

## 7<sup>th</sup> Ajyal Film Festival Welcomes Over 450 Jurors from 45 Countries to Qatar

**Doha, Qatar; 17 November 2019:** The seventh edition of the Ajyal Film Festival, presented by the Doha Film Institute (DFI), celebrated its official Jury Opening event at the Katara Cultural Village on 17 November. Over 450 jurors from 45 countries are part of the internationally acclaimed jury programme to view, discuss and evaluate the films showcased at the festival and discover cinema as a medium of global positive change.

Addressing the assembled jurors, HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Chairperson of the Doha Film Institute, said: “Ajyal is more than just films. It is a journey that will stay with you forever - the people you meet and the things you see will not end with the festival, but in fact encourage you to continue to carry forward the spirit of what you learn over the next six days. Qatar’s film industry will rise with our youth, so I encourage you to rise to this occasion and take this opportunity to learn together and become part of a global movement of youth that are making a difference.”

Fatma Hassan Alremaihi, Chief Executive Officer of DFI and Festival Director, said: “We are proud to welcome new young faces to this year’s Ajyal Jury programme. Over the next few days, our jurors will be part of an inspiring journey of learning and building community, while they explore new horizons of creative and cultural understanding through the powerful medium of film. I look forward to hearing the stories of new inspiration and awareness that you will discover on the big screen and in each other.”

The Ajyal 2019 jury competition line-up consists of 15 feature films and a series of short programmes, which will be reviewed by over 400 jurors from 45 nationalities including 48 international jurors who have travelled to Doha for the event from Armenia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Italy, Iraq, India, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mozambique, Oman, Palestine, Turkey, Tunisia and the United Kingdom.

Each jury category - Mohaq (ages 8-12), Hilal (ages 13-17) and Bader (ages 18-21) - will watch a carefully curated selection of films, discuss them collectively and with industry experts, evaluate the individual creative and emotional impact of these films, and participate in events including panels, workshops and Q&A sessions with filmmakers.

Tickets for the 7th Ajyal Film Festival are available for purchase at the Ajyal Main Box Office located in Katara Building 10; at the Ajyal Box Office at VOX Cinemas Doha Festival City for screenings taking place at VOX Cinemas; and from the Novo Cinemas Box Office for screenings at Novo Cinemas, the Pearl. For ticket purchase and up-to-date information on the Ajyal Film Festival, please visit:

<https://www.dohafilminstitute.com/filmfestival/ticketinformation>

<https://www.dohafilminstitute.com/filmfestival/films>

**مؤسسة الدوحة للأفلام**

**DOHA FILM INSTITUTE**

2019 Ajyal Film Festival's Official Partners include: **Katara Cultural Village** – Cultural Partner; **Qatar National Tourism Council** – Principal Partner; **Novo Cinemas, Ooredoo** – Strategic Partner, **St. Regis Doha** – Signature Partner.

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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 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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