

Press Release

Government Entities, MNCs and Industry Leaders Confirm Support for Second Edition of Qumra

Doha, Qatar – 1 March, 2016: The second edition of Qumra, a Doha Film Institute initiative that seeks to provide mentorship, nurturing, and hands-on development for filmmakers from Qatar and around the world, has received unwavering support from leading local and international organisations committed to furthering the success of the annual event.

Several leading entities, cultural organisations and educational entities will play a pivotal role in establishing Qumra as an important film initiative that supports the development of the creative industries in the region, to be held from March 4 to 9, 2016.

Reinforcing their commitment to promoting the cultural scene in Qatar, the **Museum of Islamic Art, Qatar Museums** and **Souq Waqif** will provide vibrant venues for the event as ‘Cultural Partner’ of Qumra 2016.

Supported by **Culture Pass**, the Qatar Museums community membership programme, Qumra 2016 also has on board; **SONY** and **FNAC Qatar**, the ‘Official Electronics Partners’, **MAC Cosmetics**, the ‘Official Makeup Sponsor’ and **Souq Waqif Boutique Hotels**, the ‘Official Hotel Partner.’ Other supporters of Qumra include prominent educational establishments of **Northwestern University in Qatar** and the **Translation & Interpreting Institute** at the Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

Friends of Qumra include **Sarajevo Film Festival** and the **French Embassy in Qatar**.

The event is promoted by leading international and local outfits including **Screen International, Festival Scope** and **I Love Qatar.net**.

Doha Film Institute CEO, Fatma Al Remailhi said: “The first edition of Qumra received an overwhelming response from all our key stakeholders, who believed in our vision and fully supported the new regional development initiative. This show of solidarity by local and international entities highlights the tremendous value that Qumra offers in strengthening Qatar’s reputation as a cultural hub.

“The commitment of our partners plays an integral role in hosting this inspiring event and contributes to the development of a strong culture of filmmaking in Qatar and the region. Their patronage enables us to make a difference and we are thankful to them for their unwavering support.”

The primary motive of this international gathering of creative film professionals is to contribute to the development of emerging voices in cinema, with a special focus on first- and second-time filmmakers, alongside a series of screenings for Doha audiences featuring films by international masters and recipients of support from the Institute.

Qumra 2016 will present 33 projects from 19 countries at various stages of production, to benefit from the experience of international film industry professionals in bespoke mentorship labs and meetings designed to propel their projects to the next stage.

Nearly 200 delegates representing all facets of the film industry will participate in the programme including presence from international film festivals, funding bodies, sales, production and distribution companies along with development specialists and script consultants.

The event also includes a programme of public screenings featuring films by the Qumra Masters – James Schamus, Joshua Oppenheimer, Naomi Kawase , Nuri Bilge Ceylan and Aleksandr Sokurov, alongside new voices in cinema selected from films supported by the Institute’s grants and co-financing programmes.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

About Qumra

Directors and Producers attached to up to twenty-five projects in development or post-production will be invited to participate in the event. They will include a number of emerging filmmakers from Qatar, as well as recipients of funding from the Institute’s Grants Programme. The robust programme will feature industry meetings designed to assist with propelling projects to their next stages of development, including master classes, work-in-progress screenings, bespoke matchmaking sessions and tailored workshops with industry experts. This creative exchange will take place alongside a programme of public screenings curated with input from the Qumra Masters.

The event is organised in three main sections: The Qumra Master Classes are daily sessions; each led by one of the Masters. The participating filmmakers have full access to these sessions, and will also be open to accredited industry guests to attend in an observational capacity.

The Qumra Meetings are a series of one-on-one meetings, workshops and tailored mentoring sessions between representatives from the 25 selected projects and seasoned industry experts.

The Qumra Screenings are open to the public and feature projects funded by the Institute through its grants and co-financing initiatives, as well as a series of films chosen by the Qumra Masters accompanied by Q&A sessions.

The Arabic term ‘qumra’ is popularly said to be the origin of the word ‘camera’, and to have been used by the scientist, astronomer and mathematician Alhazen (Ibn al-Haytham, 965-c.1040 CE), whose work in optics laid out the principles of the camera obscura.

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



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DOHA FILM INSTITUTE

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.

Doha Film Institute

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