

## Academy Award® Winner Tilda Swinton Joins 2018 Qumra Masters line-up

- *Tilda Swinton joins Andrey Zvyagintsev, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Bennett Miller, Gianfranco Rosi and Sandy Powell as a 2018 Qumra Master*
- *Qumra Masters to mentor emerging filmmakers from around the world*

**Doha, Qatar: February 28, 2018:** The Doha Film Institute announced the exciting addition of iconoclastic Oscar® winning actor Tilda Swinton (*Isle of Dogs, Michael Clayton, We Need to Talk about Kevin*) to the 2018 line-up of acclaimed international Qumra Masters. The fourth edition of the Doha Film Institute's Qumra will be held March 9 to 14, 2018.

Swinton joins Sandy Powell, Order of the British Empire (OBE), Oscar® winning British costume designer (*The Young Victoria, The Aviator, Shakespeare in Love*); Oscar® nominated director Bennett Miller (*Capote, Moneyball, Foxcatcher*); Venice Golden Lion winning Russian director and writer Andrey Zvyagintsev (*Leviathan, Loveless*); Cannes Palme d'Or winning Thai filmmaker and visual artist Apichatpong Weerasethakul (*Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives*); and the only documentary director to win the Berlinale Golden Bear, Italian director Gianfranco Rosi (*Fire at Sea*) as Qumra Masters for the 2018 edition of the unique industry forum that focuses on first and second time filmmakers.

Through mentoring sessions, one-on-one meetings and Masterclasses, Qumra Masters nurture the talent associated with 34 selected Qumra projects from 25 countries that are in development and post-production stages.

Fatma Al Remaihi, Chief Executive Officer of the Doha Film Institute, said: "We are thrilled to welcome an artist of Tilda Swinton's caliber as a Qumra Master. A true master in her craft, the diversity and range of her work is inspirational to both audiences and filmmakers alike. She has constantly redefined the limits of her talent and her wealth of experience brings a rich layer of expertise to our programme. The participation of our Masters is integral to Qumra which is founded upon a commitment to the mentorship and creative development of emerging filmmakers."

Doha Film Institute Artistic Advisor and filmmaker Elia Suleiman said: "Tilda Swinton's transformational ability and fierce talent takes every role to unprecedented levels of inspiring perfection and originality. Constantly challenging conventional visual and emotional preconceptions, the depth and breadth of her performances can only be described as profoundly boundary breaking. We are honoured to have her inform and inspire Qumra delegates to unlock the artistic potential of their projects."

Tilda Swinton started making films with English experimental director Derek Jarman in 1985, with *Caravaggio*. They made seven more films together, including *The Last of England, The Garden, War Requiem, Edward II* (for which she won the Best Actress award at the 1991 Venice International Film Festival), and *Wittgenstein*, before Mr. Jarman's death in 1994. She gained wide international acclaim in 1992 for her portrayal of *Orlando*, based on the novel by Virginia Woolf under the direction of Sally Potter.

She regularly collaborates with Lynn Hershman Leeson, John Maybury, Jim Jarmusch, Wes Anderson, Joel and Ethan Coen, and Luca Guadagnino, with whom she made *The Love Factory*, *I am Love*, *A Bigger Splash* and the soon to be released *Suspiria*.

Tilda also worked with Bong Joon Ho on the international hits *Snowpiercer* and *Okja*, and featured in the critically acclaimed Amy Schumer comedy *Trainwreck* directed by Judd Apatow; Marvel Studios blockbuster *Doctor Strange* by director Scott Derrickson; and *War Machine* by David Michod. She received both the BAFTA and Academy Award® for Best Supporting Actress of 2008 for Tony Gilroy's *Michael Clayton*.

In 2011, Swinton starred in and executive produced *We Need to Talk about Kevin*, directed by Lynne Ramsay. The film debuted in Competition at the Cannes Film Festival to critical acclaim and garnered multiple honors, including Golden Globe and BAFTA nominations for Best Actress.

The Qumra 2018 industry events include workshops and meetings for first- and second-time filmmakers with international film industry experts in bespoke mentorship labs; the Qumra Master Classes, led by acclaimed filmmakers; Qumra Screenings of feature films presented by the Qumra Masters and recipients of funding from the Institute, followed by question-and-answer sessions; and the Qumra Talks.

**-END-**

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About Qumra**

Directors and Producers attached to 34 projects in development and post-production are selected 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, which are also 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 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 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.