



Photo Caption

Hany Abu-Assad and 'The Idol' hero Mohammed Assaf inspire Ajyal's young jurors

Doha, Qatar; November 30, 2015: On the second day of the third Ajyal Youth Film Festival, presented by the Doha Film Institute, the young jurors of the festival had the opportunity to interact with Academy Award nominated director Hany Abu-Assad and the 'Arab Idol' champion Mohammed Assaf.

This followed the festival's opening gala of *The Idol* (Palestine, UK, Qatar, The Netherlands; 2015) by Hany Abu-Assad, which charts the story of Assaf. Young jurors of Hilal, and Bader, two of the three in-competition segments at the Ajyal Youth Film Festival, interacted with Abu-Assad and Assaf, probing them on the film and their views on cinema.

Urging them to work hard, Abu-Assad said the success of any film depends on a well-written story, good acting, strong technical detailing and treating the movie with a humanitarian perspective. He told the jurors that *The Idol* is an inspirational story of hope and optimism, and while it reflects the suffering of thousands of Palestinians, it also shows that they have the right to accomplish their dream of living peacefully and fulfilling their aspirations.

Responding to the request of the jurors, Assaf sang a traditional Arabic song that was received standing applause. The young jurors also had a photo opportunity with Assaf and Hany Abu-Assad.

For more information on the movie timings and the Ajyal Youth Film Festival, log onto www.dohafilminstitute.com.

-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.

Doha Film Institute

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

Press Enquiries:

Menna Gomaa

Communications Associate

+974/55073325

mgomaa@dohafilminstitute.com

MENA Press Enquiries:

Abbas Moussa / Aileen Andojar

ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller

+974 4423 9222

Abbas.moussa@bm.com / aileen.andojar@bm.com