

Press Release

Two Qatari filmmakers commence Gulf Summer University programme at Leading French Film School, La Fémis

The Doha Film Institute supports filmmakers' participation in intensive training programme held in Paris through partnership with the French Embassy in Qatar and the national film school of France

Doha, Qatar; August 16, 2015: The Doha Film Institute is supporting two Qatari filmmakers to attend the second annual edition of the Gulf Summer University, created by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs through its Gulf Film Office in association with the prestigious French National Film School, La Fémis. A special training programme created to nurture the filmmaking skills of GCC-based young directors, the Gulf Summer University is being held in Paris until September 11, 2015.

Founded in 2014, The Gulf Summer University is welcoming Qatari filmmakers for the first time to the programme this year. The Doha Film Institute joined hands with the French Embassy in Qatar to identify the two participants, further underlining the commitment of France and Qatar to contribute to cultural and cinematic development in the region.

Fatma Al Remaihi, Chief Executive Officer of the Doha Film Institute, said: "The Gulf Summer University is an exceptional opportunity for our young filmmakers to learn from masters of cinema in the creatively invigorating city of Paris. We are committed to extending all possible support to nurture our emerging filmmakers and to provide them with access to the knowledge and training to fortify their skills. Through our partnership with the French Embassy and La Fémis, we are highlighting the global collaborations that are of great benefit to our filmmakers' development."

Marc Nicolas, Director General of La Fémis, said: "We are very pleased to welcome young aspiring filmmakers from the GCC countries in our school for five weeks. We hope this training programme will help them develop their skills, discover the diversity of our French cinema and contribute to establish professional basis back in their country."

The Gulf Summer University 2015 is organised with the support of GCC organisations including the Doha Film Institute in Qatar as well as Cinescape in Kuwait, Total in the UAE, Technal Middle East, Dadahai, a private donor in Bahrain, and the French Embassies and Alliances Française offices in the GCC region.

Open only for seven young national filmmakers from the GCC region, the programme aims to develop their filmmaking skills in a holistic way across multiple disciplines through classes led by professionals from the French film industry.

The five-week programme consists of intensive classes five days a week, during which the trainees will explore the craft of filmmaking and discover contemporary French cinema through critical evaluations of works by major French directors. The theory programme will cover production craft, the work of a producer, co-production, funds and festivals, cinema aesthetics, French cinema, screenwriting, film fundamentals, script continuity, story breakdown, directing and casting.

They will then go on to direct a five-minute film based on an existing script covering aspects such as rewriting, location scouting, shooting for one day and editing in four days. Each trainee, in turn, assumes directing, camera operating and photography, sound recording and editing. For that purpose, they will all be taught the fundamentals of cinematography, sound recording and editing.

La Fémis was created in 1986, and chaired by international award winning director Raoul Peck since 2010. Supported by the French Ministry of Culture and Media, La Fémis trains 50 students every year to be directors, screenwriters, producers, editors, directors of photography, sound designers, production designers, continuity supervisors, film distributors and exhibitors. It is ranked as the 6th best school in the world by *The Hollywood Reporter* in their recent rankings.

La Fémis is actively involved in setting up exchange agreements with international film schools, organising common curricula with partner schools, creating special programmes for foreign students, organising a short programme for European documentary filmmakers and various activities within the network of film schools. Recently, it developed a consulting service for countries wishing to create high standard educational film programmes.

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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 Youth 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.

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About La Fémis:

Founded in 1986, La Fémis is a national state school supervised by the French Ministry of Culture and Media and funded by the CNC (Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Animée). International award-winning film director Raoul Peck (*Fatal Assistance* which was selected in the Berlin International Film Festival in 2013, *Lumumba*) chairs the school. Marc Nicolas is the Director General.

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best school in the world by the *Hollywood Reporter* in their recent rankings, La Fémis is one of the most awarded schools in the world (through its alumni).

La Fémis has become a reference in France and abroad, providing an excellent level of training (50 students are selected each year amongst 1.200 applicants), based on high standards regarding films, artistic expectations.

Over 25 years, La Fémis' students have directed over 2,500 short films, fictions and documentaries. Often more than exercises, some of these films are genuine works containing the seeds of new talent, which have been selected and rewarded in many festivals (Cannes Film Festival, Berlin Film Festival, Clermont Ferrand, Mostra, Locarno, etc.). La Fémis is located in the historic Pathé Studios (the world's largest film equipment and production company in the early 1900) in the 18th district of Paris. It is located nearby the Sacré-Coeur, in the heart of Montmartre (which has always been the neighbourhood of choice for young artists and actors).

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