

Doha Film Institute to Screen Behind the Scenes Documentary of Turkish TV Sensation ‘Magnificent Century’

- *Special Event to Celebrate Qatar Turkey 2015 Year of Culture; Curtain Raiser to Grand Opening of the Celebrated “Harem Al Sultan: The Exhibition”*
- *Screening Followed by Q&A with Leading Actor from Popular TV Programme*

Doha, Qatar; September 6, 2015: Doha Film Institute joins the celebrations to mark Qatar Turkey 2015 Year of Culture with a special screening of a behind-the-scenes documentary, ‘Secret World of Magnificent Century’, of one of Turkish television’s most opulent productions, ‘Magnificent Century’, an elaborate period drama that reimagines Turkey’s imperial past.

The special event presented by Qatar Museums, the Doha Film Institute and the Dogus Group, will be held on 15 September at the Opera House in Katara and serves as a curtain raiser to launch the grand ‘Harem Al Sultan: The Exhibition’ on the following day.

The documentary will take viewers behind the making of the popular series that has gripped viewers worldwide since its premiere in 2011, and will be followed by an extended Q&A session with Halit Ergen (who plays Sultan Suleiman).

Directed by Yağmur and Durul Taylan, described as the Turkish Coen brothers, the programme is aired in more than 54 countries, from Italy to China and reaches more than 200 million viewers worldwide. A soap opera set in the court of Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent, the programme has been breaking Turkish television records and has captured the hearts of viewers from Turkey, the Arab world and beyond. Sultan Süleyman, who reigned from 1520 to 1566, is known in Turkey as the Lawmaker, renowned for his innovative legal code, for the opulence of his court, and for expanding the Ottoman Empire from Transylvania to the Persian Gulf. The plot of “Magnificent Century” depicts intrigues at the court of Sultan Süleyman.

The special screening will be followed by the grand opening of the “Harem Al Sultan - Magnificent Century: The Exhibition - Special Edition” on the 16 of September at the Qatar Museums Gallery in Katara. The celebrated exhibition, from 17th Sep to 12 Dec, will leave Turkey for the first time as part of Qatar Turkey 2015 Year of Culture activities, since its world premiere in Istanbul last year. The exhibition, which includes artifacts and costumes as well as rich interactive extensions, provides visitors an opportunity to experience the glorious world of Suleiman the Magnificent.

Tickets for the documentary screening are free but must be reserved for admission. Tickets will be available from Monday, 7 September at 12:00PM and may be reserved online 24 hours a day at

www.dohafilminstitute.com or requested at the DFI ticket outlet at the Katara Opera House on September 15 from 2:00PM – 9:00PM. Tickets are limited and available while supplies last.

-ENDS-

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.

Twitter: @DohaFilm; Instagram: @DohaFilm; Facebook: www.facebook.com/DohaFilmInstitute

About Qatar Turkey 2015

Qatar Turkey 2015: Year of Culture is held under the patronage of Qatar Museums' (QM) Chairperson, Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, in partnership with Qatar's Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Turkey.

This Year of Culture is dedicated to connecting people in the State of Qatar and the Republic of Turkey by exploring the contemporary and traditional cultures of both countries, through innovative cultural exchange activities, exhibitions, festivals and educational programmes. These activities will showcase the unique aspects of each nation and enable citizens and institutions across borders to create long lasting partnerships.

ExxonMobil is the Platinum Sponsor of the Year of Culture, while Qatar Airways is the Official Airline and W Hotel the Hospitality Sponsor. It is the fourth consecutive Year of Culture launched by QM, following the success of Qatar Japan 2012, Qatar UK 2013 and Qatar Brazil 2014.

About Qatar Museums

Qatar Museums connects the museums, cultural institutions and heritage sites in Qatar and creates the conditions for them to thrive and flourish. It centralizes resources and provides a comprehensive organization for the development of museums and cultural projects, with a long term ambition of creating a strong and sustainable cultural infrastructure for Qatar. Under the patronage of His Highness the Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamid Al-Thani, and led by its Chairperson, Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, QM is consolidating Qatar's efforts to become a vibrant center for the arts, culture and education, in the Middle East and beyond.

Since its foundation in 2005, QM has overseen the development of the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) and Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art. Future projects include the Al Zubarah World Heritage Site Visitor Centre opening in 2013 and the launch of the highly anticipated National Museum of Qatar in 2016.

QM is committed to instigating Qatar's future generation of arts, heritage and museum professionals. At its core is a commitment to nurturing artistic talent, creating opportunities and developing the skills to

service Qatar's emerging art economy. By means of a multi-faceted program and public art initiatives, QM seeks to push the boundaries of the traditional museum model, and create cultural experiences that spill out onto the streets and seek to involve the widest possible audiences. Through a strong emphasis on originating art and culture from within and fostering a spirit of national participation, QM is helping Qatar find its own distinctive voice in today's global cultural debates.

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