
**Doha
Film
Institute**

**Annual
Report
2023**

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His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani,
The Father Emir of the State of Qatar



His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani,
Emir of the State of Qatar

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Our commitment to nurturing talent and promoting cinema from the MENASA region was stronger than ever this year. Our dedication to excellence and innovation equips emerging talents with powerful creative and technical tools that make ideas a reality, amplify their voices and broaden the world's understanding of our part of the world. These efforts align with Qatar's broader vision of fostering cross-cultural dialogue and building bridges between nations.

Throughout the year, we deepened our efforts to champion important voices from the Arab world, reinforcing our commitment to showcasing stories that resonate with global audiences and reflect our shared humanity. Our work is part of unceasing efforts to support the next generation of filmmakers who have the creative drive and talent to take charge of our narratives and share them with the world.

The past year has been a defining one for both the creative industry and the world at large. As the global community witnessed the ongoing violence in Gaza, it became evident that our mission at Doha Film Institute was increasingly crucial. These events highlighted the essential role of cinema in documenting truth, preserving culture, and giving a voice to the voiceless.

Art and culture are at the heart of Arab identity and tradition, connecting us with our history and shaping our collective imagination. For the past 14 years, Doha Film Institute (DFI) has remained steadfast in its commitment to bringing compelling stories to life and strengthening the film industry not only in Qatar, but also throughout the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia.

We believe that cinema is not just a medium of entertainment but a powerful tool for social change. It reflects our societies, our dreams, and our realities. Our efforts to support independent filmmakers from the Arab region and internationally is part of a larger vision to contribute to global cultural dialogue and to advocate for justice, peace, and human dignity.

As we move forward, the impact of DFI's work will continue to expand beyond the region. By empowering filmmakers and creatives, we are ensuring that Arab and other stories are not only preserved but also appreciated worldwide. Our filmmakers are ambassadors of our values, and their work has already begun reshaping global perceptions of the Arab people.

I am deeply thankful to the entire DFI team for their passion, commitment, and steadfast belief in the transformative power of cinema. Together, we will continue to inspire, create, and promote the universal values that bind us as a global community.

H.E. Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Chair, Doha Film Institute

2023 has been a year where the Doha Film Institute's role as a platform for fostering creativity and supporting filmmakers has taken on even greater significance. The Institute's growing list of accolades demonstrated film's extraordinary ability to break down barriers and celebrate the common bonds between people of all backgrounds, cultures and faiths.

This year has seen us expand our programming, particularly in recognition to the urgent need to spotlight narratives from underrepresented communities, a response that was central to our decision to host 'Voices from Palestine' in place of Ajyal. Through this showcase, we reaffirmed our dedication to amplifying authentic stories and confronting the misinformation surrounding the Palestinian genocide. Voices from Palestine presented the stories, the struggles, and the indomitable spirit of the Palestinian people through the lens of their own filmmakers. These are more than stories—they are a cry for justice, a call for acknowledgement, and a means to preserve the narratives of a people struggling to survive the unspeakable. Now is the time for us to stand together in solidarity as a community united for justice, peace and humanity, in unwavering support of a free Palestine.

A culture of filmmaking needs nourishment, guidance and care. DFI provides a space for creative exploration and development and continues to blaze a path led by the vision of establishing an important position in the global narrative for emerging voices and Arab perspectives. An impressive range of 72 projects by filmmakers from around the world were selected through our Grants programme. We also expanded our support of emerging filmmakers with over 35 workshops this year, fostering the creation of 17 short films.

A key platform for discovering exciting voices and compelling perspectives, the ninth edition of DFI's industry incubation event Qumra once again provided emerging and established filmmakers with unprecedented access to accomplished film experts to get their projects off the ground and out to global audiences.

The launch of 'Intaj 2023: Arab World's Cinema' was a particular highlight, paying tribute to Arab cinema pioneers and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of our region.



Doha Film Institute set a few firsts in the Arab region for a film organisation, with its latest projects "About Dry Grasses" by Nuri Bilge Ceylan, Jessica Hausner's "Club Zero" and "Banel E Adama", by Senegalese filmmaker Ramata-Toulaye SY, selected to the prestigious Official Selection, In Competition at the 76th Cannes Film Festival. This nomination makes DFI the only cultural organisation in the MENA region to have eight supported projects including selected for the Official Selection, In Competition to date.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to strengthening the role of Doha Film Institute as a trusted platform for filmmakers across the region and beyond. Our goal is to cultivate the next generation of storytellers who will continue to share authentic perspectives with the world.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our Chair for her continuous support and guidance, the incredible team at DFI for their hard work and dedication, as well as our invaluable private and public sector partners, whose contributions allowed DFI to make meaningful impacts in our society and communities. Their unwavering commitment is the foundation of our continued success.

Fatma Hassan Alremaihi
Chief Executive Officer, Doha Film Institute

Thank You for Your Support and Solidarity in 2023

In a year marked by profound challenges and poignant moments for the Arab community, Doha Film Institute extends its heartfelt gratitude to all our partners for their unwavering support in 2023. Your dedication, time, and talent have been instrumental in realising the diverse range of events and initiatives we undertook.

Amidst the ongoing genocide in Palestine, we have strived to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters through various programmes aimed at amplifying their voices and stories. Initiatives such as our focused screenings and support for Palestinian filmmakers have been crucial in highlighting their narratives and fostering a deeper understanding of their plight.

As we reflect on these efforts, our thoughts remain with those affected by the conflict. We are more committed than ever to continuing our work together, fostering understanding and unity through the power of film in 2024 and beyond. Together, we will ensure that the stories of resilience and hope continue to be told, bridging cultures and creating a more empathetic world.

- His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar
- His Highness Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani, Personal Representative of the Emir
- His Excellency Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani
- Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani
- Trustees
- Fatma Hassan Alremaihi
- DFI Executive Management
- DFI Employees
- Elia Suleiman, Artistic Advisor
- The Cultural Village Foundation
- Sarajevo Film Festival
- Giffoni Film Festival
- Sponsors
- Mentors
- Filmmakers
- Jurors
- Volunteers
- Audiences

Trustees



H.E. Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani
 Founder and Chairperson of Doha Film Institute

H.E. Sheikh Thani bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani
 Member of Doha Film Institute Board of Trustees

H.E. Salah bin Ghanem Al Ali
 Qatar's Minister of Youth and Sports

H.E. Nasser bin Ghanem Abdullah Al-Khelaifi
 Chairman of beIN Media Group



H.E. Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad bin Jassim bin Hamad Al-Thani
 Qatar's Minister of Culture

H.E. Sheikh Saif bin Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani
 Member of Doha Film Institute Board of Trustees

H.E. Mansour Ibrahim Al-Mahmoud
 CEO of Qatar Investment Authority (QIA)

H.E. Issa bin Mohammed Al Mohannadi
 Vice Chairman of Qatar Museums Board of Trustees
 Chairman of the Racing and Equestrian Club
 Member of the Board of Directors of Qatar Airways

Executive Directors



Abdulla Al Mosallam
 Chief Administrative Officer / Deputy Director of Ajyal Film Festival

Hanaa Issa
 Director of Strategy and Development / Qumra Deputy Director

Nikolaos Bempis Kolyfas
 Director of PMO and Event Management / Festival Managing Director

Russell Frame
 General Counsel

About DFI

About DFI

Doha Film Institute (DFI) is an independent, not-for-profit cultural organisation dedicated to the development of a sustainable film industry, generating film appreciation, and nurturing a vibrant film culture in Qatar.

DFI 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.

Since its inception, DFI has provided Qataris, local and regional talent with opportunities to tell their stories through the medium of film, while paving the way for the development of skills in order to equip and empower future filmmakers in their pursuit of professional careers in the film industry.

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, a film industry event. With culture, community, learning and entertainment at its foundation, the Institute is committed to supporting Qatar National Vision 2030 for the development of a knowledge-based economy.

Our Mission

Doha Film Institute is dedicated to the development of a sustainable film industry, inspiring widespread film appreciation, and nurturing a vibrant film culture in Qatar.

Our Objectives— DFI is dedicated to supporting, celebrating, and expanding creativity in all its forms.

To provide Qatari talent with a platform for storytelling through the medium of film, and the opportunity to develop skills and professional careers in the film industry.

To pave the way to a sustainable film industry in Qatar, spanning all of its relevant elements.

To support and advance Qatari and Arab film and cultural objectives by positioning Qatar and the wider Arab region in a leading role in the international film industry.

A Year of Resilience Amidst Adversity

Awards



Training & Development



Funding



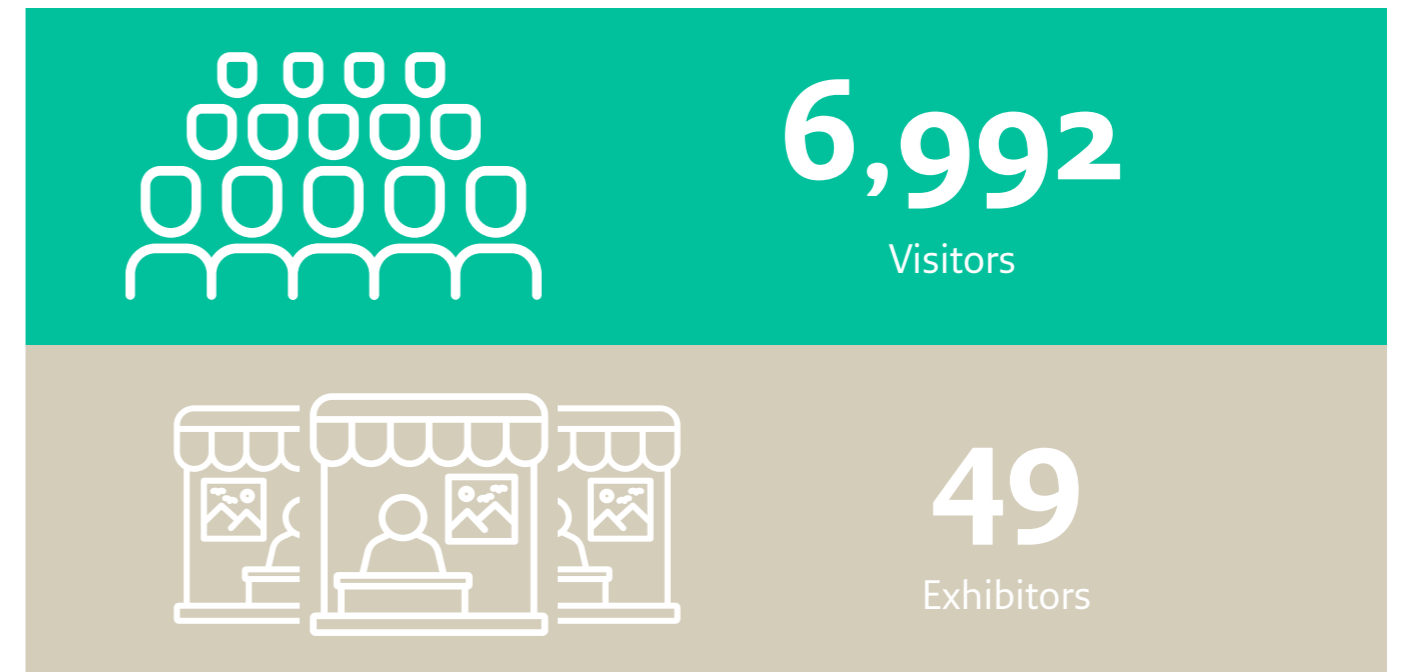
Qumra



Intaj



Geekend



Year-round Screenings



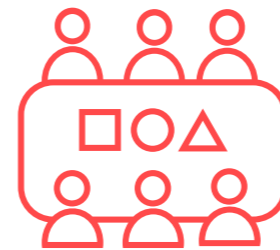
Training & Development



We discover and support important voices...

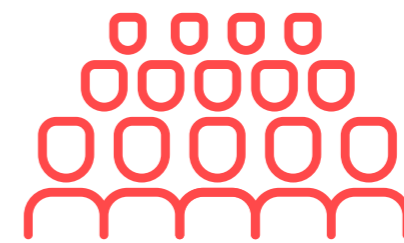
Doha Film Institute is dedicated to equipping and empowering creative talent in Qatar and beyond. Our programmes facilitate essential exchanges and collaborations between filmmakers and the wider industry, fostering an atmosphere of inclusivity, innovation, and professionalism.

We achieve this through two parallel streams, offering opportunities for skill-sharing, feedback, and guidance from expert mentors around the world.



35

Workshops



220+

Participants



42

Qatari Participants



34

Educational Partners



17

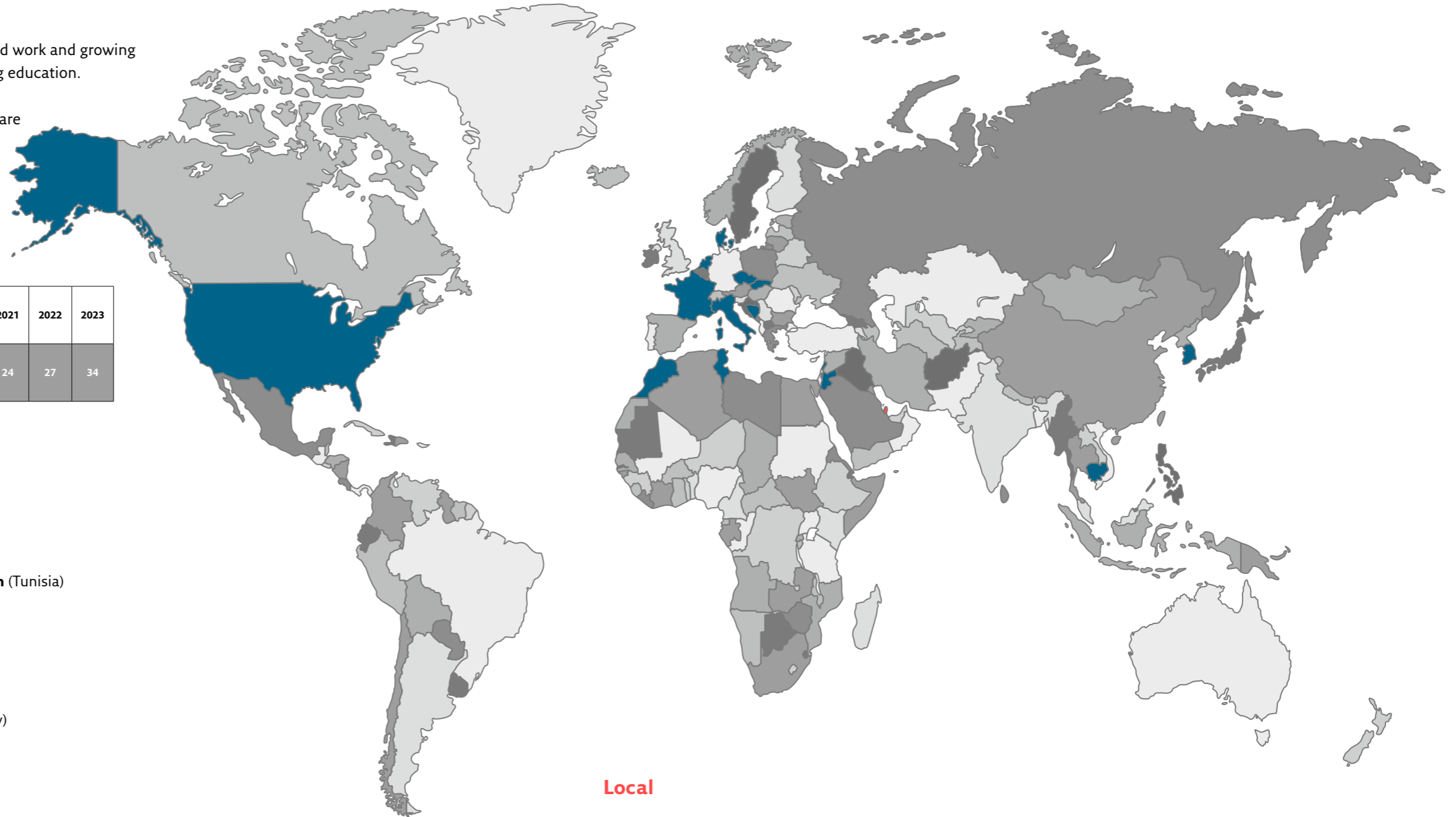
Shorts Produced

A Record-Shattering Year for Educational Collaboration

During 2023, DFI forged and strengthened partnerships with a remarkable 34 local and international organisations.

This incredible growth is a testament to the team's hard work and growing global influence as an esteemed provider of filmmaking education.

Through these crucial organisational relationships, we are providing essential skills training for Qatar and further cementing our position as an internationally recognised and respected thought-leader.



DFI'S EVER-EXPANDING	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
EDUCATIONAL INFLUENCE	8	11	15	15	15	24	24	27	34

International

- **Beirut Cinema Platform** (Lebanon)
- **Bophana Center** (Cambodia)
- **Busan Asian Film Academy** (South Korea)
- **Centre Cinematographique Marocain** (Morocco)
- **Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Tunisien** (Tunisia)
- **EAVE** (Luxembourg)
- **ESA Business School** (Lebanon)
- **First Cut Lab** (France)
- **Giffoni Festival** (Italy)
- **IDFA Academy** (The Netherlands)
- **IDM Film Fund & Commission and INCONTRI** (Italy)
- **Ji.hlava Film Festival** (Czech Republic)
- **Maskoon Fantastic Lab** (Lebanon)
- **MIA | Mercato Internazionale Audiovisivo** (Italy)
- **Pop Up Residency** (Slovakia)
- **Royal Film Commission of Jordan** (Jordan)
- **Sarajevo Film Festival** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- **Series Mania** (France)
- **Short Film Corner - Cannes** (France)
- **Sundance Film Institute** (USA)
- **The Animation Workshop - VIA University College** (Denmark)
- **The Gotham** (USA)

Local

- **belN**
- **Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar**
- **Education Above All Foundation**
- **French Embassy in Doha**
- **Institut Francais Qatar**
- **Katara Studios**
- **National Museum of Qatar**
- **Northwestern University in Qatar**
- **Qatar Foundation**
- **Qatar National Library**
- **Qatar University**
- **Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar**

Workshops & Labs



Workshops & Labs

Empowering Aspiring Filmmakers

The Doha Film Institute's workshops and labs are integral to our Training & Development Programme, offering unparalleled opportunities to burgeoning filmmakers. These sessions combine theory, demonstrations, and hands-on exercises to equip participants with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in all aspects of filmmaking. Led by world-renowned mentors, our programmes are designed to motivate and educate, covering all theoretical and technical facets of the craft.

Comprehensive Filmmaking Training

Our workshops and labs offer exceptional opportunities to aspiring filmmakers, blending theory, demonstrations, and practical exercises to train participants in every area of the filmmaking process. Led by internationally acclaimed mentors, our programmes aim to inspire and provide valuable instruction on all theoretical and technical aspects of filmmaking.

'Watching the Classics' with Richard Peña

May 2023 - January 2024

'Watching the Classics' was an online programme during which cinephiles could deepen their knowledge of film history. Presented by renowned scholar Richard Peña (Professor of Film Studies at Columbia University and Director Emeritus of the New York Film Festival), this nine-part series, 'Making Movies Modern,' explored the cinematic revolution, analysing major trends and emblematic works.

Films Discussed:

- **The Exterminating Angel** (1962) by Luis Buñuel, Mexico (May)
- **My Life to Live** (1962) by Jean-Luc Godard, France (June)
- **Eclipse** (1962) by Michelangelo Antonioni, Italy (July)
- **Not Reconciled** (1964) and **Machorka-Muff** (1962) by Jean-Marie Straub, West Germany (August)
- **Memories of Underdevelopment** (1968) by T. Gutiérrez Alea, Cuba (September)
- **Father** (1966) by István Szabó, Hungary (October)
- **Branded to Kill** (1967) by Seijun Suzuki, Japan (November)
- **Point Blank** (1966) by John Boorman, USA (December)
- **Mirror** (1974) by Andrei Tarkovsky, USSR (January 2024)

Short Scriptwriting Lab

January–November 2023

DFI's Short Scriptwriting Lab offered a transformative experience where filmmakers learned the principles of dramatic writing for short films. Assisted by international mentors, new and emerging screenwriters and writer-directors developed screenplays from original ideas. The lab supported 16 projects, providing opportunities to access funding through the Qatari Film Fund and MENA Region's Production Funding, with completed works having the chance to be included in DFI's Qumra Shorts.

Selected Participants (January 2023)

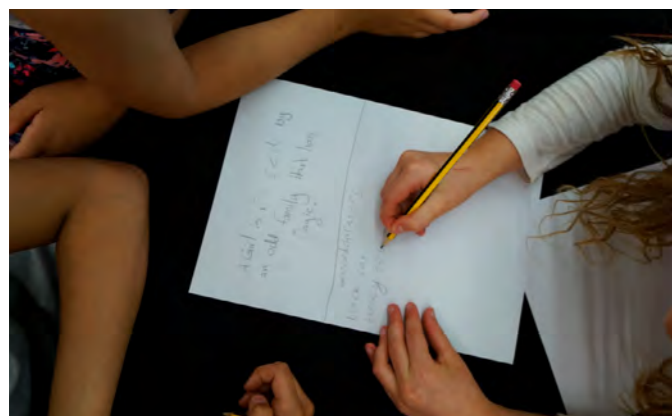
- **'Al-Aqiq'** by Mohammed Al-Suwaidi and Kummam Al Maadeed (Qatar)
- **'A Kite Not for Sale'** by Areeb Zuaiter (Jordan)
- **'A Curious Boy'** by Amani Jaafer (Tunisia)
- **'Crimson'** by Rayan Farzad (Iran)
- **'Holy Feet'** by Karim Emara (Egypt)
- **'Milk'** by Nadia Al-Khater (Qatar)
- **'Project Aisha'** by Fahad Al-Nahdi (Qatar)
- **'The Flying Moroccan'** by Yassine Ouahrani (Morocco)

Selected Participants (November 2023)

- **'Becoming a Vampire'** by Kummam Al-Maadeed and Abeer Al-Kubaisi (Qatar)
- **'Days Into Nights'** by Amal Al-Muftah (Qatar)
- **'My Hands Made Stronger'** by Zakaria Nouri (Morocco, Belgium)
- **'Search For A Better Ending'** by Hozifa Abdelhalim (Egypt)
- **'Sundial'** by Atheel Elmalik (Sudan)
- **'The Mic'** by Idris Kheder (Tunisia)
- **'Under Heliopolis, We Heard a Prelude To The Songs That Would Soon Fill The Air'** by Lina Laraki (Morocco, France)
- **'Zizou'** by Khaled Moeit (Egypt)

Mentors

Matthieu Darras: Lab Advisor
 Antoine Waked: Script Editor
 Britta Krause: Script Editor
 Celine Roustan: Project Coach



Short Documentary Lab with Rithy Panh

September 2022–December 2023

DFI's Short Documentary Lab with Rithy Panh offered filmmakers the chance to work closely with the Oscar-nominated documentarian. Panh guided participants in understanding and narrating through memory, culture, and identity. His approach helped filmmakers delve into personal traditions, celebrations, community, and oral history, using cultural memory to capture compelling moments with subtle delicacy on film.

Lab Structure

- **Part 1: Theory & Practice, Development & Pre-Production (10 weeks)**
4 September – 15 December 2022
- **Part 2: Pre-Production and Scouting (8 weeks)**
14 January – 15 March 2023
- **Part 3: Filming, Editing, and Post-Production (6 weeks)**
May – December 2023

Lab Participants

- Ali Alhajri, **I Lay to Wait for You To Sleep** (Qatar) – In post-production
- Dhoha Abdelsattar, **Missed Connections** (Qatar) – In post-production
- Eiman Mirghani, **187** (Sudan) – In post-production
- Fatma Al-Ghanim, **Theater of Dreams** (Qatar) – In post-production
- Hadeer Omar, **Gihan** (360-degree documentary film) (Egypt) – In post-production
- Hamad Alfayhani, **I Wished for Solitude** (Qatar) – In post-production
- Mariam Al-Dhubhani (director) and Mohammed Al-Jaberi (producer), **Let's Play Soldiers** (Yemen) – In post-production
- Mayar Hamdan (director) and Shaima Al-Tamimi (producer), **The Myth of Mahmoud** (Palestine/Jordan) – In production
- Obada Jarbi, **Untitled** (Palestine/Jordan) – In development
- Alessandra El Chanti, **Untitled** (Lebanon) – In development



First Cut Lab

June–September 2023

Our online First Cut Lab supported four feature films (fiction/documentary) from Qatar or the MENA region and one short film from Qatar in the editing phase. The primary goal was to enhance the artistic potential of the selected rough cuts while improving their sales, festival, and circulation potential.

Producer/director/editor teams screened their full rough cut and received expert feedback from international film advisors and tailored advice from a consultant editor. Participants engaged in one-to-one meetings and small group sessions via video conferencing platforms to discuss their materials and receive productive inputs.

Selected Participants

- **Constant** by Maysaa Almumin (Bahrain, Qatar) – Short film
- **Land of Women** by Nada Riyadh and Ayman El Amir (Egypt) – DFI Grantee – Feature Documentary
- **No One Dies in Iraq** by Yahya Al-Allaq (Iraq) – Feature Documentary
- **Rising Up at Night** by Nelson Makengo (Democratic Republic of Congo) – DFI Grantee – Feature Documentary
- **She Was Not Alone** by Hussein Al-Asadi (Iraq) – Feature Documentary

Lab Mentors

Matthieu Darras: Lab Advisor
Benjamin Mirguet: Editor Mentor
Sebastian Sepúlveda: Editor Mentor
Bob Moore: Co-president/Creative Producer, EyeSteelFilm (Canada)
Julie Rousson: Programmer, Festival &

Marché de Clermont-Ferrand (France)
Nina Rodriguez: Head of Programming, Guanajuato International Film Festival (Mexico)
Mads K. Mikkelsen: Head of Programme, Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival (Denmark)
Martina Droandi: Sales & Acquisitions, Outlook Filmsales (Austria)

Series Lab

June 2023–January 2024

The Series Lab is designed for screenwriters developing scripted series projects for all distribution platforms, including television, digital, and web. Participants receive essential scriptwriting tools and industry access to propel their projects and careers forward. The program provides emerging screenwriters and writer-directors from the region with the opportunity to complete a treatment or script for their pilot or first season, develop the general concept presentation of the project, hone their writing and pitching skills, and gain an understanding of the global series landscape and the entire series creation process.

Selected Projects

- **Gibran** – Grace Shalhoub (Lebanon)
- **All About Adam** – Mehdi Hmili (Tunisia)
- **Dyoun** – Salah Saadi (Palestine)
- **Hazawi** – Latifa Al-Darwish (Qatar)
- **Sands of Fire** – Ben Robinson & Abdulla Almulla (UK & Qatar)
- **Unfollowed** – Mais Salman and Jana Zeineddine (Jordan)
- **Warda and Waleed's 7 Day Sudanese Wedding** – Suzannah Mirghani (Sudan)
- **Wasta** – Nadia AlKhater & Fahad Alkhater (Qatar)



Mentors

Ryan O'nan: Lab Leader, TV Writer and Showrunner (USA)
Bassem Breche: Script Consultant (Lebanon)
Teresa Cavina: Script Consultant (Italy)
Neerja Narayanan: Creative Producer & Studio Executive (India)
Gabrielle Capolino: Industry Advisor (USA)
Frédéric Pittoors d'Haveskercke: International Production & Distribution Advisor (France)
Marc Lorber: International Coproduction Expert (United Kingdom)
Marika Muselaers: International Financing & Coproductions Expert (The Netherlands)
Paolo Ciccarelli: Project Coach (Italy)

Hezayah Screenwriting Lab

July 2023–January 2024

The Hezayah Screenwriting Lab assists emerging screenwriters and writer-directors in developing and writing an original feature-length screenplay. With the support of experienced mentors, participants engage in group sessions and one-on-one tutorials. The lab includes three online sessions of five-day workshops, taking place intermittently over six months.

Selected Participants

- **Hardships of Pearl Diving** – Nora Al-Subai (Qatar)
- **Sane Mother** – Zoljargal Purevdash (Mongolia)
- **Life of The Other Side Of The Sun** – Tapiwa Chipfupa (Zimbabwe)
- **Mathaf'75** – Firas Abou Fakher (Lebanon)
- **I'm Coming For You** – Cyrielle Raingou (Cameroon)
- **The Hakawati's Daughter** – Rana Kazkaz (Syria)

Mentors

Raja Amari: Script Consultant/Filmmaker
Ghassan Salhab: Script Consultant/Filmmaker
Matthieu Darras: Projects Coach



Screenwriting for Beginners' Lab (English)

10 – 14 August 2023

Taught remotely and offered in English, the Screenwriting for Beginners' Lab blends online lectures, assignments, and group discussions to provide a comprehensive understanding of screenwriting. As a beginner's lab, the aim is for participants to produce at least one scene for their screenplay. They also have the opportunity to continue their filmmaking journey with the DFI development team, working towards further education and grants.

Selected Participants

- Abdulrazak Mohamed, **Fish Filet** (Syria/Iraq/USA)
- Ahmed Abdalla, **Untitled** (Sudan)
- Ahmed Wael, **I Think I Was A Bad Dog Owner** (Egypt)
- Anwar Fayrouz, **Untitled** (Kuwait)
- Fatima Abuhaliqa, **Rabbat El Bait (Mothers That Built Us)** (Qatar)
- Fatima Ramzan, **Dear, You / Dear, Friend** (Pakistan)
- Kevser Salih, **101 Reasons** (Turkey)
- Lina Laraki, **Insolent Visions** (Morocco)

- Mayur Sawant, **Glad That Dream Didn't Come True** (India)
- Mohamed Hatem, **Untitled** (Egypt)
- Mohammad Hussein, **Untitled** (Palestine)
- Muntaha El-Mumin, **Untitled** (UK/Sudan)
- Noor Elbordaini, **Untitled** (Palestine Resident)
- Tamara Al Naama, **Untitled** (Qatar)
- Thabit Khamis, **Untitled** (Oman)

Mentors

Anthea Devotta
Amna Al-Binali



Podcast Lab

5 – 10 September 2023

The Podcast Lab equips participants with the knowledge, resources, and mentor support needed to develop their podcast projects both creatively—through story development and sound editing workshops—and strategically, with discussions on industry landscape, pitching, marketing, and project release. Participants learn the basics of audio storytelling and the art of creating and producing distinctive audio podcasts. Through hands-on experience in recording and editing, guided by industry experts, participants gain an enriched understanding of the global podcasting landscape, including tools, funding models, audience development, distribution, and success metrics.

Selected Participants

- **The Journey Home**
– Aimen Badawi (Sudan)
- **Al Ghus** – Muntaha El Mumin (Sudan)
- **Real** – Nada Al Saadi (Qatar)
- **ATYAF Podcast** – Rifqah Aljailani & Sarah Elmisbah (Sudan)
- **Zikreet Radio** – Usama Alony (Syria/Spain)

Lab Mentors:

Alexandra Blair: Lab Programme Producer
Al Shaibani: Podcast Producer, Kerning Cultures Network

Guest Speakers

Alex Atack: Journalist and Audio Producer
Kevin O’Connell: Audio Engineer/Producer
Ramsey Tesdell: CEO, Sowt Media
Marisa Dodge: Director of Production, Snap Judgment & Spooked

Producers Lab

24 – 29 October 2023

DFI’s Producers Lab provides an opportunity for local and MENA-based producers to enhance their skills with guidance from industry experts in a small, intimate group setting. The aim is to strengthen co-productions within the MENA region, expand networking opportunities, and improve the overall quality of projects developed in the region. This seven-day intensive program focuses on the creative, artistic, and strategic aspects of producing feature-length documentaries and fiction films. Participants engage in intensive training exercises, group tutorials, customised one-on-one meetings, and master classes led by industry experts to gain a deeper understanding of the producer’s role.

Selected Projects

- **Hamlet from The Slums** by Ahmed Fawzi Saleh. Producers: Ahmed Amer, Hadil Hassan (Egypt)
- **Finding the Way Home** by Zakaria Mohamed Ali. Producer: Ali Ben Mohammed (Somalia, Italy, Tunisia)
- **The Nightingale**
by Elias Suhail.
Producer: Arij Al-Soltan (Morocco, Iraq, UK)
- **Let’s Play Soldiers** by Mariam Al-Dhubhani. Producer: Mohammed Al-Jaberi (Yemen)
- **Girl of Wind** by Moufida Fedhila. Producer: Mehdi Himli (Tunisia)
- **Life on the Other Side** of The Sun by Tapiwa Chipfupa (Zimbabwe)
- **Solo** by Amine Boukhris. Producer: Philippe Djivas (Tunisia)
- Attending without a project: Jawaher AlMoawda (Qatar)

Mentors

Jovan Marjanović: Festival Director, Sarajevo Film Festival
Violeta Bava: Producer Lab Advisor
Dora Bouchoucha: Producer Expert
Konstantina Stavrianou: Post Production Expert
Jana Wehbe: Project Coach
Aranka Matits: Sales Expert
Hédi Zardi: Distribution Expert and Head of Atlas Workshops

Screenwriting for Beginners’ Lab (Arabic)

14 – 18 December 2023

The Screenwriting for Beginners’ Lab, taught remotely in Arabic, provides a solid foundation in screenwriting. Mentors cover the ‘architecture’ of screenplays, focusing on storytelling, screenplay guidelines, non-verbal storytelling, and characterisation, as well as the ‘formatting’ of a screenplay, including visual grammar and Celtx/Final Draft. The goal is for participants to produce at least one scene for their screenplay.

Selected Participants

- Rawia Bkhit (Sudan)
- Fatema Al Darii (Oman)
- Najla Al-Maadeed (Qatar)
- Esmail Zalat (Egypt)
- Youcef Yahia (Algeria)
- Layan Naser (Jordan)
- Susan Mayious (Syria)
- Mahmoud (Sharaf) Mohamed (Egypt)
- Haneen Ghaleb Abu Amer (Palestine)
- Heba El-Dessouky (Egypt)
- Ibrahim Salih (Sudan)
- Abha Al Abidi (Saudi Arabia)
- Ayeesha Starkey (Ireland)
- Nadine Nader (Egypt)
- Mehdi Smairy (Morocco)
- Abdulrahman Al-Mana (Qatar)

Mentor

Ayman El Amir





Launching Careers Through Hands-On Internships

Nurturing Cinematic Ambitions

Throughout 2023, DFI's internship program provided 39 passionate and aspiring filmmakers with the opportunities they need to pursue careers in the film and television industry.

Our internship programme often serves as a springboard for future careers, with many of our past interns securing positions at leading production houses in Qatar, including Resolution Films, The Edge Picture Company, and The Film House.



Production

Championing Cinematic Innovation

Doha Film Institute's Production Department enhances the film industry in Qatar by providing comprehensive production solutions and services. We support our projects while meeting the filming and editing needs of local filmmakers, businesses, government bodies, and NGOs.

Committed to producing content that meets the highest international standards, DFI Productions also strives to incorporate education and training opportunities for local aspiring filmmakers. As we evolve to embrace the latest advancements in film production, exciting new educational and capacity-building initiatives are on the horizon for 2024 / 2025.

Youth Programmes

Shaping Future Storytellers

Doha Film Institute's year-round Youth Programmes are crafted to empower and equip young people with the skills and confidence to create films on topics that matter to them. We guide our budding filmmakers as they take their initial steps into the world of film production—encouraging fun and creativity while they tell their unique stories.

We also promote a meaningful appreciation of cinema as an art form through dynamic discussions about films, giving young people the opportunity to articulate the changes they want to see in their lives, their community, and the world.

Animation Workshop

2-13 May 2023

This workshop for 13 to 17 years old offers a presentation of short illustrated animated films, theoretical discussions of animation, and practical exercises. Participants produce short animation films, allowing them to explore their creativity and storytelling skills through the medium of animation.

Mentor
Fadi Syriani

Filmmaking Challenge

In Partnership with the Ministry of Public Health
1 May - 4 June 2023

Inspired by themes and topics from the Ministry of Health, this challenge introduced first-time filmmakers to the various elements of short filmmaking within a competitive framework. Participants were inspired and challenged to create their first short film, gaining valuable experience and insights into the filmmaking process.

Mentor
Corine Shawi

Giffoni Film Festival

20-29 July 2023

Six Ajyal Jurors were selected to participate in the 53rd edition of the Giffoni Film Festival, providing them with a unique opportunity to engage with international peers and share their culture.

Selected Jurors

- Generator +18: Saeed Al Kuwati, Fares Dehbi
- Generator +13: Natalie Salha, Teeba Al Taji, Mohamed Al Sidiqqi, Mohamed Al Kuwari

Youth Film Programming

Screening as part of DFI@VOX
29 September 2023

Our first youth screening featured 'Dounia and the Princess of Aleppo' by Maria Zarif and André Kad—a film that encouraged young viewers to reflect on important issues and engage in meaningful discussions, furthering their appreciation of cinema as an art form.

Qumra

Empowering Filmmakers in the Arab World and Beyond

March 2023

Over its past nine editions— Qumra has crafted a diverse and inspiring legacy, supporting films by emerging filmmakers from the Arab world and beyond, many of which have garnered global accolades.

Expanding on DFI's support mechanisms, Qumra offers more than financial assistance, providing a comprehensive and meaningful level of support. It has earned a reputation as a one-of-a-kind film event in the Arab region, focusing on first and second-time filmmakers and creating valuable opportunities for their growth.

The event connects leading film professionals with emerging talent, fostering interactions, exchanges, and networking opportunities. Qumra plays a pivotal role as an industry catalyst, helping to create significant and impactful films.



Qumra Projects

In 2023, twenty-six feature-length, seven series, and eleven short film projects at various stages of production were selected to benefit from the experience of the Qumra Masters, as well as bespoke mentorship and business meetings with international experts.

44



projects from 23 countries

26



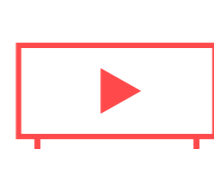
Features

11



Shorts

7



Series

Meet the Masters



This year's Qumra Masters were legendary figures in filmmaking who kindly shared their experiences with filmmakers and industry experts. Between them, they have helped create some of the most critically acclaimed examples of contemporary cinema and offered their invaluable advice and experience through a series of thought-provoking and inspirational Master Classes.

- Multi Academy Award® and BAFTA-winning British playwright, screenwriter, and director Sir Christopher Hampton
- Theatre, film and TV veteran Academy Award® winning producer David Parfitt
- Visionary costume designer and four Academy Award® nominee Jacqueline West
- Cannes award veteran Scottish filmmaker Lynne Ramsay
- Winner of the Golden Berlin Bear and Silver Berlin Bear Awards, critically acclaimed British filmmaker Michael Winterbottom



“Many film festivals have specific priorities and gaining an understanding of what is relevant and cutting edge in cinema is important to me as a filmmaker as we want to create a film that is original and fresh. We are making our own films, we are making our own content, and we are writing our own stories”

-Nadia Al-Khater, 'Continuity'.

“The Doha Film Institute is like family to me, and I have been participating in several workshops over the past six years. Their support has opened my eyes to many aspects regarding filmmaking, such as grants and connecting to organisations that help directors develop their craft. I believe that the work done by the institutes is a crucial resource for filmmakers from across the world. And Qumra is important for young talent as it provides mentors who could help in film funding as well as the entire processes in filmmaking”

- Eiman Mirghani, 'Villa 187'.

“DFI's support is crucial to us to emerge and thrive, and Qumra is an important platform for me to develop and pursue my career in filmmaking”

- Alessandra El Chanti, 'This I Remember'.

“When a very credible organisation like DFI steps in to support you, it makes it easier for others to follow. That is the beauty of what they do. They open doors for filmmakers like us”

- Laila Abbas, 'Thank You for Banking with Us!'.

“Qumra not only helps filmmakers in gaining feedback on your script as well as opens opportunities for financing and production support, but also helps in developing connections. We are creating a hub and a family; even though I reside in America, I can always connect with them”

- Karim Emara, 'Holy Feet'.



Qumra Industry

Qumra 2023 welcomed more than 120 acclaimed filmmakers, industry professionals and experts to nurture the 44 Qumra Projects by first and second-time filmmakers. Several of them have formed strong bonds with the annual event, which has become a unique and important platform and project incubator for new voices and compelling stories in Arab and world cinema.

The guests this year included acclaimed film directors, producers, film festival directors, programmers, consultants, fund managers, sales professionals, acquisition heads, script experts, distributors, video-on-demand (VoD) platforms and broadcasters, and other industry professionals.

Global Industry Leaders Converge at Qumra

Qumra 2023 brought together an impressive array of film festival representatives and industry professionals from around the world. Representatives from more than 35 leading film festivals, including Berlinale, Venice, Cannes, Locarno, Tribeca, Toronto, Sarajevo, Sundance, and Karlovy Vary, participated in work-in-progress feedback panels for projects in post-production and industry roundtables.

Streaming and broadcasting representatives from major platforms such as Mubi, HBO Max, Hulu (Disney), Paramount International, Under the Milky Way, STARZPLAY, Shahid, and TRT, as well as Qatar-based organizations like Al Jazeera Media Network, Katara Studios, Qatar TV, Al Araby TV, and The Film House, were also in attendance. This diverse gathering of professionals facilitated invaluable exchanges, fostering creative collaborations and enhancing the support network for emerging filmmakers.

“I met very special people with whom I had the great joy to brainstorm and exchange creatively. I am grateful for what Doha Film Institute is doing for all filmmakers. Keep up the great work and I’ll be ready to help always”
- Muriel Abou Rouss, Home of Cine-Jam.

“Your event has always been so strong in its curation, and it’s become a very important hub for many of us over the years”
- Matthew Takata, Sundance Film Institute.

“I also would like to thank you for the invitation, for your generous hospitality and the opportunity to see what is happening cinematographically in the region and to share and gain more experience. It’s always very interesting and enriching”
- Teresa Hoefert de Turegano, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg.

“I’ve attended dozens of film markets, pitches labs and forums, and you can trust me when I say that yours is one of the best content curations that I’ve had the opportunity to see. It’s overwhelming the amount of talent that was present on those pitches, and for sure it shows the big opportunities that that wide region offers to streamers, tv channels and producers. I’m sure most of those authors will be well known names in the near future”
- Tomás Silberman, Paramount.

“Thank you for having me at this year’s Qumra. It is always a pleasure to take part, and as always, thank you for the very professional organisation. All my best”
- Krisztina Gallo, Sony Pictures Television Network.

“Qumra was one of the most wonderful and memorable experiences I have ever had! And the hard work and care you put into it, made all the difference! I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for surrounding us with so much attention and care! Everyone was so nice and helpful, I made so many great memories and new friends! It was truly amazing!”
- Ovsanna Gevorgyan, Columbia.

“The selection of projects is just remarkable—beautiful works that I don’t typically have access to. My meetings were really fruitful. Thank you!”
- Elizabeth Radshaw, Hot Docs.

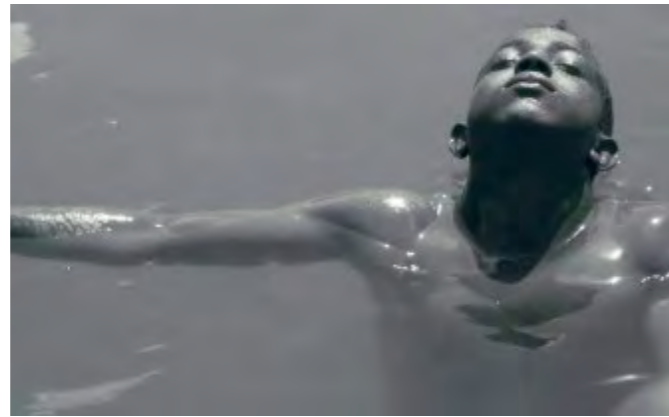
“The diversity in the projects/subjects, diverse styles of filmmaking, the motivation of directors and producers, they were all so good and inspiring for the future of the industry. Also, the organization, the well-thought program, the efficient Master Classes, they were all great. We are very glad to be part of the DFI family and hope to continue our collaboration in the future”
- Esra Demirkiran, TRT.

Qumra Screenings

The programme for 2023 was a true celebration of the art form, offering insights into different cultures, experiences, and visions that enrich our understanding of the world. Each supported by the Doha Film Institute, these screenings highlighted the Institute's role in championing cinema and reflected our commitment to fostering a dialogue between cultures.



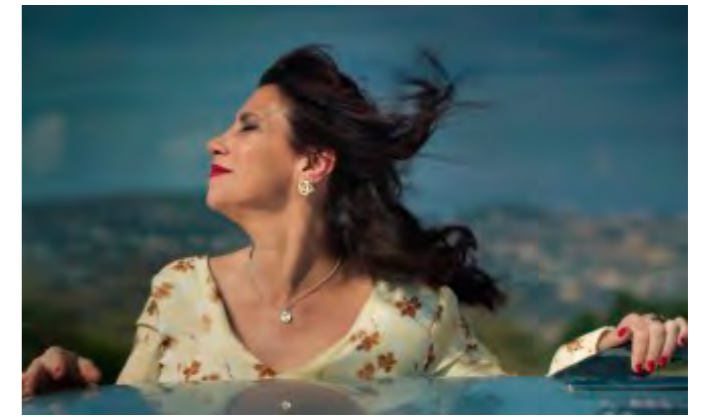
The Dam
Ali Cherri



Faya Dayi
Jessica Beshir



Memoria
Apichatpong Weerasethakul



Riverbed
Bassem Breche



The Last Queen
Adila Bendimerad, Damien Ounouri



Mediterranean Fever
Maha Haj



Tug of War
Amil Shivji



Under the Fig Trees
Erige Sehiri

Expanding Qumra's Reach through Strategic Media Engagement

Qumra 2023 showcased an impressive global presence and reach, achieved through meticulous media and PR strategies. This year, the event's widespread coverage and high engagement levels highlighted its growing significance on the international film stage. The following figures underscore Qumra's extensive impact and influence, reflecting its ability to connect with a diverse global audience and strengthen its position as a pivotal platform for filmmakers.



16 press releases disseminated



7 press briefings



A total PR reach of 89,021,463
equivalent to QAR 11,796,950
in paid advertising coverage



176,544 website visitors



131,000 social media
video views



Transforming the Narrative

Initially scheduled for November 8-16, 2023, the 11th edition of the Ajyal Film Festival was set to continue its legacy of celebrating film, art, and culture. Over the years, Ajyal has become a cornerstone event for the Doha Film Institute (DFI), known for bringing together diverse voices and fostering a vibrant community of filmmakers, artists, and audiences.

This year's festival was poised to feature an array of film screenings, workshops, and interactive events, aiming to inspire and educate attendees while highlighting the transformative power of cinema.

A Shift in Focus: From Ajyal to Voices from Palestine

As the date approached, DFI made a significant and heartfelt decision to cancel the Ajyal Film Festival. This was a powerful act of solidarity with the Palestinian community, driven by the ongoing humanitarian crisis and the devastating loss of innocent lives in Palestine.

Instead, DFI chose a poignant repositioning with the launch of "Voices from Palestine: A Film Series," held from November 2 to 9, 2023. This initiative aimed to amplify Palestinian narratives and provide a platform for Palestinian filmmakers to share their stories with a global audience. The series underscored the DFI's commitment to supporting underrepresented voices and ensuring that Palestinian stories, struggles, and resilience were authentically represented and widely heard.

Empowering and Amplifying Palestinian Filmmakers

The "Voices from Palestine" series showcased a selection of films that depicted various facets of Palestinian life and history. These films, created by talented Palestinian filmmakers, offered audiences a deep and nuanced understanding of the Palestinian experience. The screenings took place at Katara Building 16, Drama Theatre, each followed by discussions that allowed for further engagement and reflection.

The Time That Remains - Elia Suleiman

- A semi-autobiographical film tracing the history of Palestine from 1948 to the present through the lens of Suleiman's family.

My Love Awaits Me by the Sea - Mais Darwazah

- A poetic journey through memory and loss, exploring themes of love and hope amidst the turmoil of Palestine.

Divine Intervention - Elia Suleiman

- A compellingly layered film blending reality and absurdity to depict life under occupation.

3000 Nights - Mai Masri

- A poignant narrative about a Palestinian woman giving birth in an Israeli prison and raising her son behind bars.

The Roof - Kamal Aljafari

- A documentary exploring the filmmaker's family's lives under occupation, portraying the enduring spirit of the Palestinian people.

Dégradé - Arab Nasser and Tarzan Nasser

- A gripping drama set in a Gaza beauty salon, reflecting the tensions and struggles of life in the besieged territory.

Little Palestine: Diary of a Siege - Abdallah Al Khatib

- A documentary capturing the harsh realities of life in the Yarmouk refugee camp during the Syrian conflict.

200 Meters - Ameen Nayfeh

- A touching story about a Palestinian father who must cross the separation wall to reach his hospitalized son, illustrating the physical and emotional barriers imposed by occupation.

Wajib - Annemarie Jacir

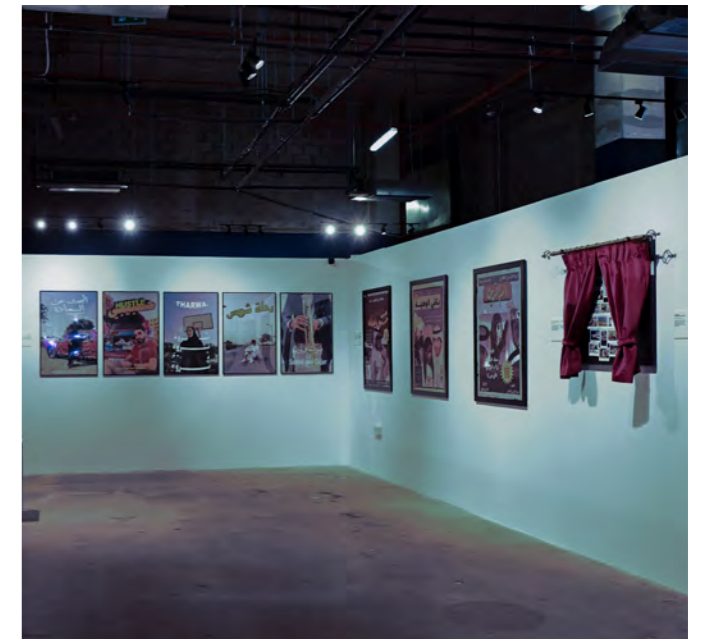
- A drama about a father and son navigating familial and societal expectations in Nazareth.

Standing in Solidarity Through Cinema

The timely transition from Ajyal 2023 to “Voices from Palestine” demonstrated DFI’s deep empathy and unwavering support for the Palestinian cause. By turning the focus towards Palestinian filmmakers and their compelling narratives, DFI not only honoured its commitment to social justice and cultural representation but also highlighted the enduring power of cinema to advocate for change and solidarity.



INTAJ 2023



Historic Highlights from Arab Cinema's Rich Legacy

In 2023, DFI proudly presented Intaj 2023: Arab World's Cinema, a comprehensive multimedia exhibition held from 10 November 2023 to 10 February 2024 at Sikkat Wadi Msheireb. This exhibition paid homage to the founders and pioneers of Arab cinema and showcased the rich and diverse history of the industry across the region.



Pioneers and Visionaries —The Evolution of Arab Film

Intaj 2023 aimed to illuminate the complex tapestry of stories woven by Arab filmmakers, from the early 20th century to the present day. It chronicled the contributions of early pioneers like The Lama Brothers, Al Taher Hannash, Togo Mizrahi, and Albert Samama-Chikli from Palestine, Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria, and highlighted the transformative period between the 1940s and the 1970s.

The exhibition also featured the innovative and experimental approaches of contemporary Arab filmmakers who are reshaping the narrative and challenging stereotypes. By doing so, Intaj 2023 underscored DFI's commitment to authentic representation and the empowerment of independent voices from the Arab world.



Local Artistic Contributions

The event included multimedia works by 12 local Qatari artists: Noor Al Tamimi, Belal Khaled, Amira El Namla, Mohammed Al Hamadi, Kaltham Al Fakhroo, Hayan Monawar, Aya Battiri, Noora Al Saei, Nasser Al Kubaisi, Noor Al Nasr, Hanof Ahmed, and Arman Al Mansouri. These artists contributed pieces that reflect Qatar's cultural richness and creative spirit.





Bridging Cultures—Public Engagement at Intaj 2023

The exhibition provided a contemplative space for visitors to explore the historical and current state of Arab cinema. It offered a range of activities, including industry talks, film screenings centred around Palestine, and a curated selection of timeless classics from the top 100 Arab films of all time. These elements combined to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Arab cinematic heritage among attendees.



Preserving History—The Significance of Intaj 2023

Intaj 2023 stood as a testament to DFI's dedication to preserving and supporting Arab cinema's rich history and dynamic future. Through this exhibition, DFI reinforced its role in promoting cultural understanding and cross-cultural dialogue, contributing to the vibrant and evolving narrative of Arab cinema on the global stage.



Geekend 2023

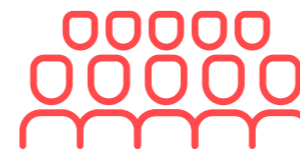


Fostering Creativity and Community

In 2023, Geekend continued to solidify its role as a cornerstone for Qatar's creative community, offering three events in March, June, and September. Held at the dedicated Geekdom Building on Lusail Boulevard, these gatherings were designed to inspire, connect, and empower creatives across various disciplines.

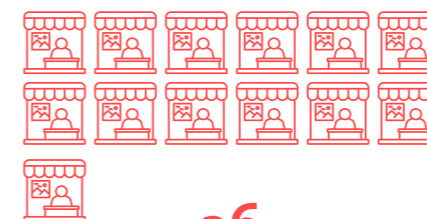
Geekend March

16 - 18 March 2023



2,530

Visitors

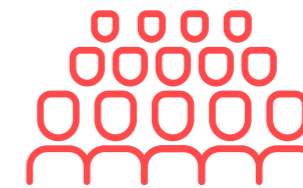


26

Exhibitors

Geekend June

15 - 17 June 2023



2,777

Visitors

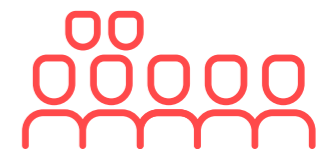


23

Exhibitors

Geekend September

15 - 16 September 2023



1,685

Visitors



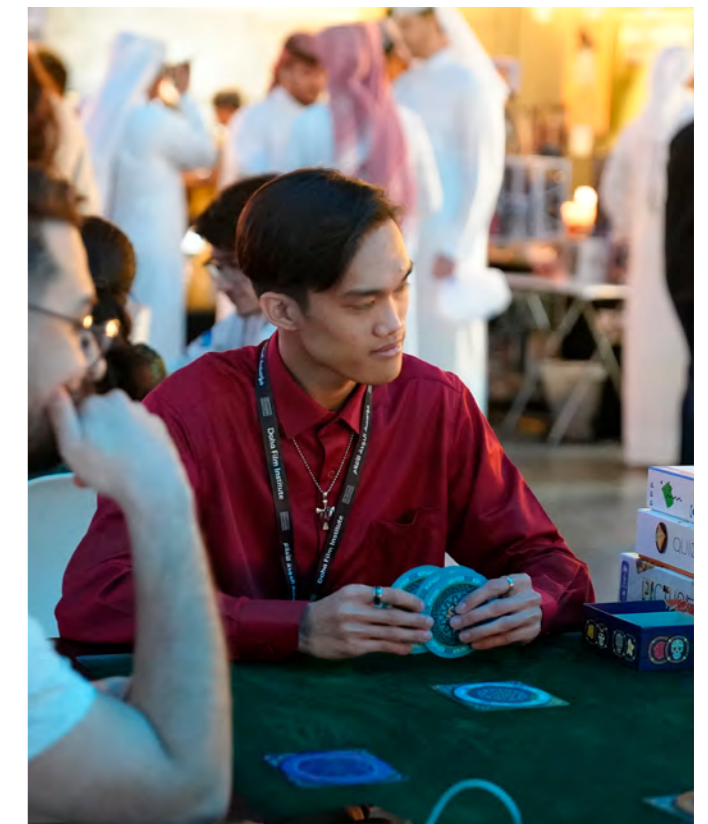
A Convergence of Art, Innovation, and Collaboration

Throughout the year, Geekend provided a vibrant platform for artists, gamers, filmmakers, and enthusiasts to come together, share their passions, and engage in meaningful cultural exchanges. Each event offered a mix of activities that encouraged creative expression, from markets showcasing local talent to interactive workshops and competitions that highlighted both artistic and technical skills.

Geekend's diverse programming underscored its commitment to fostering a collaborative environment where creativity could flourish. Whether through gaming tournaments, film screenings, or hands-on experiences, Geekend 2023 not only entertained but also educated, offering participants the tools and inspiration needed to push their creative boundaries.

Nurturing Talent and Cultural Connections

As Geekend continues to evolve, it remains a vital part of Qatar's cultural landscape, nurturing the next generation of creative talent and building a stronger, more connected community. The events of 2023 exemplified Geekend's ongoing dedication to supporting the arts and empowering creatives to make meaningful contributions to both local and global cultural conversations.

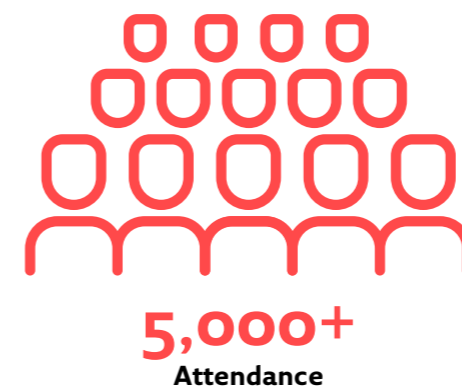


Film Screenings

A Cinematic Celebration of Culture

DFI prides itself on curating an extensive and diverse cultural experience through the films we screen. Our goal is to offer a compelling cinematic experience to the people of Qatar, fostering a deeper appreciation for the art of film and storytelling.

In 2023, we delivered a rich selection of new releases, timeless classics, retrospectives, and thematically organized films tailored for varied audiences. With over 60 screenings and an attendance surpassing 5,000, our film programming was a testament to the power of cinema to educate, inspire, and entertain.



The Best of Independent Cinema with DFI at VOX

In 2023, the Doha Film Institute continued its successful collaboration with VOX Cinemas Qatar to bring an array of critically acclaimed independent films to local audiences. This partnership aims to showcase the latest in independent cinema, providing an increasingly popular platform for unique and compelling storytelling from around the world.

This year's award-winning titles included the Cannes Jury favourite 'EO' by Jerzy Skolimowski and BAFTA-winning 'Scrapper' by Charlotte Regan.





Director, Editor, Pioneer: A Moufida Tlatli Film Series

Museum of Islamic Art Auditorium
2-5 June

A celebration of pioneering director and editor Moufida Tlatli, one of the first female filmmakers from the Arab world to achieve worldwide acclaim. The series showcased her groundbreaking work that paved the way for Arab feminist and independent cinema.

- **Wanderers of the Desert** (1984) by Nacer Khemir
- **The Silences of the Palace** (1994) by Moufida Tlatli
- **The Season of Men** (2000) by Moufida Tlatli
- **Fertile Memory** (1981) by Michel Khleifi



Stories of Strength

Museum of Islamic Art Auditorium
20 June

In partnership with UNHCR, this film series celebrated the resilience, strength, and courage of refugees around the world. The screenings honor the spirit of refugees, highlighting their dreams of safety, peace, and a brighter future.

- **Hope** (2023) by Mohammad Shaikhow
- **Just Another Memory** (2023) by Mariam Al-Dhubhani
- **Rest In Piece** (2023) by Antoine Antabi

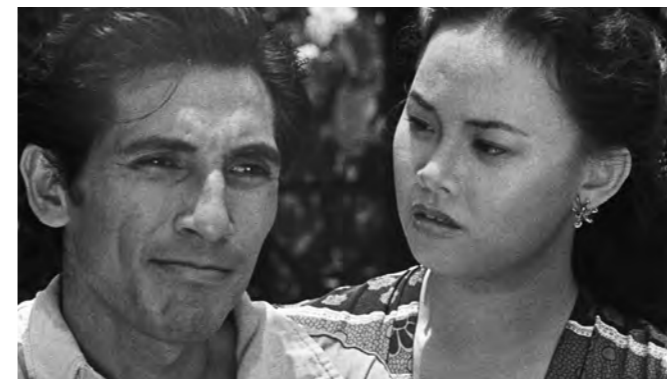


Indie Indonesia

Museum of Islamic Art Auditorium
31 August - 2 September

A summer film series showcasing three films by emerging and established Indonesian filmmakers, bridging the divide between commercial and independent cinema. Part of the Qatar-Indonesia 2023 Year of Culture, this series deepened understanding through mutual exchanges of arts, culture, heritage, and sports.

- **Before, Now & Then** (2022) by Kamila Andini
- **Galang** (2022) by Adriyanto Dewo
- **Mecca, I'm Coming** (2022) by Jaihan Angga



Indonesia Through the Lens

Museum of Islamic Art Auditorium
7-12 December

A curated film series in partnership with Qatar Museums, Madani and Jogja Netpac Film Festival, and the Indonesian Embassy in Qatar, showcased diverse and compelling stories from Indonesia to further celebrate the Qatar-Indonesia 2023 Year of Culture.

- **After The Curfew** (1954) by Usmar Ismail
- **Nussa** (2021) by Bony Wirasmono
- **What's With Love?** (2002) by Rudy Soedjarwo
- **Filosofi Kopi** (2015) by Angga Dwimas Sasongko



Indonesian Shorts Programme

A compelling showcase of six short films from Indonesia, in partnership with Minikino Film Festival—each exploring unique but relatable aspects of our shared human experience.

- **Remembering The Serenade** (2022)
- **Chintya** (2019)
- **I Saw a Ghost, And It Was Beautiful** (2022)
- **Kid Terminator** (2022)
- **Sunrise in the Forest** (2019)
- **Uniform** (2020)
- **Aruna & Her Palate** (2018)
- **Ininnawa: An Island Calling** (2023)
- **The Seen and Unseen** (2017)

Funding



Empowering Authentic Narratives Through Strategic Funding

DFI is dedicated to nurturing and empowering creative projects with a strong regional connection. Our mission is to foster a diverse array of original films that contribute to a more balanced global storytelling landscape.

Our funding initiatives are designed to support the creation of original and compelling film content. We enable emerging, talented filmmakers from around the world to transform their promising ideas into viable film projects.

Through our Grants Programme, Qatari Film Fund, and Co-Finance, we channel funding into selected projects, ensuring they have the resources needed to succeed.

Grants

Offering Creative, Financial and Logistical Support to Promising Filmmakers.

Our Grants Programme aims to discover and empower rising talent among first- and second-time filmmakers from Qatar, the wider Arab region, and beyond. By funding their productions, we facilitate the exchange of creativity, knowledge, and professional collaboration among filmmakers.

DFI provides opportunities for grantees to interact, connect, evaluate, and grow through events such as Qumra and Ajyal. We ensure that the exposure and experiences gained are utilized as a springboard to international festivals, capturing global audiences.

In response to evolving industry trends and growing audience engagement with new technologies, DFI also funds television and web series projects.



Empowering Filmmakers Worldwide: DFI's Reach and Influence

72 projects granted in 2023:



Stages of Development



17 in development

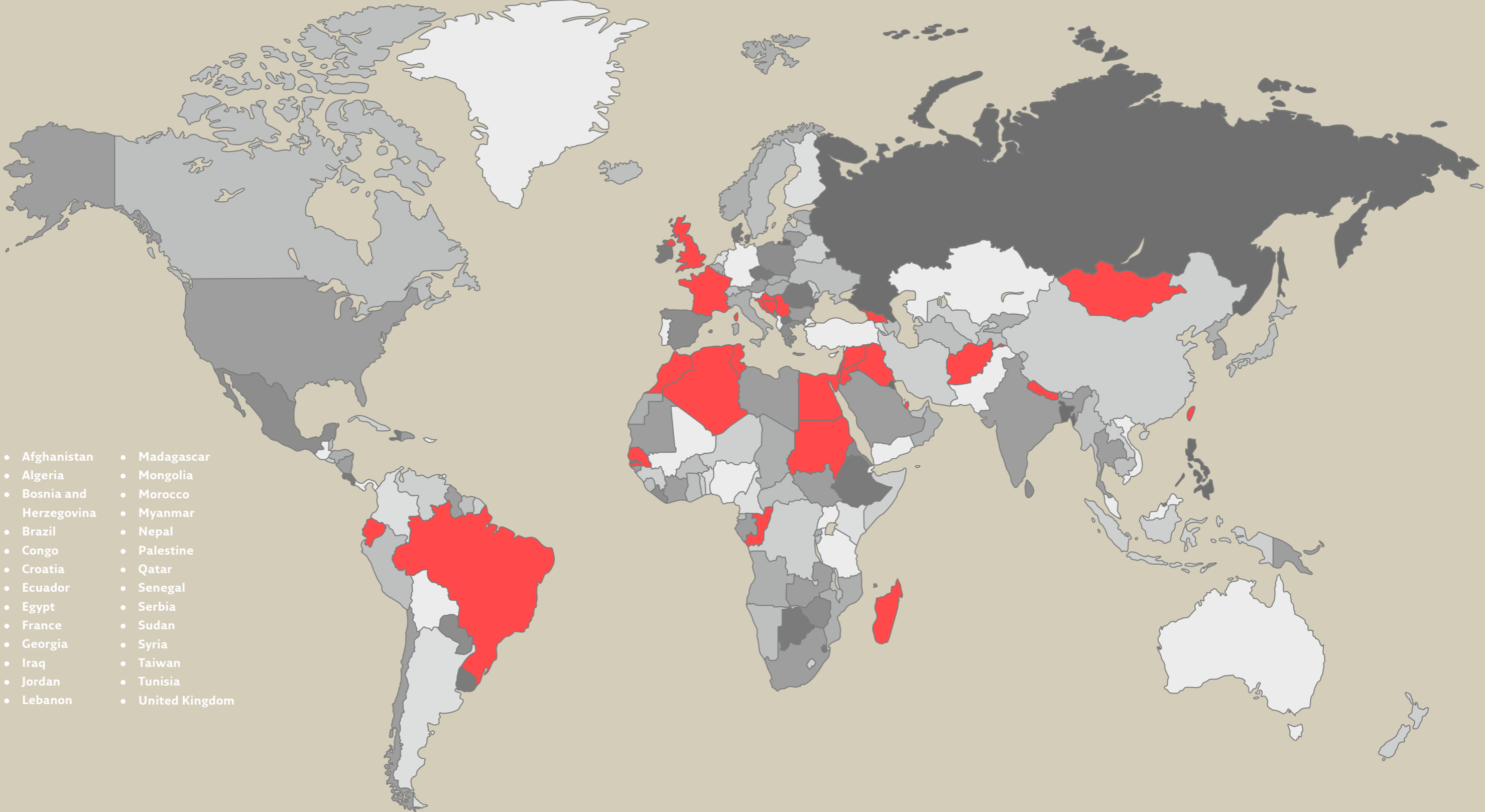


30 in production



27 post-production

27 Countries supported in 2023



- Afghanistan
- Algeria
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Brazil
- Congo
- Croatia
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- France
- Georgia
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Madagascar
- Mongolia
- Morocco
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Palestine
- Qatar
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Sudan
- Syria
- Taiwan
- Tunisia
- United Kingdom

Celebrating Cinematic Excellence—DFI Films Shine at International Festivals

	Awards	Selections
Academy Awards®	-	14 (Submissions)
Cannes Film Festival	9	13
Berlin Film Festival	-	4
Toronto International Film Festival	-	7
Sundance Film Festival	1	2
Sarajevo Film Festival	1	8
Venice International Film Festival	2	5
Total Selections (All Festivals)	200+	
Total Awards (All Festivals)	25+	

Cultivating Local Talent Through the Qatari Film Fund


5 QFF Films In Development


2 QFF Films Completed

The Qatari Film Fund (QFF) plays a crucial role in developing and elevating local talent by providing support and enhancing the knowledge and skills of Qatari filmmakers. QFF finances up to eight short films annually, offering development and production support.

QFF also supports up to four feature films each year. Since its inception in 2015, QFF has exceeded expectations, fostering a vibrant community of talented local filmmakers who are making their mark on the global stage.

Community Outreach

DFI's Community Outreach Department is dedicated to identifying key opportunities and talents, both locally and internationally, to foster the growth of Qatar's filmmaking community.

Our outreach initiatives make it easy for the public to engage with and participate in this dynamic industry. By representing and showcasing DFI as the leading film institute in the region, we strive to improve engagement with external organisations and maximise local opportunities.

Inclusivity in Action—Building Qatar's Film Community

DFI and its Outreach department are committed to serving Qatar's diverse communities, ensuring that every member has the opportunity to engage with and benefit from our initiatives. We aim to spread awareness of DFI's offerings to attract the filmmakers of tomorrow and engage film lovers of all backgrounds and ages.

Our outreach is structured into two distinct sections:

- Public and Organisational Community Outreach
- Filmmaking Community Outreach

Voices from Palestine—A Community-Driven Success

The Outreach department played a pivotal role in the success of DFI's Voices from Palestine programme. By engaging with prominent members of the creative community through invitations and awareness campaigns, we ensured impactful participation and support.

Shaping Tomorrow's Filmmakers

—DFI's Educational Initiatives

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, DFI is dedicated to nurturing film appreciation among Qatari students. Through special events with both government and private educational institutes, we aim to inspire and cultivate the next generation of filmmakers.



Our Heartfelt Thanks to Our Partners...

As we reflect on a year of remarkable achievements and growth amidst the backdrop of the tragic events in Palestine, the Doha Film Institute extends our sincerest gratitude to you—our partners, sponsors, and supporters.

Your unwavering commitment and generous contributions have been instrumental in advancing our mission to empower filmmakers and enrich the cultural landscape of Qatar and beyond, even in these challenging times.

Together, we have fostered creativity, nurtured talent, and inspired a resilient film community. We look forward to continuing this journey with you, united in our shared vision for a brighter, more hopeful future. Thank you for being an integral part of our success in 2023.

