



Doha Film Institute Announces Visionaries Lav Diaz, Darius Khondji, Walter Salles, Anna Terrazas and Johnnie To as 2025 Qumra Masters

- *A pioneer of slow cinema, Filipino filmmaker **Lav Diaz** is widely celebrated for his profoundly meditative and unflinching exploration of the human condition*
- *Iranian-French legendary cinematographer **Darius Khondji's** aesthetic is marked by his profound understanding of light's emotional power.*
- *Brazilian filmmaker **Walter Salles** has created some of the most celebrated and internationally acclaimed works in cinema*
- *Award-winning Mexican costume designer **Anna Terrazas** blends cultural preservation and creative innovation through her craft*
- *Celebrated genre-defying Hong Kong filmmaker **Johnnie To** boasts a remarkable storytelling legacy of over four decades*

Doha, Qatar; 25 February 2025: Doha Film Institute has announced the five renowned global film luminaries who will be the Qumra Masters of its eleventh annual industry event, set to run from April 4-9, 2025.

A groundbreaking talent incubator in the Arab world that drives the success of first and second-time filmmakers from the region and beyond, Qumra connects emerging filmmakers with celebrated cinematic masters and provides invaluable industry networking and collaboration opportunities.

With a wealth of diverse perspectives from across the global film community, Qumra Masters provide participants with one-on-one mentorship to equip filmmakers with essential tools to hone their craft and refine their projects to realise their artistic visions.

Doha Film Institute will welcome this year's Qumra Masters **Lav Diaz, Darius Khondji, Walter Salles, Anna Terrazas** and **Johnnie To** to share the visionary perspectives they have gained throughout their luminous careers and inspire the next wave of creators who will shape the trajectory of cinema.

Slow cinema pioneer filmmaker **Lav Diaz** (*The Woman Who Left, Evolution of a Filipino Family*) is renowned for his profound explorations of the human condition and the struggles of his homeland in his signature black-and-white frames; **Darius Khondji's** (*Amour, The Immigrant*) innate ability to blend light, shadow, and composition has firmly established him as one of contemporary cinema's most revered visual storytellers.; **Walter Salles** (*The Motorcycle Diaries; I'm Still Here*) is one of filmmaking's most compelling storytellers who often explores themes of displacement, memory, and identity with his signature sense of humanity; **Anna Terrazas** (*Roma, Spectre*) blends cultural authenticity and creative innovation by working with local artisans and top filmmakers, and stands out as one of the most dynamic costume designers of her generation; and celebrated genre-defying filmmaker **Johnnie To** (*Exiled, Election*) is a master of gripping narratives in his collaborative approach to deep explorations of loyalty, fate, and morality.

Fatma Hassan Alremaihi, Chief Executive Officer of the Doha Film Institute, stated: "We are truly honoured to welcome some of the world's most celebrated creatives Lav Diaz, Darius Khondji, Walter

Salles, Anna Terrazas and Johnnie To as Qumra Masters, joining the legacy of iconic storytellers who have supported us on our mission to empower important voices in film. Their artistry, innovation, and commitment to storytelling have left an indelible mark on world cinema. By sharing their knowledge and experience with our Qumra participants, they will inspire a new generation to refine their craft, and tell bold enduring stories that will shape the future of cinema."

Elia Suleiman, Artistic Advisor at Doha Film Institute, said "Cinema is not just the stories we tell, but the silences in between—the spaces where meaning lingers. At Qumra, these silences resonate loudly, where emerging voices are amplified by the wisdom of the Qumra Masters. It is a place of transformation, where the future of film is not dictated, but discovered."

Over the past decade, Qumra has cemented its position as a cornerstone of the global filmmaking industry, supporting important independent voices in cinema and providing groundbreaking opportunities for participants to elevate their craft and creative process.

In the 11th edition of Qumra, Masterclasses for up and coming filmmakers from the region and around the world will provide unparalleled creative development and mentorship opportunities. Participants also receive mentorship from and key business meetings with leading global film industry experts. Additional programme and guest details will be announced soon.

2025 Qumra Masters:

Lavrente Indico Diaz aka **Lav Diaz** is widely celebrated for his profound portrayals of the human condition and historical struggles of his homeland. A pioneer of slow cinema, as writer, director, producer, editor, cinematographer, production designer, actor, and composer, his unflinching portrayal of sociopolitical issues challenge conventional cinematic norms. Diaz delves into grief, survival, resistance, and social injustice through meditative masterpieces—from the nearly 11-hour magnum opus 'Evolution of a Filipino Family' (2004) and 'Norte, the End of History' (2013) selected in Cannes Un Certain Regard to his Venice Golden Lion-winner 'The Woman Who Left' (2016), the "ideological father of the New Philippine Cinema" has inspired an entire generation of filmmakers to embrace bold, uncompromising approaches to storytelling.

With a career spanning over four decades, **Darius Khondji's** work is celebrated for its versatility, innovation, and profound emotional resonance. He earned his first César Award nomination for his breakthrough film 'Delicatessen' (1991) by Jean-Pierre Jeunet and Marc Caro. Khondji has worked on Michael Haneke's Academy-Award-winning 'Amour' (2012), James Gray's 'The Immigrant' (2013) and 'The Lost City of Z' (2016), David Fincher's 'Se7en' (1995) and 'Panic Room' (2002) and Bong Joon Ho's 'Okja' (2017). His work on Alejandro G. Iñárritu's 'Bardo: False Chronicle of a Handful of Truths' (2022) earned him an Academy Award nomination, an ASC nomination, and a Silver Frog at Camerimage. Khondji's accolades to date include two Academy Award nominations, a BAFTA nomination and multiple César Award nominations along with receiving the prestigious Pierre Angénieux Tribute at the Cannes Film Festival in 2022.

Director and documentarian **Walter Salles** brings an instinctive eye for capturing human resilience on film. Salles gained global recognition with a Golden Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival, a Golden Globe and a BAFTA and two Oscar nominations for 'Central Station' (1998), and over 30 international awards including seven BAFTA nominations and two wins for his biopic feature, 'The Motorcycle Diaries' (2004). His recent 'I'm Still Here' (2024) earned three Oscar nominations, Best Screenplay award at the

Venice Film Festival and the Golden Globe for Best Actress for Fernanda Torres. Salles has also been recognised with the Robert Bresson Prize at the Venice Film Festival (2009) and the Marcus Aurelius Award for Lifetime Achievement at the Rome Film Festival (2014).

Anna Terrazas is an award-winning costume designer who skilfully blends cultural preservation and creative innovation. With an impressive career spanning across film, television and theatre, Terrazas' aesthetic was inspired by her painter father and textile-loving mother. From her beginnings in fashion design and theatre to transitioning to film with Gael García Bernal's 'Déficit' (2007), she continues to work with some of the most influential storytellers of our time such as Sam Mendes on the James Bond film 'Spectre' (2015) and Alfonso Cuarón's Academy Award-winning 'Roma' (2018). Known for her skill in blending authenticity with imagination, she earned an Ariel Award for Alejandro G. Iñárritu's 'Bardo, False Chronicle of a Handful of Truths' (2022). With her versatility extending to television shows including HBO's 'The Deuce' and Apple TV's 'Hello Tomorrow!', Terrazas stands out as one of the most dynamic costume designers of her generation.

Filmmaker **Johnnie To Kei-Fung** is renowned for his masterful, genre-defying storytelling and a distinctive ability to weave emotional complexity into gripping narratives, with a legacy spanning over four decades and 50 films. His co-founded production house Milkyway Image has created innovative and iconic works such as 'The Mission' (1999), 'Election' (2005), and 'Exiled' (2006). To earned Palme d'Or nominations at Cannes for 'Vengeance' (2009) and 'Election' (2005); Golden Lion nominations at Venice for 'Life Without Principle' (2011), 'Mad Detective' (2007), and 'Exiled' (2006); and a Golden Bear nomination at Berlin for 'Sparrow' (2008). His extraordinary contributions to cinema have been celebrated with lifetime achievement awards from Locarno and Sitges film festivals. A master of gripping narratives, a collaborative approach, and deep explorations of loyalty, fate, and morality, he champions emerging talent as a mentor through the Fresh Wave Short Film Competition.

Qumra has established itself as an influential force in the film industry in its ongoing mission to champion independent voices from across the world and uplift storytelling through mentorship, feedback panels, screenings, and more. Open to the public this year will be Qumra Master Classes, featuring inspirational insights from industry professionals, and Qumra Screenings, a curated selection of regional and international films supported by Doha Film Institute through training, and funding initiatives.

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About Doha Film Institute

Doha Film Institute is an independent, not-for-profit cultural organisation. It 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. 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. With culture, community, learning and entertainment at its foundation, the Institute is committed to supporting Qatar's 2030 vision for the development of a knowledge-based economy.