

Qumra 2017 receives strong support of government entities, global film bodies and industry leaders

Doha, Qatar; March 2, 2017: The third edition of Qumra, the industry initiative by the Doha Film Institute that aims to mentor and nurture next generation filmmakers, has received tremendous support from Qatar's government entities, industry leaders, educational & cultural organisations and a wide spectrum of global film bodies.

To be held from March 3 to 8 at Souq Al Waqif and the Museum of Islamic Art, Qumra 2017 brings together over 100 industry delegates from across the world including leading film producers, distributors, film festival organisers, financing agencies, marketing experts and more.

Fatma Al Remaihi, Chief Executive Officer of the Doha Film Institute, said: "We are thankful to all our partners for their unwavering support to Qumra 2017. Their continued support plays an integral role in hosting this inspiring event and helping establish Qumra as a platform for discovering new voices and compelling stories. This show of solidarity by local and international entities highlights the tremendous value that Qumra offers in strengthening Qatar's reputation as a creative hub, and contributes to the development of a strong culture of filmmaking in Qatar and the region.

Underlining their commitment to promoting the unique industry-focused event, **Qatar Museums, Museum of Islamic Art** and **Souq Waqif** return as Cultural Partners of Qumra 2017.

Qumra 2017 is supported by prominent educational entities **Northwestern University in Qatar** and the **Translation & Interpreting Institute** at the Hamad Bin Khalifa University, **Culture Pass** and **FNAC**. **SONY** is the Official Electronics Partners and **Souq Waqif Boutique Hotels** are the Official Hotel Partner.

This year, Qumra 2017 introduces Qumra Talks in Partnership with Northwestern University in Qatar, which features a series of panel-style talks that highlight the digital transformation of film industry and media.

Extending support as 'Friends of Qumra' are: **Sarajevo Film Festival, the French Embassy in Qatar, L'Institut Français du Qatar, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany – Doha** and **Goethe-Institut Gulf Region**. **Screen International** is back on board as the Media Partner.

The Qumra Masters this year are contemporary Iranian master Asghar Farhadi; French auteur Bruno Dumont; Cambodian creative documentarian, Argentina's eminent filmmaker Rithy Panh Lucrecia Martel and internationally acclaimed producer Paulo Branco.

New to Qumra this year is the Accredited Delegates Programme, developed for professionals from diverse backgrounds which will allow 100 local and regional delegates to access more opportunities and be a part of the platform for discovery, networking, and inspiration. Members of the local and regional film and creative industries, the educational community and the general public can now apply to be an Accredited Delegate, that is aimed at advancing knowledge about, and promoting discussion around media and filmmaking.

Qumra 2017 programming will continue to include industry meetings designed to assist in propelling selected projects to the next stages of development, through 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 of a highly engaging selection of movies by the Qumra Masters and New Voices in Cinema strand, that includes compelling works by emerging Qatari and international talents.

-ENDS-

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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