. This year's inclusive screening featured a compelling programme of shorts made right here in Qatar with the support of Doha Film Institute.

Ya Hoota

Doha Film Institute Supported Film

Director: Abdulaziz Yousif, Latifa Al-Darwish
Qatar / Arabic / 2019 / 11 mins

Beit Byoot

Doha Film Institute Supported Film

Director: Mayar Hamdan
Jordan, Qatar / Arabic / 2019 / 7 mins

Elevate

Doha Film Institute Supported Film

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

The Black Veil

Doha Film Institute Supported Film

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

Ajyal Drive-in Cinema Lusail's first-ever Drive-In Cinema

In partnership with Qatar National Tourism Council, DFI opened Lusail's first-ever drive-in cinema. Over 1,200 attendees joined us at the venue, which showcased family favourites, midnight horror screenings, Made in Qatar films and Ajyal Tunes performances. The drive-in proved to be incredibly popular and remained open for several months after the festival.

Made in Qatar Programme 1 & 2

Presented by Ooredoo

See page 68

Bambi

Director: David Hand, James Algar, Samuel Armstrong
USA / English / 1942 / 70 mins

The Blair Witch Project

Director: Daniel Myrick, Eduardo Sánchez
USA / English / 1999 / 82 mins

Chicken Run

UK, USA, France / English / 2000 / 84 mins
Director: Peter Lord, Nick Park

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Director: Andrew Adamson
UK, USA / English / 2005 / 140 mins

Cinderella

Director: Clyde Geronimi, Wilfred Jackson, Hamilton Luske
USA / English / 1950 / 74 mins

Frankenstein

Director: James Whale
USA / English / 1931 / 70 mins

Lupin III The First

MENA Premiere

Director: Takashi Yamazaki
Japan / Japanese / 2020 / 93 mins



Ajyal at VOX Cinemas

Doha Festival City

For those who wanted to experience Ajyal on the big screen, we offered a wide selection of features and short films from our programme at VOX Cinemas, Doha Festival City theatre.



Ajyal Creativity Hub

In 2020, Ajyal Creativity Hub presented a reimagined programme of cultural and creative activities. These included Qatar's largest pop-culture event Geekdom, which entered the virtual world with a full online programme, the 'Outbreak' exhibition—a thought-provoking multimedia exhibition, and Ajyal Tunes, this year located at our drive-in cinema.



Geekdom

This year's Geekdom programme, presented in partnership with Qatar National Tourism Council, was redesigned to incorporate a variety of virtual activities and events including Geekdom LIVE, online and physical tournaments, Geek Talks, screenings and a cosplay competition.

Geekdom LIVE

Our semi-daily live feed 'Geedom LIVE' brought together all the components of the event for a real-time experience on the Ajyal Film Festival YouTube channel. In the format of a variety talk show, the programme included online talks, video game streams, pre-recorded content, and in-studio live interviews. This allowed us to stay connected to our loyal community, with audiences interacting with us live through the comments section and participating for chances to win daily rewards.



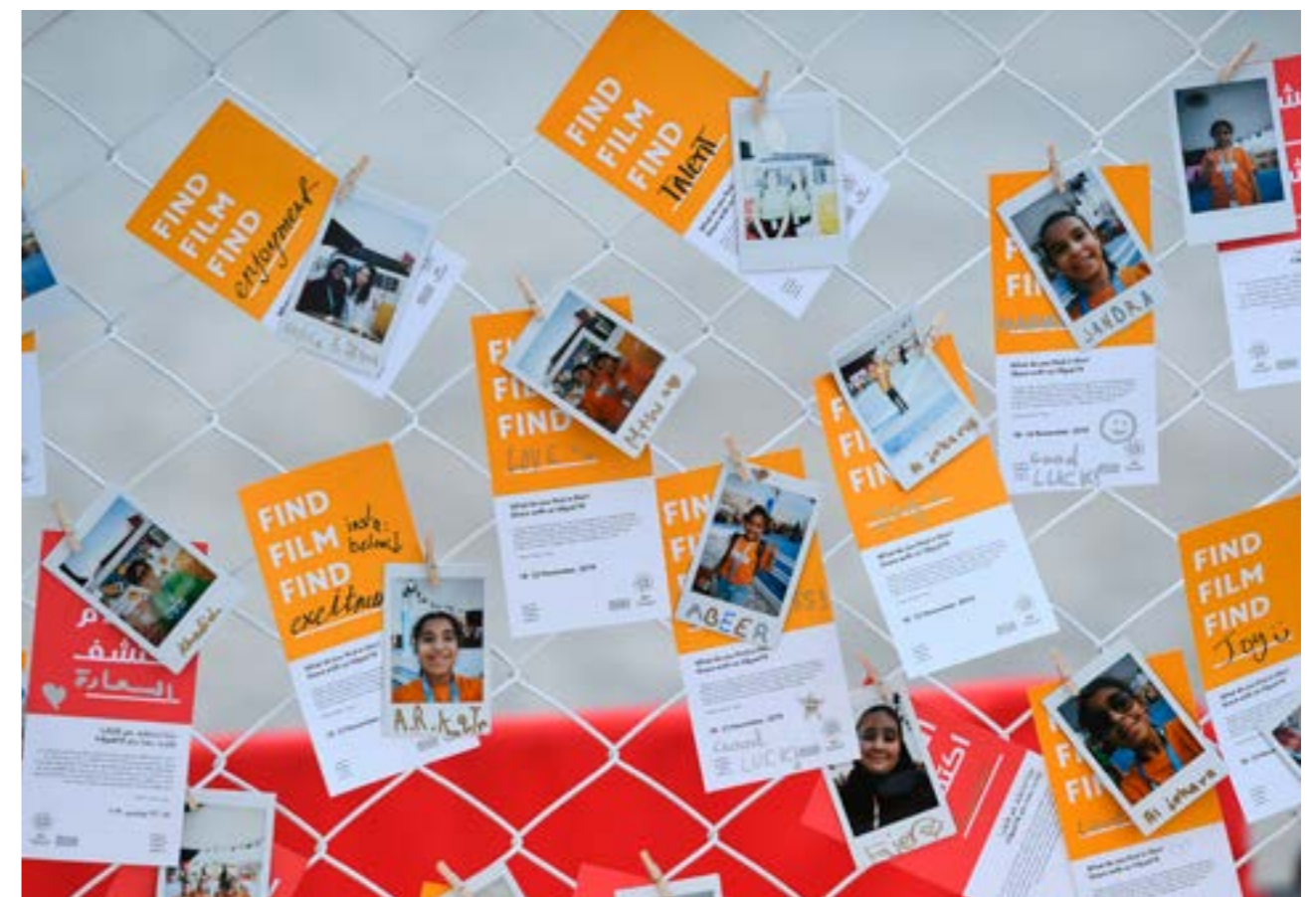
Geekdom Tournaments

Sponsored by Qatar Gaming Community, these included an online multi-videogame showdown that brought gaming communities and enthusiasts together in friendly competition. The winners of the online tournament met for an in-person final at Building 19 Katara.



Geekden

Geekden was a new activity designed to engage entrepreneurs, artists, game developers, and other creative members of the Geekdom community. In collaboration with our in-house production team, a total of 4 videos were produced to be aired as segments on Geekdom LIVE. Due to their popularity, more were produced and released on IGTV.



Geek Talks



The Geek Talks are a platform to inspire and be inspired as both local and international geeky content creators shared their projects and experiences with the community. This year included talks by the creator of 'THE 99' Dr. Naif Al-Mutawa, and music composer Tarek Alarabi Tourgane.

 **11,000+ views on Instagram and YouTube**

 **172 Tournament Registrations**

 **200 Geekdom Bags Sold**

Geekdom Screenings



Digimon Adventure: Last Evolution Kizuna
Qatar Premiere
Director: Tomohisa Taguchi
Japan / English / 2020 / 95 mins



Lupin III The First
MENA Premiere
Director: Takashi Yamazaki
Japan / Japanese / 2020 / 93 mins

Ajyal Tunes

Music has an incredibly transformative ability, the power to change both our physical and emotional wellbeing through sound alone. Hosted at the Ajyal Drive-in Cinema, audiences enjoyed a series of concerts that explored this metamorphic force of melody. The concerts explored the duality of music's energy-giving and relaxing properties, as well as the emotional side of the art form.



 **35 local singers, musicians and theatre performers**

Ajyal Talks



For 2020, Ajyal virtually hosted world-renowned Qatari composer Dana Al Fardan, Libyan international humanitarian hero Dr. Alaa Murabit, and environmental activist Sophia Kianni—as part of the festival's inspiring Ajyal Talks programme.

"Ajyal Talks inspires audiences of all ages, challenging them to expand their understanding of the world and unlock new perspectives. We are honoured to welcome three trailblazing women – Dr. Alaa Murabit, Dana Al Fardan and Sophia Kianni – to join us in unmissable dialogues on global leadership, musical inspiration and the urgent need for sustainability and climate change response."

Fatma Hassan Alremaihi
Festival Director and Chief Executive Officer
of the Doha Film Institute



Outbreak: A thought-provoking multi-media exhibit

Exploring the world’s altered reality through artistic interaction, Ajyal presented the ‘Outbreak’ art exhibition in Msheireb Downtown Doha, the flagship project of Msheireb Properties, from 19 November - 19 December 2020.

Featuring inspiring work from 24 local talents, the selected artworks demonstrated the powerful rise of creativity and innovation out of adversity in an artistic celebration of modern-day heroes. An exploration of the artists’ personal trials of isolation and separation, ‘Outbreak’ challenged audiences to consider the various facets of how the current pandemic can affect—and sometimes inspire—our worldview.

Participating artists included: Ali Al-Mannai, Ibrahim Al-Baker, AJ Al-Thani, Shouq Al-Manaa, Hamad Al-Fayhani, Noor Al-Nasr, Mohammed Al-Suwaidi, Saad Al-Muslamani, Roda Al-Thani, Bothayna Al-Zaman, Anfal Al-Kandari, Maryam Al-Homaid, Mohammed Al-Hammadi, Elie Fahed, Abdulaziz Yousef, Maryam Al-Suwaidi, Adriane De Souza, Paul Valentine, Sharefa Al-Mannai, Reem Al-Haddad, Maha Al-Subaey, Nasser Al-Kubaisi, and Ghada Al-Khater.

“Creativity and Resilience. I am amazed by the ideas and talent. While COVID-19 stopped us from doing many things – it has clearly inspired people to become artists! I encourage everyone to pick up a creative outlet to manage these uncertain times. Highly recommended. Great exhibition.”

- Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani

“I am amazed by all these artworks, and how it was reflected so beautifully.”

- H.E Dr Hanan Al-Kuwari | Minister of Public Health

“The artists expressed their experience during isolation very elegantly; I wish them all the success.”

- H.E Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Al-Thani

“These artworks are different than what we normally see; I’m impressed.”

- Sheikh Hassan Bin Mohammed Al-Thani

Ajyal Film Festival Awards: And the Winner is...

Each of the three Ajyal Juries awards a Best Film prize to their favourite short and feature-length films, for a total of six awards. The directors of the winning films are awarded funding toward their next film, so jurors are empowered to support and promote future content that is relevant and important to them. A jury of regional industry professionals decide the Best Film in the Made in Qatar section.

Ajyal 2020 Award Winners

Mohaq Best Feature Film

Dino Dana directed by J.J. Johnson

Mohaq Best Short Film

Hope directed by Abdulla Mohammed Al-Janahi

Hilal Best Feature Film

Sun Children directed by Majid Majidi

Hilal Best Short Film

The Present directed by Farah Nabulsi

Bader Best Feature Film

200 Meters directed by Ameen Nayfeh

Bader Best Short Film

Woman of steel directed by Obada Yousef Jarbi

Bariq Best Short Film

Small Spark directed by Julie Rembauville, Nicolas Bianco-Levrin

Ajyal Audience Award

200 Meters directed by Ameen Nayfeh

Made in Qatar Winners

Special Jury Mention

Stranger directed by Christophe Buffet and Yasser Mustafa

Abdulaziz Jassim Award for Best Performance

Amina Hilal – From ‘Under Her Skin’

Best Narrative

Under Her Skin directed by Meriem Mesraoua

Best Documentary

Ander directed by Alina Mustafina

A Word from the Media and Our Partners

“This year, the festival organized a splendid hybrid edition which managed to bring audiences, critics and filmmakers closer, at a time when we are all feeling isolated and separated by the pandemic. I felt a sense of belonging, thanks to online interviews and a screening platform that allowed me to access everything audiences on the ground in Doha were experiencing. I haven’t felt a part of my community of cinema lovers since early March, and Ajyal managed, singlehandedly, to bring me back, to wrap me once again in the warmth of the Seventh Art and make me feel like part of the world I love so much—and missed so terribly.”

E. Nina Rothe

Journalist for The HuffPost Live, Thrive Global, and Harper’s Bazaar

“The online screenings worked well, and the Zoom interviews were perfectly organized. Although I missed meeting colleagues, filmmakers and members of the Qatari film scene in person, remote working did not compromise or diminish the sense of community and purpose that I have always felt in Doha and that, in my opinion, has contributed to the success of the events promoted by the DFI in recent years.”

Massimo Lechi

Journalist for Film Doc and Il Ragazzo Selvaggio

“It is absolutely great partnering with Ajyal every year. You guys are so professional, especially with how everything was taken care of during such a difficult time. As media personnel and someone who is constantly on the go, I felt very safe attending the events organised by the Ajyal team.”

Binu Cherian

I Love Qatar

“It was a great pleasure to host the event at VOX cinemas, and we are glad that this year also the Ajyal Film Festival was a huge success. Thank you and the rest of the team at Ajyal Film Festival for making it happen in such difficult times.”

Kifah Ghraizi

VOX Cinemas

“Congratulations on such a great festival, we loved the Drive-in cinema, and the social media coverage was great! I wish you all the best moving forward.”

Farah Al Taweel

Dadu - Children’s Museum of Qatar

“Congratulations to you and the team on holding another successful festival, and like always, it’s a pleasure to be working with you all.”

Nada A. Al-Mahmeed

Translation and Interpreting Institute (HBKU)

“Many congratulations again for the great event.”

Khalid, El Amin

Qatari Diar

FILM PROGRAMMING

Film Screenings

DFI aims 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. Our screenings include a selection of new releases, classics, retrospectives and thematically organized films for varied audiences.

2020's Film Screenings: A Way to Stay Connected

We began the year as usual with a series of physical screenings. As the pandemic progressed, many of our events moved online to ensure that we stayed connected to our audiences through film, even in the most challenging of circumstances.

Screenings in Numbers



40+ Screenings



2,500+ Cars at our Drive-in Cinema



50,000+ Online Viewers

MIA Exhibition Series

As part of the Museum of Islamic Art's special exhibition 'Set in Stone: Gems and Jewels from Royal Indian Courts', the Doha Film Institute presented three contemporary films that connected to the exhibition's main theme.



131 Guests

The Chess Players	Umrao Jaan	Mughal-E-Azam
Director: Satyajit Ray India / 1977 / Hindi / 129 mins	Director: Muzaffar Ali India / 1981 / Hindi / 145 mins	Director: K. Asif India / 1960 / Hindi / 197 mins

Contemporary Releases

A selection of the latest internationally and regionally acclaimed films. The series included recent festival favourites, as well as the emerging new voices of DFI granted filmmakers.



569 Guests

Little Women	Marona's Fantastic Tale	143 Sahara Street
Pre-cinema release Director: Greta Gerwig USA / 2019 / English / 135 mins	Director: Anca Damian France, Romania, Belgium / 2019 / French / 92 mins	DFI Granted Film Director: Hassen Ferhani Algeria, France, Qatar / 2019 / Darija / 100 mins

Cinema Under the Stars

A programme of family-friendly screenings in the great outdoors.



6 Screenings

Despicable Me	The Aristocats	The Films of Hayao Miyazaki	The Extraordinary in the Ordinarys
Director: Pierre Coffin, Chris Renaud USA / 2010 / English / 95 mins	Director: Wolfgang Reitherman USA / 1970 / English / 78 mins	<div><div></div>The Wind Rises (2014)</div> <div><div></div>My Neighbor Totoro (1988)</div> <div><div></div>Spirited Away (2002)</div>	<div><div></div>Theeb by Naji Abu Nowar (2014)</div> <div><div></div>Leave No Trace by Debra Granik (2018)</div> <div><div></div>Boy and the World by Ale Abreu (2013)</div> <div><div></div>Hunt for the Wilderpeople by Taika Waititi (2016)</div> <div><div></div>Honeyland by Tamara Kotevska and Ljubomir Stefanov (2019)</div>

Short Film of the Week

During the initial closure of traditional venues, DFI launched an online ‘Short Film of the Week’ series featuring the very best of DFI supported projects by Qatari filmmakers.

Week 1	Al Johara
Week 2	Amer: An Arabian Legend
Week 3	Red
Week 4	Elevate
Week 5	In the Middle
Week 6	The Unlucky Hamster
Week 7	Gubgub
Week 8	Land of Pearls
Week 9	Smicha
Week 10	Kastha



43,739 Views

Film Chat

Another brand-new online initiative that was launched to help us stay connected to audiences was ‘DFI Film Chat’. Every month, our team suggested a thought-provoking film to watch on popular platforms like Netflix, Apple TV, and Amazon Prime. We then organised and hosted virtually meet ups to discuss everything from plot, character development and scene analysis to broader issues such as cinema history and filmmaking techniques.

Drive-in Cinema

Following the overwhelmingly positive feedback from the community surrounding our drive-in cinema for Ajyal, it was decided to keep the venue open permanently so audiences could continue to enjoy the magic of cinema from the comfort and safety of their own cars.

Disney Classics	Marona's Fantastic Tale	Festive Series
Lady and the Tramp (118) Mulanv (134) Lilo and Stitch (135) Peter Pan (132) Alice in Wonderland (137) The Jungle Book (140)	Made in Qatar (Programme 1) Made in Qatar (Programme 2) Made in Qatar (Programme 3)	The Nutcracker and the 4 Realms (120) Home Alone (127) The Grinch (120) Home Alone (127, 143. 130)
Total: 796	Total: 81	Total: 767



1,644 Cars Attended.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

DFI Community Outreach

Our Community Outreach Department works to identify targeted opportunities and talents within local communities in Qatar, making sure to engage and oversee the growth of the filmmaking community. Their aim 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.

Promoting Diversity and Inclusion

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 we 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.

Youth Forum Panel: Film production in Qatar

A panel discussion on film production in Qatar, what is it like for filmmakers and the support they can seek to develop their skills further.

Moderator: Maryam Al Khulaifi

Panelists: Fahad Al Kuwari, Rawda Al Thani and Yasser Mustafa.

Attendance: 35

School Stars: The Bright Side

2020 saw the launch of School Stars, a new annual competition for school students, presented by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in collaboration with Doha Film Institute. A community wide initiative, the competition was designed to hone the creativity and skills of Qatar's students by encouraging them to create a one-minute film based on a specific presented theme. This year it centred on student's views on the COVID-19 pandemic and their experiences with home-learning.



1st Prize of 10,000QAR



1,000+ Entries



3 Categories Based on Age



2nd Prize of 7,500QAR



3rd Prize of 5,000QAR

Category 1 (1st grade – 4th grade)

Arabic Language Film	Foreign Language Film
1st Prize: Lulwa Abdulaziz AbdulRahman	1st Prize: Miria Hassett
2nd Prize: Rahma Majdy Aldmeiri	2nd Prize: Omar Wael Assem
3rd Prize: Yassine Mounir Abdali	3rd Prize: Aadhi Azhagiri

Category 2 (5th grade – 8th grade)

Arabic Language Film	Foreign Language Film
1st Prize: Fahad Nabina & Hamad Nabina	1st Prize: Mahmoud Samir Mustafa
2nd Prize: Al Jawhara Thani & Ali Al-Thani	2nd Prize: Fatima Khalid Shuwaiter
3rd Prize: Dana Ahmad Allouh	3rd Prize: Aadhya Prajeeth

Category 3 (9th grade – 12th grade)

Arabic Language Film	Foreign Language Film
1st Prize: Najd Ali Al Muhannadi	1st Prize: Khaled Moustafa Helmy
2nd Prize: Hamad Al Remailhi	2nd Prize: Manal Abdul Jaleel
3rd Prize: Maryam Abdullah Alibrahim	3rd Prize: Bhavyasri Rajesh

Qatar Foundation Mukhayamna Summer Camp

DFI provided an online course in mixed media animation consisting of six hour-long workshop sessions for children aged 8-12.
Mentor: Fadi Siryani

Qatar National Day

To celebrate National Day, DFI hosted a three-day ‘Made in Qatar’ programme at our popular drive-in cinema in Lusail. The programme featured works by local talents and Qatar-based filmmakers, including winners of the Made in Qatar competition from the Ajyal Film Festival 2020. In collaboration with AFG and the University of Aberdeen, DFI also hosted a National Day Photography Workshop, with the three winners being offered places on the Ajyal Jury for 2021.



PRODUCTION

Central to DFI's mission is the creation of original and compelling multi-platform content: film, commercials, television and online videos.

DFI's Production Department works to enhance the film industry in Qatar by offering production solutions and services to DFI's projects as well as by contributing towards meeting the filming and editing needs of local filmmakers, businesses, government bodies and NGOs in the country.

While focusing on creating content to the highest international standard, DFI Productions strives to incorporate education and training opportunities for local aspiring filmmakers where possible.

Invaluable Support: Even in the Most Difficult of Circumstances

Despite the many obvious challenges that faced film production around the world in 2020, DFI's Production team found innovative solutions to continue their mission. We provided invaluable support to governmental initiatives and cultural organisations throughout the pandemic.

Qatar Museums

Our dedicated production team helped create a helpful 'Zoom Etiquette' video for Qatar Museum stakeholders. They also produced promotional material for the 'Picasso's Studios' exhibition at the Fire Station Gallery.

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education

DFI produced an informative Corona Awareness Video for the MOEHE to help explain online learning and encourage parents to participate in education during the closure of schools. The film was shown on all Ministry and Government Social Media channels.



Thank you to our Partners

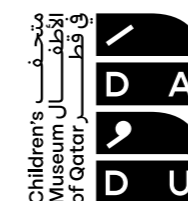
كتارا
katara



سوق واقف
SOUQ WAQIF



فنادق سوق واقف
SOUQ WAQIF
BOUTIQUE HOTELS



Kingdom of Beauty
Doha



talabat

