

Qumra 2018 to host over 150 international film experts

Industry professionals from over 32 nations gather in Doha to support the development of 34 projects through mentoring sessions, workshops and tutorials

Doha, Qatar; February 22, 2018: Qumra 2018, presented by the Doha Film Institute, will be held March 9 to 14, 2018, hosting more than 150 international film industry experts who will mentor 34 Qumra projects, mostly helmed by first- and second-time filmmakers.

Along with the Qumra Masters, the six-day event will welcome accomplished 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. Several of them have formed strong bonds to 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.

2018 Qumra industry delegates includes representation from more than 15 leading international film festivals, and executives from some of the world's leading film production companies, sales and distribution companies, and cultural and funding agencies

International delegates come from countries ranging from Argentina to Singapore, Sweden to South Africa and the UK to the US. Among the attendees from the region are delegates from Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

The Qumra industry programme focuses on 34 projects from 25 countries at various stages of development. The sessions are presented in two strands: tutorials, workshops, consultations and one-on-one meetings for projects still in development; and a series of works-in-progress screenings and feedback sessions for projects in post-production. Qumra covers the script-to-screen journey and beyond, and with the inclusion of VoD and online platforms, filmmakers can look beyond conventional platforms to take their projects to a wider audience.

Fatma Al Remaihi, Chief Executive Officer of the Doha Film Institute, said: "In the fourth edition of Qumra, we continue to see remarkable participation from the world's leading film industry professionals that generously contribute to the growth of the film industry in Qatar and the region. This is an incredible opportunity for emerging filmmakers to not only have the guidance of legendary names in cinema nurture their projects, but also to gain access to international industry experts who will help them navigate the full life cycle of their projects."

She added: "Through the last three editions of Qumra, we have seen many of the selected projects go on to win international critical and award acclaim. As we prepare for Qumra 2018, we are confident that the wisdom and experience of this year's accomplished contributors will provide invaluable tools to a new generation of filmmakers."

Among the leading names attending Qumra are: Movie producer Wendi Deng Murdoch, CEO of Radical Media Jon Kamen; Funa Maduka, Content Acquisition - Global Independent Feature Films & Documentaries at Netflix; Bobby Allen, Vice President - Content of MUBI; filmmaker-mentors Ghassan

Salhab, Annemarie Jacir, Kaouther Ben Hania and Tala Hadid; Mark Adams, Artistic Director of Edinburgh Film Festival; Cameron Bailey, Artistic Director of Toronto International Film Festival; Paul Federbush, International Director, Feature Film Program at the Sundance Film Institute; Mirsad Purivatra, Festival Director of Sarajevo Film Festival; Joana Vicente, Executive Director of Independent Filmmaker Project; Christophe Leparc, Managing Director of the Directors Fortnight of the Cannes Film Festival; Cara Cusumano, Director of Programming of Tribeca Film Festival and Bero Beyer, Festival Director of Rotterdam, among others.

There is a strong representation of film festivals, film consultants, film institutes, film funds, distributors and sales agents such as: Locarno Film Festival, Venice Film Festival/Final Cut, Hot Docs, IDFA, FID Marseille, Busan International Film Festival, Malmo Arab Film Festival, CNC Aide aux Cinemas du Monde, Eurimages Fund, Luxembourg Film Fund, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, Doc and Film International, Memento International, MAMI Mumbai Film Festival, Seville International, The Match Factory, Metropolis Art Cinema, Tribeca Film Institute, Torino Film Lab, Sundance Film Institute, The Royal Film Commission – Jordan, and Venice Biennale, among other industry leaders.

Qatar-based organisations include teams from beIN SPORTS, Qatar TV, Al Jazeera Media Network along with over 120 Qatar-based film, production, media and entertainment delegates who will also participate in the programme.

This year's Qumra Masters are: Venice Golden Lion winning Russian director and writer Andrey Zvyagintsev; Cannes Palme d'Or winning Thai filmmaker and visual artist Apichatpong Weerasethakul; the only documentary director to win the Berlinale Golden Bear Italian director Gianfranco Rosi; Oscar® winning British costume designer Sandy Powell, Order of the British Empire (OBE), and Oscar® nominated director, Bennett Miller.

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 Masterclasses, 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, which are panel-style discussions that cover a broad range of topics.

Qumra 2018 has also introduced the Qumra Pass Events for the general public this year, which will give them access to Qumra Masterclasses, Qumra Screenings and Qumra Talks. Qumra Pass is open for all citizens and residents of Qatar and the region, and applications will be processed on a first-come, first-serve basis. The price for Qumra Pass is QAR 500, students and Culture Pass by Qatar Museums holders can purchase it for a discounted price of QAR 350. For more information on the Qumra Pass, visit www.dohafilminstitute.com.

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Note to Editors:

About Qumra

Directors and Producers attached to thirty-four 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.

Doha Film Institute

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