
Doha Film Institute

Annual Report 2022

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



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

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The global creative industry is on a rebound, and Qatar has been leading the charge from our region, with a focus on nurturing talent and keeping alive the creative aspirations of established and emerging artists.

One of the pillars of our nation's vision is the firm belief that the creative sector is a vital contributor to the economy, playing an integral role in elevating our soft power. Building a sustainable film industry here in Qatar has been one of the founding goals of the Doha Film Institute, and since its inception, it has done the commendable task of nurturing a new generation of filmmakers and creative professionals who are passionate about the medium and push their boundaries in storytelling.

During a milestone year when our country reached exciting new heights, we came together to host one of the most successful editions of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ while sharing inspiring work from our vibrant creative industry. The Doha Film Institute led the way in championing Qatar's burgeoning film ecosystem by creating an inspiring calendar of cultural activities for residents and visitors alike.

Qumra, the Institute's annual talent incubator event, set a great example in 2022 for effectively transforming challenges into an exciting new reality. The innovative online format ensured that more participants from across the world benefitted from the activities, offering emerging filmmakers unprecedented opportunities to hone their skills and take their projects to the next level.

An extra Special 10th edition of Ajyal Film Festival and an exceptionally curated public programme, the Doha Film Experience, celebrated cinema presenting the very best in Arab and international filmmaking, pop culture and art—another compelling example of how we bring together creative talent with the community to promote greater cultural understanding.

From year-round workshops and mentorship with master filmmakers and film professionals to film financing initiatives and annual public and industry events, we remain deeply committed to creating a thriving film ecosystem that provides script-to-screen support for new voices in cinema from across the globe.

It is especially gratifying that films—many by Qatari directors—supported by the Institute have had exceptional international success in recent years, winning top accolades at global film festivals and winning over audiences around the world in 2022. In many ways, this past year was one of elevated global success for the Institute, as we celebrated an incredible achievement for local cinema with our first ever Oscar®-qualified film in consideration for an Academy Award.

The undeniable success achieved by the Doha Film Institute is a testament to our dedicated professionals and ingrained belief in the power of film to make positive change. I thank my DFI family for their commitment, ability to innovate, and genuine passion for cinema.

I am confident that our achievements in 2022 will continue to inspire us to break boundaries and empower more talented young filmmakers to achieve global acclaim for their authentic stories and amplify important new voices in world cinema.

H.E. Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Chair, Doha Film Institute

The Doha Film Institute's year-round activities documented in this report reiterates our commitment to supporting outstanding films by emerging filmmakers that serve a higher purpose: To build empathy, break down stereotypes and misconceptions, promote hope, and foster cultural understanding through the powerful language of cinema.

In 2022, we continued to seek out new voices in cinema, extending our support to 79 diverse projects from around the world, including 19 films helmed by women directors and 11 by Qatari talent. This is in addition to five projects selected for the Qatari Film Fund that included two narrative feature films, all helmed by Qatari nationals.

We also had an exceptional year to celebrate a very Special 10th Edition of our Ajyal Film Festival in 2022, which coincided with the hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™. The one-of-a-kind cultural initiative, Ajyal Jury Experience, was a spectacular success as we brought together 613 jurors from 50 countries to watch and analyse 48 films from 30 countries. The enthusiasm of these young jurors—the heartbeat of the festival—was infectious as they deliberated and critiqued the films.

This was followed by a spectacular cultural showcase of events, the Doha Film Experience, an unmissable festival of creativity that celebrated the very best in local and international filmmaking, creativity and art. The Doha Film Experience was a true tribute to our nation, leadership and community, highlighting our rich cultural diversity and the vibrant cinematic ecosystem we have built over the years.

One of the proudest moments for the Institute in 2022 was young Qatari filmmaker Majid Al-Remaihi's documentary short film, 'And Then They Burn The Sea', making history as our country's first Oscar®-qualified film in consideration for an Academy Award®. The international acclaim for this film, like many others supported by the Doha Film Institute, reflects the far-reaching impact of our diverse year-round initiatives to nurture a new generation of independent voices in cinema.

Qumra Master Rithy Panh, who lent his expert guidance to the film, observed: "Majid's visionary approach will inspire talented emerging filmmakers from around the world to believe in their own cinematic ambitions".



His words echo our aspiration and intent to be a sounding board for emerging filmmakers from around the world to realise their cinematic dreams. To date, we have supported more than 750 projects from 70 countries through our Grants programme, the region's longest-serving film development initiative.

This is the result of our concerted focus, even during the challenges of recent years, to ensure that support remains available and accessible to young filmmakers along their script-to-screen journey. We are proud of the international acclaim our alumni have garnered for their projects and continue to inspire younger creative talent to pursue their creative aspirations.

This journey would not have been possible without the invaluable guidance of our leadership, the support of our Board of Trustees, the dedication of my fantastic team at DFI, and the blessings of our many partners and industry stalwarts, who have generously committed their invaluable time and expertise to ensure that our emerging talents have the right resources and opportunities to make films that matter.

Fatma Hassan Alremaihi
Chief Executive Officer, Doha Film Institute

Acknowledgements

All of us at DFI would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone who partnered with us in 2022. During a landmark year for our nation, your support, time, and talent helped us to deliver the wide array of events and activities outlined in this report. We look forward to collaborating with you again and achieving even more success together in the years ahead.

- 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
- 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
Member of Doha Film Institute Board of Trustees



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



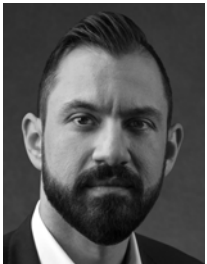
Abdulla Al Mosallam
Chief Administrative Officer / Deputy Director of Ajyal Film Festival



Fatma Al Ghanim
Director of Marketing and Communications



Hanaa Issa
Director of Strategy and Development / Qumra Deputy Director



Nikolaos Bempis Kolyfas
Director of PMO and Event Management / Festival Managing Director



Russell Frame
General Counsel

About DFI

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 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.

A Winning Year in Numbers: 2022

Awards

80+



Awards

270+



Festival selections

9



Academy Award
Submissions

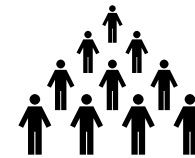
Training & Development

38



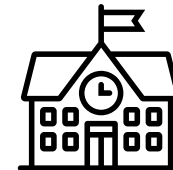
Workshops
/ Labs

270+



Participants

27



Education
Partners

Funding

80



Projects
Supported

18



Qatari
Projects

32



Women-Led
Projects

67



Grants to
MENA
Region

13

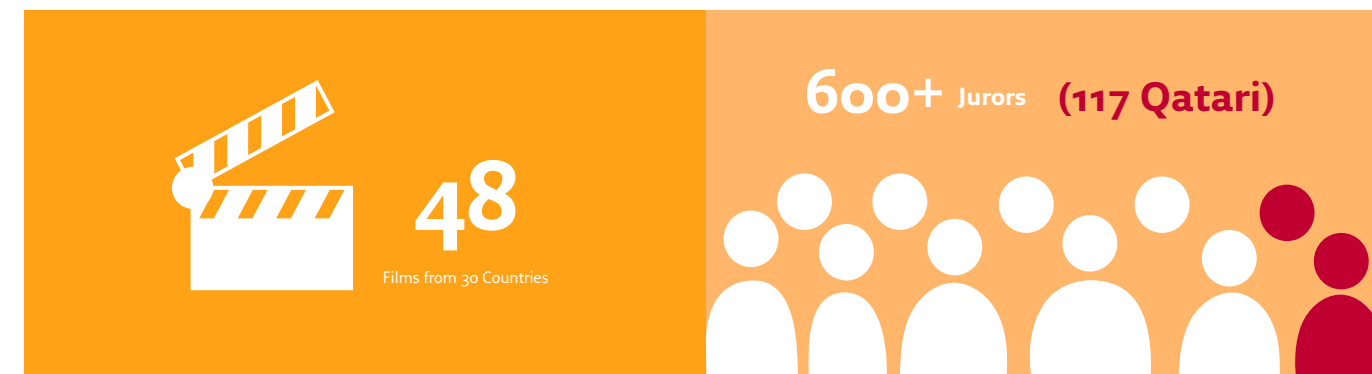


Grants to
Non-MENA
Region

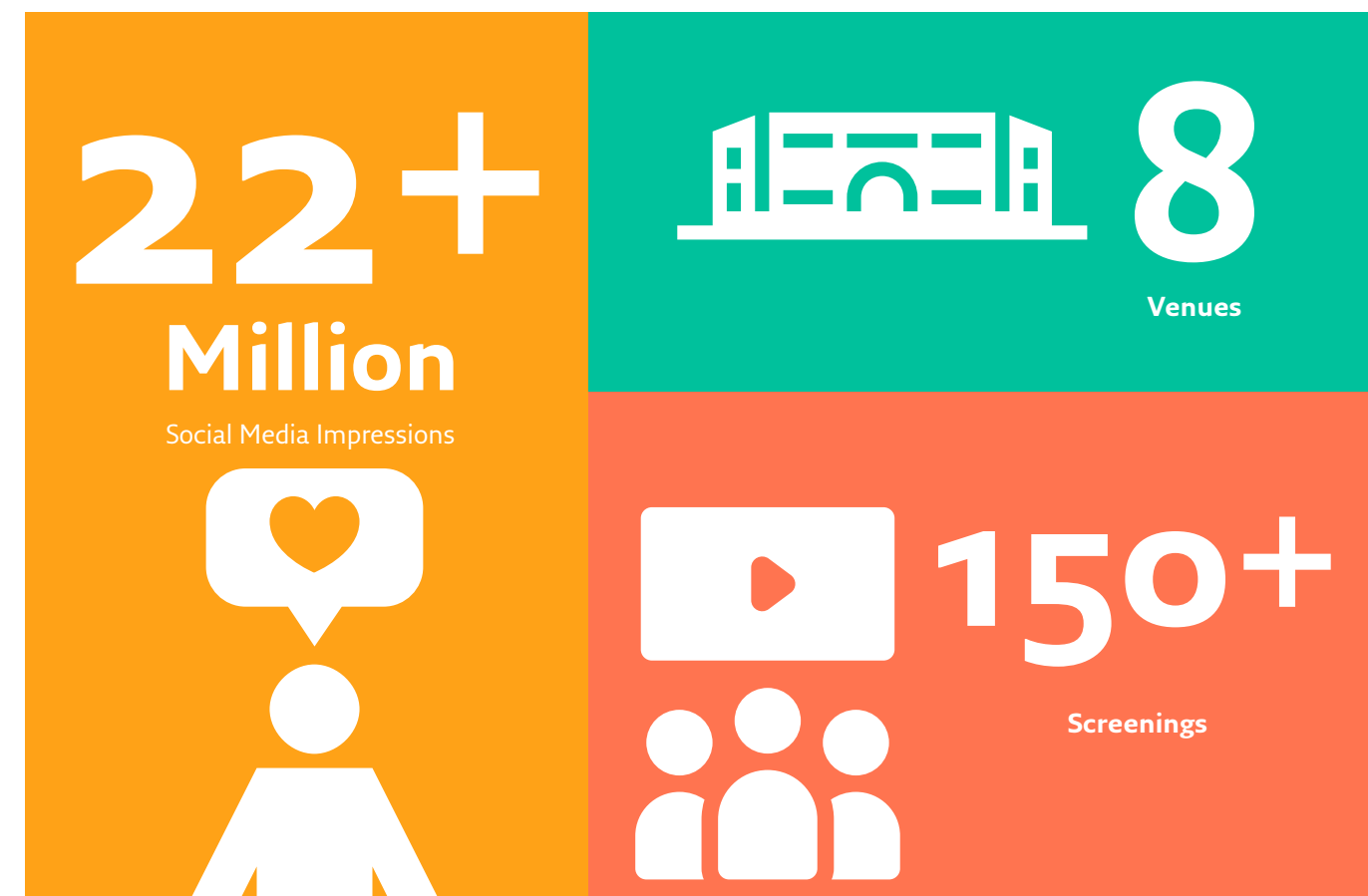
QUMRA



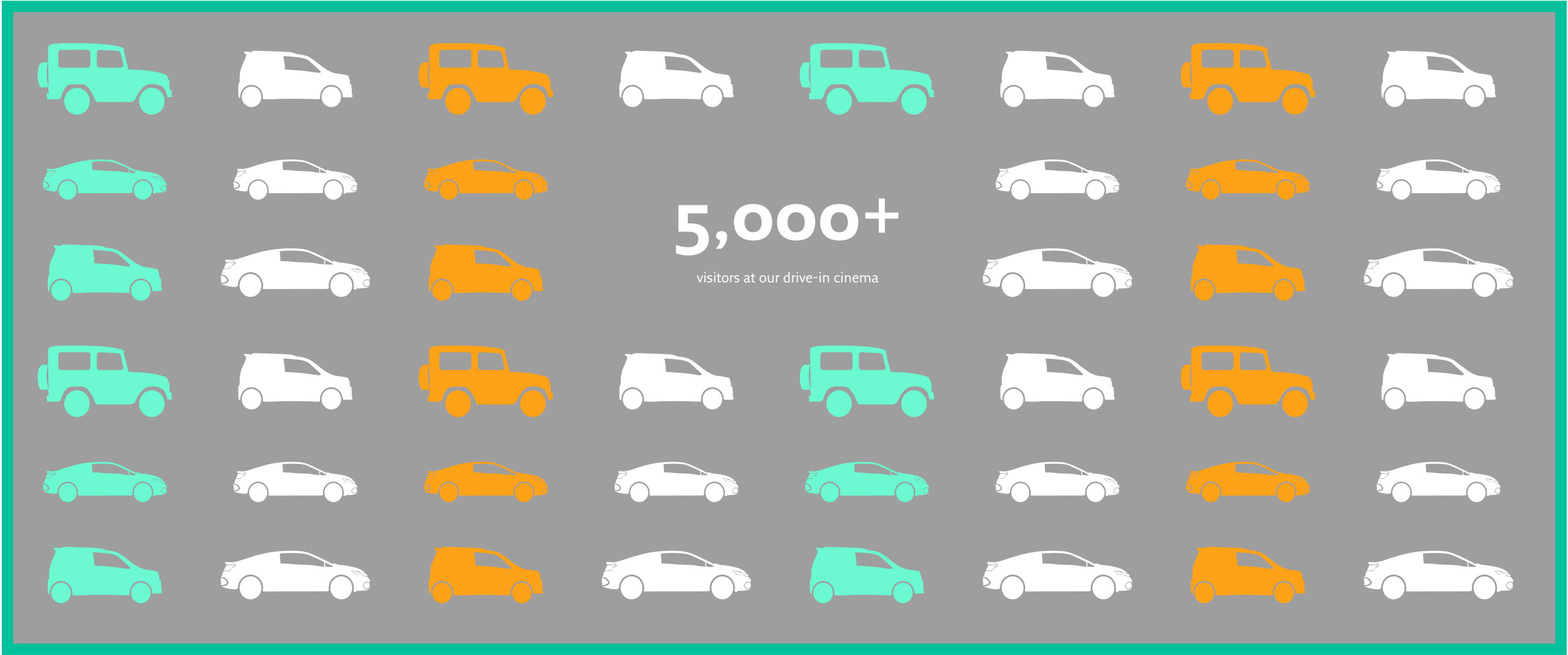
AJYAL



DOHA FILM EXPERIENCE



Year-round Screenings



Training & Development

Empowering and Supporting Creative Talent

DFI is committed to equipping and empowering creative talent in Qatar and beyond. Our programmes help facilitate essential exchanges and collaborations between filmmakers and the wider industry in an atmosphere of inclusivity, innovation, and professionalism.

We do this through two parallel streams that provide opportunities for skills-sharing, feedback, and direction by expert mentors from around the world.

Staying Connected in 2022

After the highly successful digital transformation that was undertaken during the pandemic, DFI has continued to offer our invaluable workshops, labs and consultations online to meet the needs of filmmakers both at home and abroad.



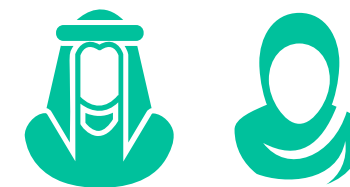
38

Workshops



270+

Participants



48

Qatari Participants



27

Educational Partners

Forging Educational Partnerships Across the Globe

DFI forged and strengthened partnerships with a record 27 local and international organisations in 2022. Through these key organisational relationships, we are providing essential skills training for Qatar and further solidifying our position as an internationally recognised and respected provider of filmmaking education.

International

- **Beirut Cinema Platform** (Lebanon)
- **Bophana Center** (Cambodia)
- **Busan Asian Film Academy** (South Korea)
- **Centre Cinematographique Marocain** (Morocco)
- **Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Tunisien** (Tunisia)
- **EAVE** (Luxembourg)
- **ESA Business School** (Lebanon)
- **First Cut Lab** (France)
- **Giffoni Festival** (Italy)
- **IDFA Academy** (The Netherlands)
- **IDM Film Fund & Commission and INCONTRI** (Italy)
- **Ji.hlava Film Festival** (Czech Republic)
- **Maskoon Fantastic Lab** (Lebanon)
- **MIA | Mercato Internazionale Audiovisivo** (Italy)
- **Pop Up Residency** (The Czech Republic)
- **Royal Film Commission of Jordan** (Jordan)
- **Sarajevo Film Festival** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- **Series Mania** (France)
- **Short Film Corner - Cannes** (France)
- **Sundance Film Institute** (USA)
- **The Animation Workshop - VIA University College** (Denmark)
- **The Gotham** (USA)

Local

- | | |
|---|--|
| • beIN | • National Museum of Qatar |
| • Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar | • Northwestern University in Qatar |
| • Education Above All Foundation | • Qatar Foundation |
| • French Embassy in Doha | • Qatar National Library |
| • Institut Francais Qatar | • Qatar University |
| • Katara Studios | • Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar |

Educating the Next Generation of Filmmakers

In 2022, DFI partnered with the esteemed Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar and Northwestern University in Qatar to offer an exciting new minor degree programme.

The film and design minor addresses increasing demand in media and design industries, locally and globally, for professionals who are highly competent in the creative work of crafting impactful visual narratives using traditional and emerging technologies.



Internships

Providing Practical Education Through Internships

During 2022, DFI’s internship programme offered invaluable opportunities to 28 aspiring filmmakers with a passion for filmmaking and an ambition to build a career in the film and television industry.

Our internship programme often serves as a springboard for a future career, with many of our past interns securing jobs at leading production houses in Qatar, such as Resolution Films, The Edge Picture Company, and the Film House.



Production

DFI’s Production Department works to enhance the film industry in Qatar by offering production solutions and services to our projects as well as by contributing to 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.



Workshops & Labs



Workshops & Labs

DFI's various workshops and labs are integral to our Training & Development Programme—offering unparalleled opportunities to burgeoning filmmakers. They combine theory, demonstrations, and hands-on exercises to equip participants with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in all aspects of the filmmaking process. Led by world-renowned mentors, our programmes are designed to both motivate and educate, covering all theoretical and technical facets of filmmaking.

Offering exceptional opportunities to aspiring filmmakers, the workshops and labs that our Training & Development Programme provides combine theory, demonstrations, and practical exercises to train participants in all areas of the filmmaking process.

Led by internationally acclaimed mentors, our programmes aim to both inspire and provide valuable instruction covering all theoretical and technical aspects of filmmaking.

'Watching the Classics' with Richard Peña

24 February 2022 – 17 January 2023

'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 (Professor of Film Studies at Columbia University and Director Emeritus of the New York Film Festival), the series of lectures each focused on an undisputed world cinema classic.

Sessions:

- **Session 1:** 'M' by Fritz Lang, (1931)
- **Session 2:** '42nd Street' by Lloyd Bacon (1933)
- **Session 3:** 'The Crime of Monsieur Lange' by Jean Renoir (1936)
- **Session 4:** 'Fires Were Started' by Humphrey Jennings (1943)
- **Session 5:** 'Maria Candelaria' by Emilio Fernandez (1944)
- **Session 6:** 'Paisan' by Roberto Rossellini (1946)
- **Session 7:** 'Crows and Sparrows' by Zheng Junli (1949)
- **Session 8:** 'Ugetsu' by Kenji Mizoguchi (1953)
- **Session 9:** 'Cairo Station' by Youssef Chahine (1958)
- **Session 10:** 'Ashes and Diamonds' by Andrzej Wajda (1958)

Short Scriptwriting Lab

22–31 January 2022

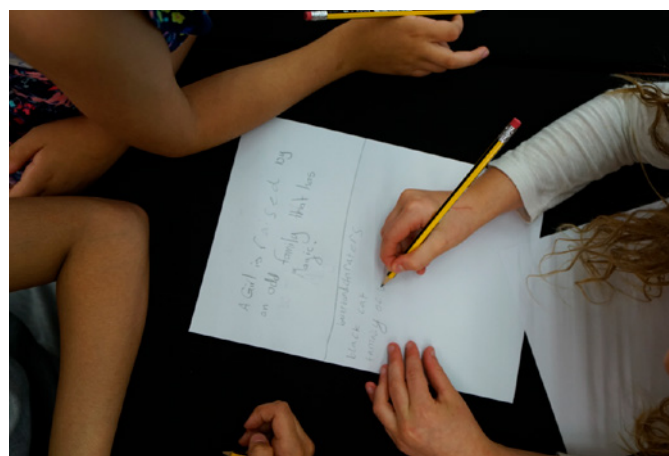
DFI's Short Scriptwriting Lab provides a transformative and empowering experience where filmmakers learn the principles of dramatic writing for short films. It assisted new and emerging screenwriters and writer-directors in developing and writing a screenplay from an original idea with the help of international mentors. Supporting 8 projects, 2022'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:

- **'A Safe Place for Love'**
by Zahraa Ghandour (Iraq)
- **'A Thing That Never Happened'**
by Majd Zaghir (Syria)
- **'Abu Fanoos'**
by Amira Abujbara and Horia El Hadad (Palestine, Morocco, UK)
- **'I Wished for Solitude'**
by Hamad Alfayhani (Qatar)
- **'Mercy'**
by Abdulaziz Mohammed (Qatar)
- **'Our Days Are Marked'**
by Sharif Abd el Mawla (Egypt, The Netherlands)
- **'To Pee or Not to Pee'**
by Ali Al-Fatlawi (Iraq)
- **'Untitled'**
by Dhoha Abdelsattar (Qatar)

Mentors

Matthieu Darras: Lab Advisor
Antoine Waked: Script Editor
Britta Krause: Script Editor



Hezayah Screenwriting Lab

17 – 22 June 2022 / 17 – 22 September 2022 / 2 – 7 February 2023

DFI's 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 expert support of experienced mentors. The inspiring lab consisted of three sessions of five-day workshops, which took place intermittently over a period of six months.

Series Lab

1 – 5 July 2022 / 29 September – 3 October 2022 / 26 – 30 January 2023

Over the past four years, Doha Film Institute has started nurturing a space for series projects from the MENA region through its labs and financial support mechanisms. Our popular 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 essential scriptwriting tools and invaluable industry access to help move their projects and careers forward.

Projects:

- **'A Quiet Summer'**
by Sis Gurdal (Turkey)
- **'Afri – The Coming Night'**
by Yosserra Bouchtia (Morocco, USA)
- **'Etfootball'** by Emina Kujundzic (Qatar, Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- **'Garden of Freedom'**
by Helmy Nouh (Egypt)

Projects:

- **'From the Mountain'**
by Faisal Attrache (Syria, UK)
- **'Land of Nairi'**
by Ovsanna Gevorgyan (Armenia)
- **'Meskoun'** by Hicham Lasri (Morocco)
- **'Miara'** by Talal Selhami and Jawad Lahlou (Morocco)
- **'Nguya'** by Michiel Robberecht (Belgium, The Democratic Republic of the Congo)

- **'The Firehouse'**
by Omar Elhamy (Egypt, Canada)
- **'Vagabonds'**
by Amartei Armar (Ghana)

Mentors:

Annemarie Jacir: Script Consultant / Filmmaker
Ghassan Salhab: Script Consultant / Filmmaker
Matthieu Darras: Projects Coach

- **'Status Quo'** by Gilbert Karam (Lebanon)
- **'The House my Mother Built'**
by Alyaa Musa (Sudan)

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 Market, Festival & Funding Strategy
Marc Lorber: International TV Co-productions & Acquisitions Strategy

First Cut Lab

9 – 20 June 2022

This special online ‘First Cut Lab’ was designed to assist four feature films and one short film 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. The lab consisted of a one-day (for shorts) and two-day (for features) workshop tailored individually to each project, preceded by a brief preparatory meeting.

Projects

- **‘Concrete Land’**
by Asmahan Bkerat, Ban Maraqa, Sahar Yousefi (Feature Documentary – Jordan, Qatar, USA)
- **‘Khmerica’**
by Antoine Guide, Thibaut Amri, Lucas Sénécaut (Feature Documentary – France, Cambodia, Qatar)
- **‘Kinship’**
by Ali Alhajri, Ghouna Jaber (Short Narrative – Qatar, Jordan)
- **‘Qatar Stars’**
by Danielle Beverly, Jawaher Moawda (Feature Documentary – Qatar, USA)
- **‘Rapture’**
by Dominic Sangma, Mohan Kumar, Jianshang Xu (Feature Narrative – India, China, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Qatar)

Mentors

Matthieu Darras: Lab Advisor
Benjamin Mirguet: Editor Mentor
Sebastian Sepúlveda: Editor Mentor

Industry Advisors

- Aranka Matits – The Netherlands (Featurette | Acquisitions)
- Bob Moore – Canada (EyeSteelFilm | Co-president / Creative Producer)
- Catherine Bizern – France (Cinéma du réel festival | CEO and Artistic Director)
- Carla Vulpiani – Italy (Venice Biennale | Short Film Advisor)
- Julie Rousson – France (Festival & Marché de Clermont-Ferrand | Programmer)
- Mads K. Mikkelsen – Denmark (Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival | Head of Programme)
- Martina Droandi – Austria (Autlook Filmsales | Sales & Acquisitions)
- Matthew Takata – USA (Sundance Institute | Assistant Director, Feature Film Program, International)
- Teresa Cavina – Italy (Film Curator & Industry Consultant)

Introduction To Film Studies with Richard Pena

31 July – 7 August 2022

This eight-part mini-course covered the basic techniques filmmakers have at their disposal in order to convey information and create meaning in film. The first six sessions introduced the major avenues of expression: cinematography, camera movement editing, mise-en-scène, sound and narrative. In the final two sessions, all participants engaged in close, detailed readings of two films.



Course Syllabus

- **Class One:** The Origins of Cinema; cinematography – all operations involving the camera
- **Class Two:** Camera Movement
- **Class Three:** Mise-en-scène—all operations having to do with what is to be filmed by the camera
- **Class Four:** Editing – Classical Editing and Alternative Editing Strategies
- **Class Five:** Sound—all operations having to do with pre-recorded audio accompaniment for images
- **Class Six:** Narrative—the assemblage of series of shots into stories
- **Class Seven:** Analysis of a Classical Film (film to be seen outside of class)
- **Class Eight:** Analysis of a Modernist Film (film to be seen outside of class)

Screenwriting For Beginners (English)

11 – 15 August 2022

In this fascinating online lab, participants discovered the creative process of writing for the screen. The workshop 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). Participants were also provided with the opportunity to continue their filmmaking journey with the DFI development team, working towards further education and grants.

- Day 1:** Introduction to stories
- Day 2:** Building your characters
- Day 3:** Story architecture
- Day 4:** Visual storytelling
- Day 5:** Writing for the screen

Mentors

Anthea Devotta
Amna Al-Binali



Short Documentary Lab with Rithy Panh

During this workshop, filmmakers gained first-hand experience working alongside Oscar-nominated documentarian Rithy Panh. The world-renowned storyteller taught participants his method of narration through working with memory, culture, and identity. Participants were encouraged to find their own narratives that explore the idea of identity and origins by truly living, working, and breathing with their subjects.

Part 1: Theory & Practice, Development & Pre-Production
4 September – 15 December 2022

Part 2: Pre-production and Scouting
14 January – 15 March 2023

Part 3: Filming, Editing, and Post-Production
May – June 2023

Projects

- ‘Untitled’
by Alessandra El Chanti (Lebanon)
- ‘I Bloomed with the Passing of Life’
by Ali Alhajri (Qatar)
- ‘Crazy Qatar Life’ by Dhoha Abdelsattar (Qatar)
- ‘187’ by Eiman Mirghani (Sudan)
- ‘17-o’ by Fatma Al-Ghanim (Qatar)
- ‘Gihan’ by Hadeer Omar (Egypt)
- ‘Untitled’ by Hamad Alfayhani (Qatar)
- ‘Let’s Play Soldiers’
by Mariam Al-Dhubhani, Mohammed Al-Jaberi (Yemen)
- ‘In a State of Settlement’
by Mayar Hamdan (Palestine/Jordan), Shaima Al-Tamimi (Yemen/Kenya)
- ‘Untitled’
by Obada Jarbi (Palestine/Jordan)



Podcast Lab

29 August – 3 September 2022

In this riveting course, participants learned the basics of audio storytelling, as well as the art of creating and producing distinctive audio podcasts. DFI provided attendees 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. Participants received invaluable tips on tools, funding models, audience development, distribution, and gained insights on how they will measure their success.

Projects:

- **'Kalam'** by Amna Al-Binali (Qatar)
- **'Road to Juxtap'** by Jude Gharaibeh (Lebanon)
- **'Untitled'** by Maha Al Sulaiti (Qatar)
- **'Untitled'** by Fatma Al Ghanim (Qatar)
- **'B2'** by Saeed Shahrour (Jordan)
Suzannah Mirghani (Sudan /Russia)
Khalid Ali (Sudan)
Karem Kamel (Egypt)

Lab Mentors:

Alexandra Blair: Project Manager at PRX
Rhea Chedid: Senior Podcast Manager at Spotify

Guest Speakers

Al Shaibani: Podcast producer, Kerning Cultures Network
Simon Adler: Senior Producer, Radiolab
Kevin O'Connell: Audio Engineer/Producer
Ryan Dilley: Producer at Pushkin Industries
Ramsey Tesdell: CEO, Sowt Media
Michael Russo: Podcast Marketing Specialist

Screenwriting For Beginners (Arabic)

6 – 11 November 2022

In this Arabic workshop, participants discovered the creative process of writing for the screen, all from the comfort of their own homes. 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). Participants were also offered the opportunity to continue their filmmaking journey with the DFI development team, working towards further education and grants.

Mentors

Ayman El Amir: Script Consultant



Youth Programmes

Inspiring and Educating the Youth of Qatar

Doha Film Institute's year-round Youth Programmes are designed to empower and equip young people with the skills and confidence to make films on issues that are important to them. We help our budding filmmakers take their first tentative steps into the world of film production—while having fun and creating films that tell their stories, in their own unique way.

We also foster a meaningful appreciation of cinema as an artform through lively discussions about films that offer an opportunity for young people to speak up about the changes they want to see in their lives, their community, and the world.

Football Filmmaking Challenge

In partnership with Qatar Football Association
21 May – 23 June 2022

Drawing inspiration from FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, DFI invited 17 budding filmmakers to join us for a workshop to create their very own short film about the beautiful game. This hands-on workshop was a well-rounded introduction to the essential tools of filmmaking. Through practical and exciting exercises, students learned all the necessary techniques required to make their own short film, starting with the basic elements of narrative development and visual storytelling—to the film's actual production.

Mentor

Ben Robinson, Basel Owies, Yasser Mustafa, Falah Hannoun, Abdul Jabbar Maki, Amna Al-Binali

Giffoni Film Festival

21 – 30 July 2022

Five lucky Ajyal 2021 jurors were given the opportunity to participate on the youth jury at the 2022 Giffoni Film Festival. The experience exposed them to a unique film festival and allowed them to share their cultures with a group of their international peers.

Participants:

Tulip Hegazy, Mohammed Al Qassabi, Sofia Waiter Pintor, Cristina Waiter Pintor, Saeed Al Kuwari

Summer Camp

In partnership with Education Above All and the Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative
21 July – 27 August 2022

Twenty aspiring filmmakers joined us for an exciting online summer camp where they learned the basics of documentary filmmaking. Participants from around the world, including South Sudan and Uganda, were given an insightful and well-rounded introduction to the different elements of photography, film and filmmaking to help guide them on their journey to making their first short film.

Mentor

Marcus Zaiser

Qumra

Qumra

18-23 March 2022

Over the past eight editions, Qumra has built a rich, varied, and inspiring legacy of films by emerging filmmakers in the Arab world and beyond, many of which have gained local and global accolades.

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.

The event 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.



350

industry meetings



280

Online Mentoring Sessions

39

were recipients of DFI Grants



45

Projects from 25 Countries



26

Projects from DFI training programmes

540,000+
social media
impressions
for #Qumra22



16

Projects by
Qatar-based talent



13

by Qatari nationals

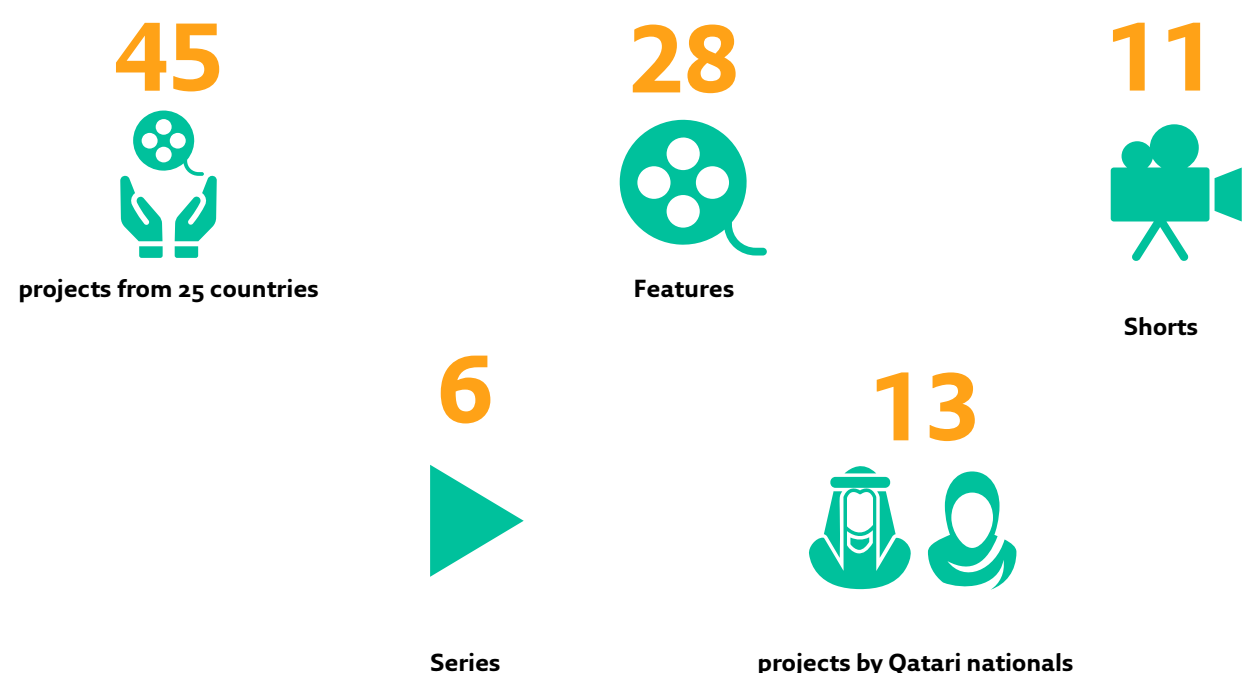
Qumra Moves Online in 2022

Despite the global pandemic, Qumra 2022 continued its mission to support independent cinema voices on their script-to-screen journey in two streams of virtual programming. The first comprising of tutorials, workshops, consultations, and virtual meetings for projects in development, and the second featuring work-in-progress screenings and feedback sessions for projects in post-production.

In presenting this online edition, Qumra strove to provide much-needed support to emerging filmmakers to bring their projects to fruition without compromising their personal wellness.

Film industry professionals supported the development of 45 projects through over 280 online mentoring sessions, screenings with feedback panels, roundtables and over 350 curated industry meetings.

Qumra Projects



This year's virtual edition of Qumra 2022 nurtured forty-five projects, including twenty-eight features, six series, and eleven short film projects by filmmakers from twenty-five countries. Of the projects, thirty-nine were recipients of the DFI Grants and twenty-six were supported through DFI training programmes.

Qatari filmmakers highlighted the evolution of the homegrown film industry through sixteen projects, including thirteen by Qatari nationals across various formats, such as feature narratives and documentaries, series, and shorts.

Through stories of human resilience and triumph, and themes shaped by contemporary geopolitics and social dynamics, this year's selected projects will help shape the future of storytelling and redefine world cinema.

Project highlights of Qumra 2022

Three local feature projects in post-production

'Let's Play Soldiers' by Mariam Al-Dhubhani (Yemen, Qatar)
'Qatar Stars' by Danielle Beverly (Qatar, USA)
'Places of the Soul' by Hamida Issa (Qatar)

Three feature projects by Qatari female directors

'Khuzama' by A.J Al-Thani (Qatar)
'The Pearl' by Noor Al-Nasr (Qatar)
'Places of the Soul' by Hamida Issa (Qatar)

New feature film projects from filmmakers:

Kamal Aljafari: 'A Fidai Film' (Palestine, Germany, Qatar)
Maha Haj: 'Mediterranean Fever' (Palestine, France, Qatar, Germany, Cyprus)
Fatma Riahi: 'My Father Killed Bourguiba' (Tunisia, Qatar)

First feature film project by:

Farah Nabulsi: 'The Teacher' (Palestine, UK, Qatar)

Notable debut films in post-production:

'The Dam' by Ali Cherri (Lebanon, France, Serbia, Sudan, Qatar)
'The Last Queen' by Damien Ounouri (Algeria, France, Qatar)
'Backstage' by Afef Ben Mahmoud and Khalil Benkirane (Tunisia, Morocco, France, Belgium, Norway, Qatar)

New short projects from:

Rakan Mayasi 'The Key' (Palestine, Belgium, Qatar, France)
Hussen Ibraheem 'Manity' (Lebanon, France, Qatar)
Nadia Al-Khater 'A Proposal' (Qatar)

Qumra Alumni

Seven feature films and two shorts projects that participated in previous Qumra editions returned to Qumra 2022, which included The Return, Mediterranean Fever, Qatar Stars, Places of the Soul, Let's Play Soldiers, The Pearl and Khuzama; Kinship and A Simple Cut.

A focus on non-MENA projects from Asia, Africa and Latin America

'Out of My Mind' by Mohamed Youssef (Somalia, Djibouti, UAE, Qatar)
'Domingo and the Mist' by Ariel Escalante Meza (Costa Rica, Qatar)
'Khmerica' by Antoine Guide (France, Cambodia, Qatar)
'While We Watched' by Vinay Shukla (India, Qatar)
'Autobiography' by Makbul Mubarak (Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Poland, Germany, France, Qatar)



An impressive 26 projects presented at Qumra 2022 had participated in recent DFI Training Programmes.

Four feature narrative projects in development participated in our Hezayah Screenwriting Lab

‘Al Baseer – The Blind Ferryman’ by Ali Al-Fatlawi (Iraq, Switzerland, Qatar)
‘The Photographer’ by Anas Khalaf (Syria, Qatar, Germany)
‘Khuzama’ by A.J Al-Thani (Qatar)
‘The Pearl’ by Noor Al-Nasr (Qatar)

Seven feature narrative projects participated in our Producers Lab

‘Al Baseer – The Blind Ferryman’ by Ali Al-Fatlawi (Iraq, Switzerland, Qatar)
‘The Teacher’ by Farah Nabulsi (Palestine, UK, Qatar)
‘Khuzama’ by A.J Al-Thani (Qatar)
‘The Pearl’ by Noor Al-Nasr (Qatar)
‘My Father Killed Bourguiba’ by Fatma Riahi (Tunisia, Qatar)
‘Backstage’ by Afef Ben Mahmoud and Khalil Benkirane (Tunisia, Morocco, France, Belgium, Norway, Qatar)
‘Concrete Land’ by Asmahan Bkerat (Jordan, Qatar)

Three feature projects in post-production participated in our First Cut Lab

‘Let’s Play Soldiers’ by Mariam Al-Dhubhani (Yemen, Qatar)
‘Places of the Soul’ by Hamida Issa (Qatar)
‘While We Watched’ by Vinay Shukla (India, Qatar)

Seven local short narrative projects participated in our Short Script Lab

‘I Wished for Solitude’ by Hamad Alfayhani (Qatar)
‘Abu Fanoos’ by Amira Abujbara and Horia El Hadad (Qatar)
‘Mercy’ by Abdulaziz Mohammed (Qatar)
‘Kinship’ by Ali Alhajri (Qatar)
‘The Swinging Chandelier’ by Karim Emara (Egypt, Qatar)
‘Manity’ by Hussen Ibraheem (Lebanon, France, Qatar)
‘The Key’ by Rakan Mayasi (Palestine, Belgium, Qatar, France)

Four series projects in development participated in our Series Lab

‘Under This Roof’ by Areej Mahmoud (Lebanon, Qatar)
‘Why Did The Bluesman Cross The Road?’ by Meedo Taha (Lebanon, USA, Qatar)
‘Day Off’ by Lina Lamara (Algeria, France)
‘Yasmine/Jasmine’ by Yossera Bouchtia (Morocco)

“Thank you for an absolutely great edition of Qumra, so helpful, enlightening, necessary and full of great mentors and industry guests. I received a lot of very insightful notes and comments that will enable me to finish my next and probably final draft of The Photographer. And next to financing, I also had many super compelling meetings with distributors, producers, funds and sales agents who are already so interested in the film.”

- **Anas Khalaf, Director/Producer ‘The Photographer’**

“It’s been a real pleasure to participate to your wonderful event. I have appreciated the great organisation and your care and attention when guiding us through the meetings, which made the whole experience much more personal than in any other virtual market I have participated in. So really thank you a lot! You are a great team. Also, the quality of the tutors and participants is astonishing, and we had some great input.”

- **Francesca Van der Staay, Producer ‘The Wind Blew On’**

“I would like to start by saying that Qumra for me and my project, was a great success. I have received more love, feedback, and critiques than I thought I would, and that means a lot to me. In the greater scheme of things, I think I will always remember these few days as the days my story came to life in its own way because it had the opportunity of being presented to an audience that not only took it in but took the time to truly get to the essence of it. The meetings with the mentors were refreshing and gave me a different perspective on the project. The roundtables were fully loaded with information that I didn’t know I needed, or knew I needed but had no idea where to find it.”

- **Hamad Alfayhani, Director ‘I Wished for Solitude’**

“For someone like me (and other filmmakers like me) the existence of the film institute has given us a voice and a place that we belong and for that I am grateful and proud to be part of this amazing community. Looking forward to continuing our fruitful journey to bring movies into life.”

- **Noor Al-Nasr, Director ‘The Pearl’**

“I feel this is the beginning of a beautiful chapter in my life, and I am so grateful for all of the support you have offered me throughout. Qumra is a unique place, filled with authentic and genuine souls who want to help for the sake of sharing, and that is rare. Thank you for essentially creating cinematic history for our region with all that you do!”

- **Hamida Issa, Director/Producer ‘Places of The Soul’**



Qumra Industry

Qumra 2022 brought together top-tier industry professionals to nurture projects by first and second-time filmmakers. Many of them have formed strong bonds with the annual event, which has become a unique and important platform and project incubator for new voices and compelling stories in Arab and world cinema.

Project Mentors and Consultants

This year's Qumra project mentors included internationally acclaimed filmmakers Elia Suleiman, Rithy Panh, Ghassan Salhab, Tala Hadid, Talal Derki, and Annemarie Jacir.

Among the 2022 Qumra feature projects consultants were film festival executives Paolo Bertolin and Violeta Bava; editors Benjamin Mirguet and Alex Bush; sales executives Gabor Greiner, Aranka Matits and Martina Droandi; scriptwriters Joelle Touma, Britta Krause and Antoine Waked; producers Joslyn Barnes, Didar Domeri, Catherine Dussart and Dora Bouchoucha; project coaches Matthieu Darras, Zsuzsi Bankuti and Teresa Cavina; post-production expert Konstantina Staurianou, sound expert Severin Favrieau, VOD experts Kevin Chan, Ava Striker and Pierre Alexandre Labelle and documentary consultants Brigid O'Shea, Jihan Al Tahri and Bob Moore.

Series mentors included Ryan O'nan, Bassem Breche, Gabriele Capolino, Frédéric Pittoors D'haveskercke, Neerja Narayana and Marike Muselaers.

Shorts mentors included Laurent Crouzeix, Ben Thompson, Alice Kharoubi, Wouter Jansen, Camille Hebert Benazet, Wim Vanacker, Ayman el Amir, Karim Aitouna and Flavio Armone.

Production Guests

Production professionals taking meetings at Qumra 2022 included Eric Frazier, Creative Executive at Miramax; Mohamed Hefzy, Founding Director of Film Clinic; Marc Lorber, SVP International TV Co-productions & Acquisitions for Lionsgate TV; Thanasis Karathanos, Producer at Pallas Film; Georges Schoucair, CEO at About Productions; Jason Kliot, Vice President and Executive Producer at Open City Films; Nicolas Celis, CEO at Pimienta Films; Rita Dagher, CEO at Senorita Films; Ewa Puscynszka, CEO at Opus Films; and Thierry Lenouvel, CEO at Cine Sud Promotion.

Festival Guests

Representatives from more than fifty leading international film festivals participated in work-in-progress feedback panels for projects in post-production and industry roundtables from Berlinale, Venice, Cannes, Locarno, Tribeca, Toronto, Sarajevo, Sundance, Karlovy Vary, Hot Docs, Dok Leipzig, BUSAN, Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival, International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, Visions du Reel, Cairo, Marrakech and others.

Sales and Distribution Guests

Also participating in project feedback panel discussions and industry roundtables were international sales and distribution representatives from Alphaviolet, Outlook Filmsales, Bac Films, Best Friends Forever, LightDox, Dogwoof, Elle Driver, Films Boutique, Hauts et courts, Heretic, Indie Sales, Jour2fetes, Luxbox, Memento International, Syndicado, New Europe Film Sales, UDI, Wild Bunch, and The Match factory, among others.

Regional distributors include Film Clinic, Front Row Entertainment, Metropolis Art Cinema, MAD Solutions and Moving Turtle.

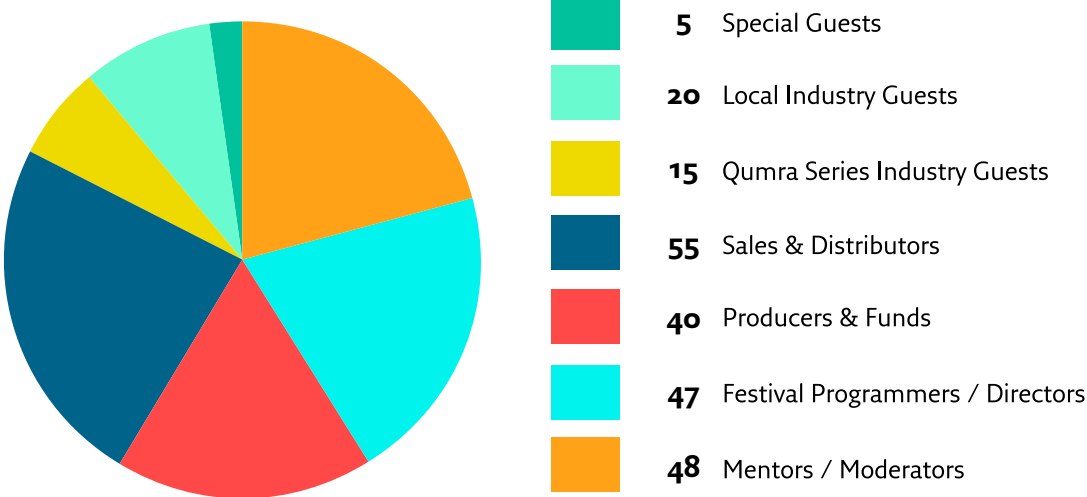
Additional Industry Guests

Participating international film institutes and funds included Sundance Institute, Academy Museum, Film Independent, Royal Film Commission Jordan, Eurimages, Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée (CNC), Hubert Bals Fund, Metaphora productions, Medienboard, MIBACT, Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (AFAC), Luxembourg Film Fund, Sorfond, Story for Impact, Beirut DC and Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Tunisie.

Prominent leaders in serialised content and drama series markets, such as Miramax, AMC Networks, Lumiere, The Gotham, and European Film Market - Drama Series Days, also participated. International streaming and broadcasting participants included Mubi, Tubi, HBO Max, Sony Pictures Television Networks, Vimeo, and Under The Milky Way.

Qatar-based organisations included Al Jazeera Media Network, beIN, Katara Studios, Qatar TV, Al Jazeera Children Channel and The Film House.

230 Guests



“From my position, I could feel the unflinching dedication and care the Qumra team put into making all this happen. This has been very inspiring. Thank you for the care Qumra showed to its short film teams! Selected teams showed a great appetite to make the most of the wonderful environment Qumra provides to them - at a very early stage in their creative career's journey for some of them. I could feel different personalities, hopes and doubts behind each project. Each was inspiring in its own way.”

- **Laurent Crouzeix, Co-Executive Director, Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival**

“This year's Qumra was a really smooth and enjoyable experience. It was very exciting to see so many powerful projects coming from the Arab world, particularly the strong Qatari projects that are evolving with each year.”

- **Antoine Waked, Development Executive, About Productions**

“Qumra is definitely one of the key moments of the year for us programmers, giving us the chance to discover and get in touch with some of most anticipated films and projects of the year. On the technical and organizational side, everything was very clear, easy, and efficient. Despite the limitations of any digital event, I greatly enjoyed all of the panels that I attended: the moderators, filmmakers and colleagues who took part in them made it feel less virtual and more human.”

- **Eddie Bertozzi, Head of Pardi di domani Selection Committee & Advisor for the competitive sections, Locarno Film Festival**

“It was my pleasure to participate in Qumra once again. The quality of the projects and the diversity offered is excellent. Everything was highly well organized and even in times of Zoom fatigue, it was a joy to participate.

So my feedback is once again a simple big THANK YOU!”

- **Miguel Ribeiro, Festival Director, Doclisboa - International Film Festival**

“I wanted to extend my deepest gratitude to you all for all the work you've done to make this year's Qumra a success. The projects represented a wide range of documentary subjects and practice; they were incredibly prepared and delightful to meet with. I know this was a particularly difficult year for you all -- switching from in-person to online in just a couple of months - but you made it look effortless.”

- **Olena Decock, Manager, Funds & Labs, Hot Docs**

Ajyal Film Festival



1 - 8 October 2022

Ajyal invests in the future of Qatar by empowering the nation's youth, giving them the skills and knowledge to express themselves through cinema. The 2022 Special Edition of Ajyal was DFI's tribute to the nation in a historic year, an extraordinary milestone for Qatar and the Arab world and a shining example of how ambition, dedication, and commitment to success can turn dreams into reality.

The format for 2022 was a little different, as the screenings were exclusively for our Ajyal Jurors. Be fittingly named the 'Jury Experience', it gave jurors access to the very best in international cinema, inspiring Ajyal Talks and Spotlights, exciting workshops and thought-provoking masterclasses—all in an innovative hybrid format that maximised the accessibility and experience of the jurors and guests.

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.

600+



jurors from over
50 countries

117



Qatari jurors

12



Features

36



Shorts

30



Countries
represented

67



Volunteers from
13 countries

Ajyal 2022 Inspires a Record Number of Jurors!

The Ajyal Jury Experience welcomed a historic record of over 600 Ajyal jurors from more than 50 countries, including 117 Qatari jurors, and 78 international jurors taking part online from around the world.

مؤسسة الدوحة للأفلام
DOHA FILM INSTITUTE
presents

10th

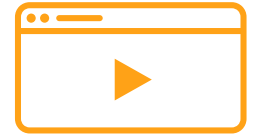
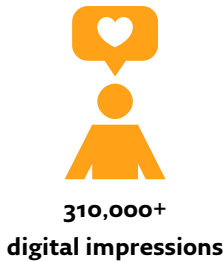
Ajyal Film Festival
Jury Experience
1-8 October 2022
ajyalfilm.com

A Perfect Ten...

Ajyal 2022 was a celebration of the transformative power of film with curated workshops, compelling screenings, lively discussions, and opportunities for our budding jurors, who interacted with global film talent and drew inspiration from the very best in world cinema.

As the target market focus was much more on jurors, parents, and educational organisations for 2022, it allowed us to communicate the 10th edition messaging in a more playful and youthful way. Using vibrant, cheerful colours, a clear yet highly impactful and adaptable number 10 was created to hero the campaign.

The number 10 was also a subtly layered hint at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, as traditionally, this number is given to the team’s playmaker or star attacking midfielder—often seen as the ‘puppeteers’ of the team. It is a number not to be worn lightly and one that a player must earn. Famous number 10s include Diego Maradona, Lionel Messi, and Pele.



170,000+ video views



323 Media Placements



Ajyal Spotlights

The Ajyal Film Festival was honoured to present globally celebrated actors as the special guests for this year's Ajyal Spotlight. By sharing their experiences with our jurors, our guests furthered DFI's mission to empower the next generation of creative thinkers.



Saleh Bakri

In an emotionally charged interaction with the jurors, Saleh Bakri, an internationally renowned actor from Palestine, shared the tremendous challenges he and fellow artists face while living under occupation. Bakri said the young Ajyal Jurors inspired him with their genuine concern and care for the Palestinian people.



Sadaf Asgari

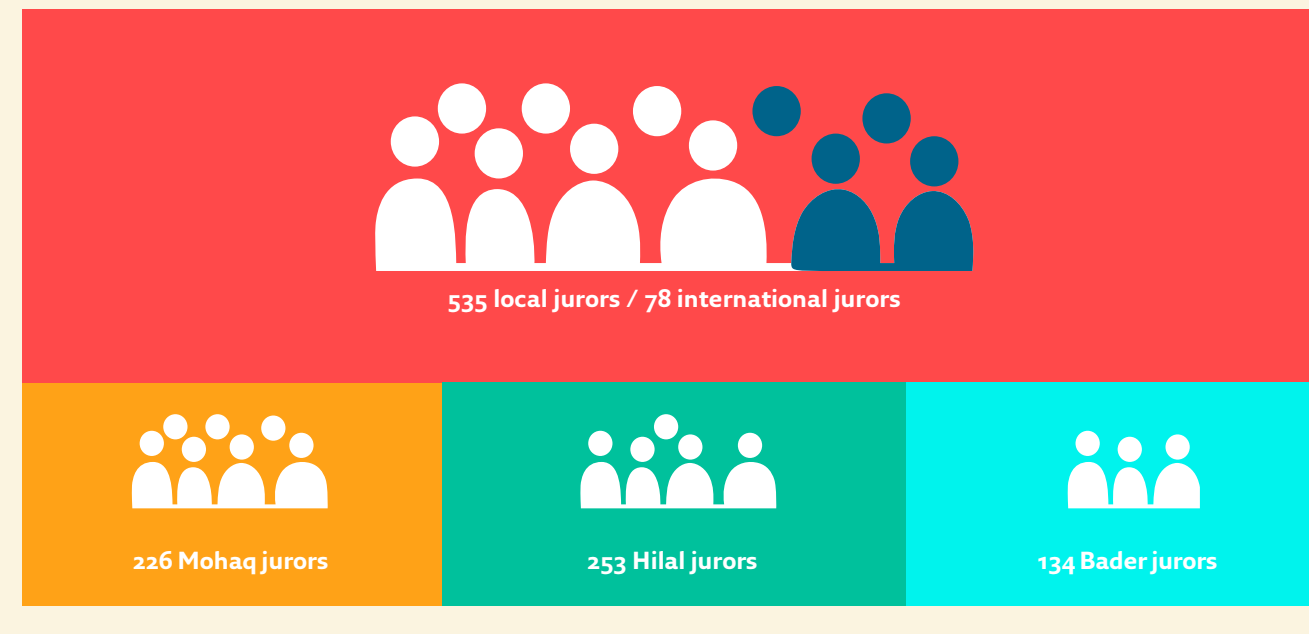
The second Ajyal Spotlight this year was with influential young Iranian actor Sadaf Asgari, whose impressive slate of prominent and award-winning films include the DFI-Granted 'Disappearance' and 'Until Tomorrow' by Ali Asgari. Sadaf shared with the jurors her journey to becoming an actor, the challenges she faced building her career, and how passion has been her driving force throughout.

Ajyal Talks

Ajyal Talks provides a platform for the jurors to enhance their sphere of knowledge through participation in insightful discussions. The thought-provoking panel for 2022 titled 'A Skyline of Stories' was about Doha's iconic cityscape and the future of urban environments, and offered more than design and architectural insights. It also served as an inspiration for the youth to approach whatever they do—be it films or arts or creative pursuits—with a clear purpose that will build a legacy.



Ajyal Jury: 613 jurors from 50+ countries



By providing young people access to acclaimed international cinema and renowned filmmakers, Ajyal helps them develop their understanding of the world around them and grow into confident and mindful global citizens.

Our young Ajyal Jury, aged between 8 to 25, formed the juries of the Ajyal Competition and selected the festival's ultimate award winners. Each of the three Ajyal Juries awarded a Best Film prize to their favourite short and feature-length films, for a total of six awards. The directors of the winning films were granted funding toward their next film, so jurors were empowered to support and promote future content that is relevant and meaningful to them.

Mohaq Best Short Film Award

Canary (Canada / 2022) by Pierre-Hugues Dallaire and Benoit Therriault

Mohaq Best Feature Film Award

Bigman (The Netherlands, Germany/2022), directed by Camiel Schouwenaar

Hilal Best Short Film Award

It Feels Personal (UK/2021) by Hugh Clegg

Hilal Best Feature Film Award

Comedy Queen (Sweden/2021) by Sanna Lenken

Bader Best Short Film Award

It's Nice in Here (The Netherlands/2022) by Robert-Jonathan Koeysers

Bader Best Feature Film Award

My Sister Liv (Australia, USA/2022), directed by Alan Hicks

A Look Back on a Monumental 10 Years...

"Ajyal continues to showcase the marvel of cinema and its power to take us outside of ourselves, enabling us to think and dream beyond boundaries. Being at Ajyal is like being part of a family, with members across the world, who come together, dream together, and grow together. This spirit of collaboration and friendship defines Ajyal, and also demonstrates the potential of young leaders to make the world a better place. To date, we have presented 546 short films and 221 feature films from 813 directors representing 95 countries and 73 languages. They have served as important building blocks in amplifying diverse perspectives and fostering cultural understanding and empathy. These films open our eyes to new cultures and people – and the fundamental understanding that across the world, wherever we are, we all share the same hopes and aspirations".

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



Doha Film Experience



8 Venues



150+ Screenings



2,250,000+ Social Media Impressions



30+ Performers at Ajyal Tunes



16 Artists Featured at 'Intaj' Multimedia Exhibition

Entertaining Audiences Across the City

As the world converged in Qatar for the thrilling FIFA World Cup 2022™, audiences across the city enjoyed an accompanying festival of film, culture and arts. The Doha Film Experience (DFE) took place over four exhilarating weeks, with thousands of visitors flocking to the event's many prominent venues, which included M7's Sky Theatre, Qatar Foundation's Al Khater House, the Museum of Islamic Art Auditorium, Heenat Salma Farm, Sikkat Wadi Msheireb, VOX Cinemas Doha Festival City and the new Geekdom building at Lusail Boulevard.

Over 150 screenings of feature and short films were presented that showcased the very best in Arab and international cinema. M7's Sky Theatre and Qatar Foundation's Al Khater House, as part of the D'reesha Performing Arts Festival 2022, hosted several compelling programmes of acclaimed short films by Qatar-based filmmakers from DFI's ever-popular Made in Qatar series.

The picturesque Heenat Salma Farm was the idyllic home for DFE's outdoor cinema offering, entertaining young and old audiences with a delightful programme of classic, family, and football-inspired films. VOX Cinemas Doha Festival City hosted a limited theatrical release of regional and international short films showcasing a fresh crop of festival favourites and award winners.



Intaj Multimedia Exhibition

In partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Msheireb Properties and Qatar Museums, with the Qatar Media Corporation as a media partner.



80,000+ Visitors



16 Local Artists

Curated by Sheikh Khalifa Abdulla Al-Thani, 'Intaj' was a fascinating multimedia exhibition tracing the remarkable history of Qatar's film, television, and theatre movements. Split into three distinct chapters, each section was dedicated to a different creative medium.

'Taking Centre Stage' highlighted the dramatic rise of theatre in the country—from its humble beginnings in schools and social clubs to today's vibrant theatre scene. 'Tuned In' celebrated the birth of home-grown television since the founding of the ever-popular Qatar Television. While 'A Focus on Filmmaking' shined a spotlight on the nation's cinematic history, from modest 16mm film theatres in the 1950s to today's thriving and internationally celebrated film industry.

Flowing through explorations of each art form's development and influences on contemporary culture—the Intaj journey presented inspiring works from local multidisciplinary artists, including:

- Abdulla Ahmadi
- Adriana De Souza
- Amna Al-Baker
- Hamida Al-Kawari
- Jaber Henzab
- Kaltham Fakhroo
- Nasser Al-Kubaisi
- Noor Al-Nasr
- Maryam Al-Homaid
- Maryam Faraj Al-Sowaidi
- Mohammed Al-Hamadi
- Mohammed Al-Malek
- Mohammed Faraj Al-Suwaidi
- Reem Al-Haddad
- Roda Al-Thani
- Sharefa Al-Mannai

The fascinating exhibition concluded with a retrospective of world cinematic history from the Qatar Museum's gallery, 'The Story of Cinema', and a cinematographic wall featuring contributions from Qatar's creative community.

Qatar-MENASA Year of Culture at MIA

DFE celebrated the Qatar-MENASA Year of Culture with a captivating selection of short and feature-length films from the most renowned voices in MENASA independent cinema held at the Museum of Islamic Art. Also at MIA, a fascinating series of feature films, 'Making the Iraqi New Wave', accompanied the museum's intriguing Baghdad: Eye's Delight exhibition.

Ajyal Tunes

More than 30 talented performers took centre stage at Ajyal Tunes, which electrified audiences over three extraordinary concerts at D'reesha Performing Arts Festival. The highly-entertaining programme, which was curated by Dana Al-Meer, included a line-up of Qatar-based performers and internationally acclaimed musicians.

Geekdom Grows From Strength To Strength



13,000+ Visitors



130+ Artists & Vendors

One of the most anticipated events of the year, Geekdom is a unique community engagement platform that provides audiences passionate about the creative arts with a unique space to express themselves and connect with other fans and experts from the region.

Qatar's largest pop culture event was held at Lusail Boulevard in 2022 and offered the thousands of visitors present the chance to take part in fun cosplay activities, karaoke nights, nerve-wracking video game tournaments, as well as featuring screenings of celebrated films.

Geekdom guests could also discover a rare collection of memorabilia curated by Qatar-based collectors at the Geekdom Gallery and an artists and vendors alley showcasing local and regional artists' work.

Geekdom Screenings

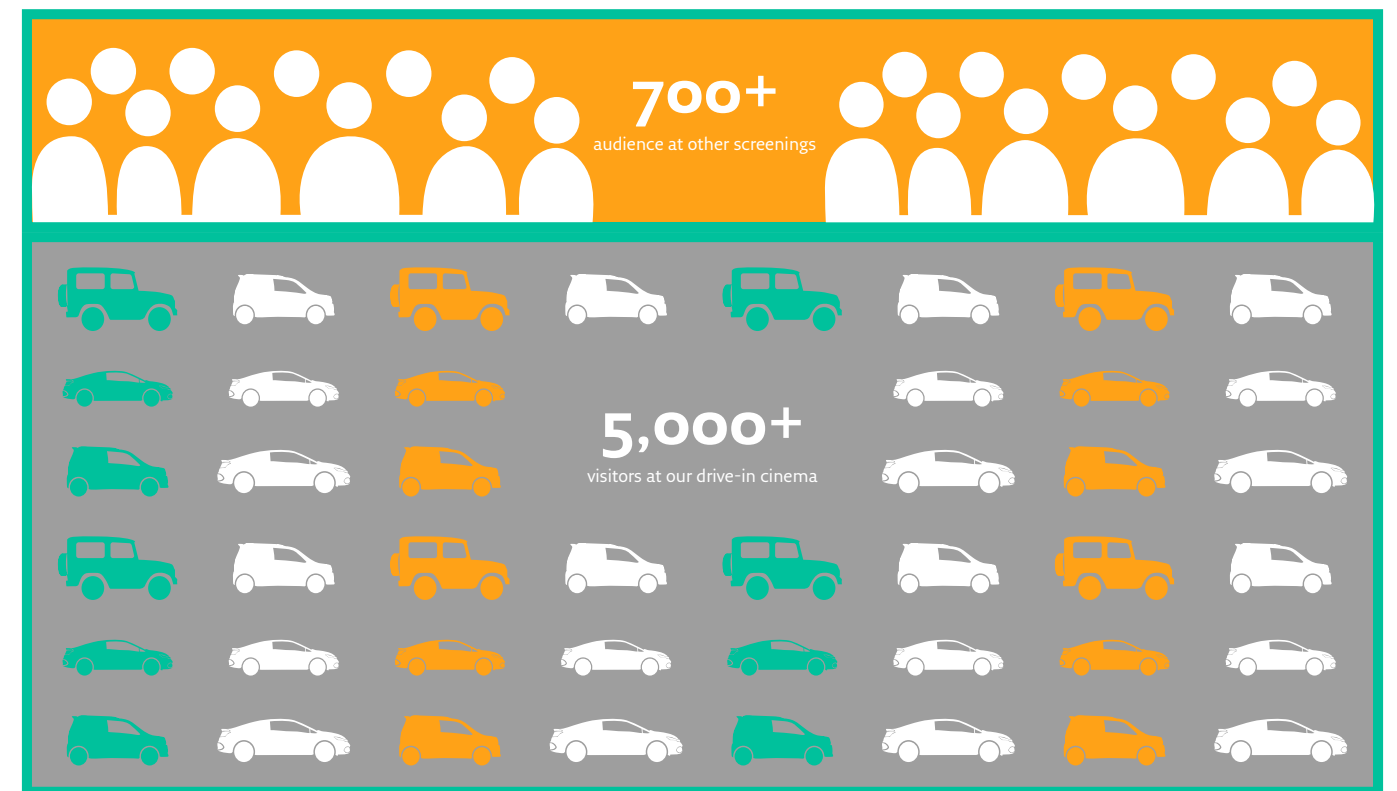
Lilo & Stitch (2002)
Only Yesterday (1991)
Hercules (1997)
Spirited Away (2001)
The Secret World of Arrietty (2010)
Lupin III: The First (2019)
Guardians of the Galaxy (2014)
Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope (1977)
Mulan (1998)
Mulan II (2004)
Batman Returns (1992)
The Dark Knight Rises (2012)
Weathering with You (2019)
Genre Qatar: A Collection of Made in Qatar Shorts



Film Programming

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 people of Qatar.

Our film screenings in 2022 included a selection of new releases, classics, retrospectives and thematically organized films for varied audiences.



DFI's Drive-in Cinema Offers an Eclectic Programme of Films

Our drive-in cinema experience continued its success in 2022, welcoming 5,621 delighted visitors to watch 30 entertaining screenings, including classics such as 'The Wizard of Oz' and 'Mary Poppins' as well as contemporary hits including 'Life of Pi' and 'A Beautiful Mind'.

The Best of Independent Cinema with DFI at VOX

Doha Film Institute and VOX Cinemas Qatar collaborated again in 2022 to bring Qatar residents the very latest and critically acclaimed releases from the world of independent cinema. The popular regular screenings included unmissable original films such as the award-winning films 'C'mon C'mon' and 'Whether the Weather Is Fine'.

Entertaining and Educating During Doha Health Week

As part of the Doha Health Week, Doha Film Institute screened the award-winning inspiring film The Reason I Jump by Jerry Rothwell, at Qatar Foundation (QF) Recreation Center Theater. The film sought to raise awareness and increase understanding and acceptance of autism among members of the public.

Funding

Empowering Filmmakers in Qatar and Beyond To Tell Their Authentic Stories.

A primary focus for DFI is supporting and empowering creative projects with regional relevance. Our goal is to assist the emergence of a diverse slate of original films that can contribute to a more balanced, global, storytelling platform.

Our funding initiatives are aimed at helping create original and compelling film content. They enable emerging, talented filmmakers from across the globe to tell their stories, by developing their promising ideas into viable film projects.

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

Qatari Film Fund



13 QFF Films In Development



81 Festival Acceptances



9 Awards

The Qatari Film Fund (QFF) takes an active role in investing in the development and success of local talent by supporting and elevating the skills and expertise of Qatari filmmakers. The Qatari Film Fund finances up to eight short films per year, which goes towards development and production support.

QFF also supports up to four feature films per year. Since its inception in 2015, QFF has exceeded all expectations and helped develop a vibrant community of dedicated and talented local filmmakers who are now making their mark on the global stage.

13 QFF Projects in Development During 2022

Although the global film industry was on a slow recovery from the effects of Covid-19, QFF managed to bounce back relatively quickly with 13 projects in development during 2022. This encouraging statistic points to a promising return to normality for QFF projects, which will likely see a very healthy recovery in 2023-24.

QFF Projects in Development

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
7	11	4	4	13

Qatari Made Films Shine Bright Internationally Despite Challenges

The effects of the global pandemic on the filmmaking industry as a whole cannot be understated. In another challenging year, DFI was proud to have a very robust number of festival acceptances for films made in Qatar. This accomplishment is a testament to how reputable and celebrated our homegrown talent is becoming internationally.

Festival Acceptances for Qatari Made Films

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
3	10	24	48	63	91	129	81

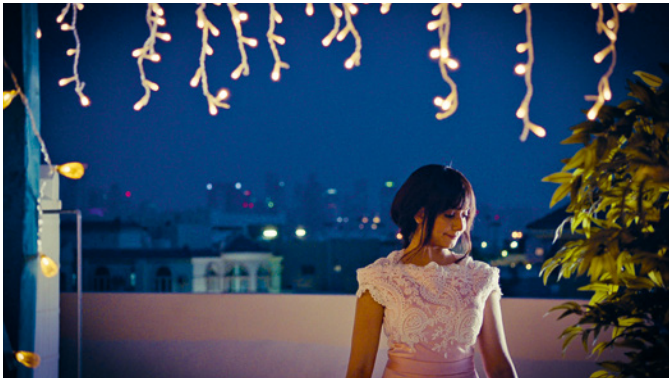
QFF Films at Festivals in 2022

QFF-supported films made their mark at a considerable number of international film festivals worldwide in 2022, winning 9 awards. They included Qatar’s first ever Oscar-qualified film in consideration for an Academy Award with ‘And Then They Burn The Sea’ by Majid Al-Remaihi.



1001 Days

by Aisha Al-Jaidah
1 Festival



Al Johara

by Nora Al-Subai
2 Festivals



Al Tabbab

by Khalifa Al Mana
7 Festivals and 1 Award



And Then They Burn the Sea

by Majid Al-Remaihi
41 Festivals and 4 Awards



The Black Veil

by A.J. Al-Thani
3 Festivals



Border

by Khalifa Al-Thani
10 Festivals and 2 Awards



Emsahar

by Hassan Al-Jahni
6 Festivals and 2 Awards



End of the Road

by Ahmad Al Sharif
1 Festival



Red

by Kholoud Al Ali
1 Festival



Sh’hab

by Amal Al-Muftah
3 Festivals

Grants

Offering Creative, Financial and Logistical Support to Promising Filmmakers.

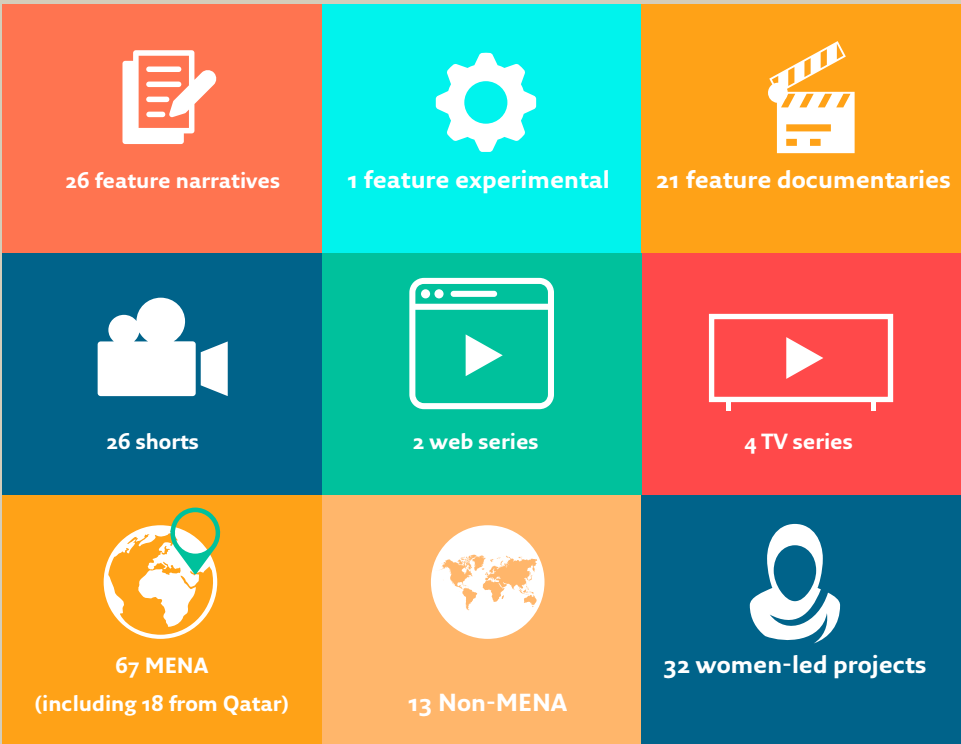
Our Grants Programme aims to discover and empower the rising talent of first-and-second time filmmakers from Qatar, the wider Arab region, and around the world. By funding their productions, we facilitate exchanges of creativity, knowledge and professional collaborations among our filmmakers.

DFI helps our Grantees interact, connect, evaluate and grow through our own events, such as Qumra and Ajyal. We also ensure that the exposure and the experience they gain thereafter are utilized as a springboard to go beyond, touring international festivals and capturing the attention of audiences across the globe.

As an institute, we are ever-conscious of evolving trends in the industry and to help reach growing audiences who use technologies beyond traditional cinema, DFI also funds projects that includes television and web series.



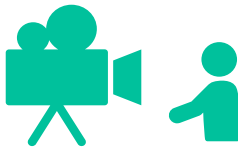
80 projects granted in 2022:



Stages of Development



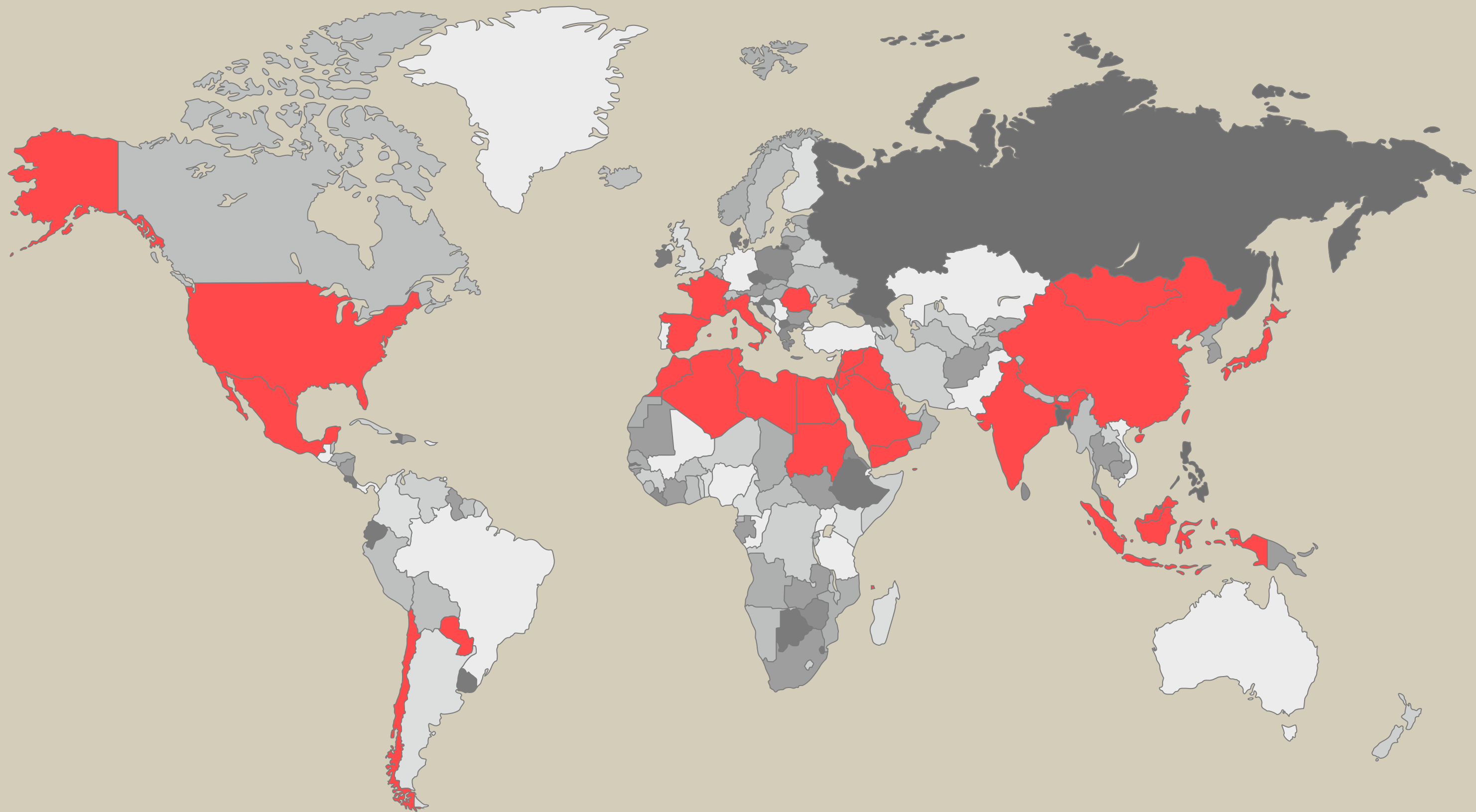
23 in development



30 in production



27 post-production



DFI Supported Films Enjoy a Strong Showing at Global Film Festivals in 2022

	Awards	Selections
Academy Awards®	-	9 (Submissions)
Cannes Film Festival	3	10
Berlin Film Festival	-	1
Toronto International Film Festival	2	11
International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam	1	6
Sarajevo Film Festival	-	6
Venice International Film Festival	3	5
Total Selections (All Festivals)	270	
Total Awards (All Festivals)	81	

Official Submissions for Best International Feature Film at the 94th Academy Awards

Costa Brava, Lebanon by Mounia Akl (Lebanon)	Rehana Maryam Noor by Abdullah Mohammad Saad (Bangladesh)
El Gran Movimiento by Kiro Russo (Bolivia)	The Gravedigger's Wife by Khadar Ayderus Ahmed (Somalia)
Freda by Gessica Fabiola Geneus (Haiti)	The Stranger by Ameer Fakher Eldin (Palestine)
Memoria by Apichatpong Weerasethakul (Colombia)	White Building by Kavich Neang (Cambodia)
Prayers for the Stolen (Noche de Fuego) by Tatiana Huezo (Mexico)	

Cannes Film Festival

- Directors' Fortnight**
‘1976’ by Manuela Martelli
- ‘Ashkal’ by Youssef Chebbi
- ‘The Dam’ by Ali Cherri
- ‘Under The Fig Trees’ by Erige Sehiri
- Un Certain Regard**
‘Domingo and the Mist’ by Ariel Escalante
- ‘Harka’ by Lotfy Nathan
Winner of Un Certain Regard - Best Performance
- ‘Mediterranean Fever’ by Maha Haj
Winner of Un Certain Regard - Screenplay Prize
- ‘Plan 75’ by Chie Hayakawa
Winner of the Golden Camera - Special Mention
- ‘Return to Seoul’ by Davy Chou
- ACID**
‘Polaris’ by Kirsten Carthew

Venice Film Festival

- Orizzonti**
‘Autobiography’ by Makbul Mubarak
Winner of the FIPRESCI Award - Best Film Orizzonti and Parallel Sections
- Orizzonti Extra**
‘Nezouh’ by Soudade Kaadan
Winner of Audience Award - Armani Beauty
- Directors' Fortnight**
‘Dirty, Difficult, Dangerous’ by Wissam Charaf
Winner of the Label Europa Cinemas Award for Best Film
- ‘The Last Queen’ by Damien Ounouri and Adila Bendimerad
- Venice International Film Critics' Week**
‘Queens’ by Yasmine Benkiran

Berlin International Film Festival

- Until Tomorrow** by Ali Asgari
- Toronto International Film Festival**
- ‘A Gaza Weekend’ by Basil Khalil
Winner of the FIPRESCI Prize
- ‘Alam’ by Firas Khoury
- ‘Ashkal’ by Youssef Chebbi
- ‘Autobiography’ by Makbul Mubarak
- Ciné-Guerrillas: Scenes From The Labudovic Reels**
- ‘Domingo and the Mist’ by Ariel Escalante

- ‘Plan 75’ by Chie Hayakawa
- ‘Return to Seoul’ by Davy Chou
- ‘Shadow of the Butterflies’ by Sofia El Khyari
- ‘Under The Fig Trees’ by Erige Sehiri
- ‘While We Watched’ by Vinay Shukla
Winner of the Amplify Voices Award

Community Outreach

DFI's Community Outreach Department works tirelessly to identify key opportunities and talents both locally and abroad as part of its mission to engage and oversee the growth of Qatar's filmmaking community.

Outreach aims to make it easy for the public to become aware of and participate in this growing industry. The department not only represents DFI but also showcases it as the leading film institute in the region.

Our primary goal is to improve the productivity of DFI's engagement with external organisations while applying the best strategies to increase opportunities locally.

Building an Inclusive film community

DFI and Outreach recognise the importance of catering to the diverse communities in Qatar and prioritise the value of reaching every member. Ultimately, we want to spread awareness of DFI and communicate what we can offer. Our goal is to attract the filmmakers of tomorrow and engage film lovers of all backgrounds and ages.

Outreach is divided into two distinct sections:

- Public and Organisational Community Outreach
- Filmmaking Community Outreach

Reaching new audiences in 2022

The Outreach department had a busy 2022 with dozens of engaging events across Qatar that included partnerships with the Doha Book Fair, Teen Expo, Qatar National Library's Summer Camp, Embrace Doha, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art and Qatar University.

Engaging with a record number of jurors for Ajyal 2022

Ajyal Experience Outreach Events



42
Schools



14
Universities



80
Online

In collaboration with key partners such as the Ministry of Education, Qatar National Library and Qatar Foundation—community outreach hosted numerous information events with students and parents for Ajyal 2022 that attracted a record-breaking 600+ Jurors.

A community-driven Doha Film Experience

The Outreach department was instrumental in ensuring the success of the Doha Film Experience by actively engaging with prominent members of the creative community through invitations and awareness messaging for Intaj, Geekdom, Made in Qatar Screenings and more.

Nurturing the filmmakers of tomorrow...

Working closely with the Ministry of Education, DFI aims to nurture and enhance film appreciation by reaching out to Qatari schools through special events with educational institutes, both government and private.

The Outreach team also attended the career fairs of Qatar-based universities in 2022 to both represent DFI and engage fully with students interested in pursuing careers in the film industry.



Thank you to our Partners



