

Unique audiovisual feasts for the senses with inclusive cinema experience at 9th Ajyal Film Festival

- Special Screenings programme includes trans-adapted screening of the heart-warming film **1982** for people with different abilities to mark the UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- *'A World of Colour' & 'Under the Trees' Cine-Concert is an audio-visual feast curated for the whole family to enjoy*

Doha, Qatar; 2 November, 2021: The ninth Ajyal Film Festival presented by the Doha Film Institute, continues to highlight its unique strength as a celebration that is truly inclusively curated for all members of the community, young and old.

Upholding its tradition of making cinema an inclusive experience for all, the Institute worked with the Translation and Interpreting Institute of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Hamad Bin Khalifa University to bring a special trans-adapted presentation of the DFI-supported film, **1982** (Lebanon, USA, Norway, Qatar/2019) directed by Oualid Mouaness.

People with different abilities will be able to view the film through enhanced sound with audio descriptions of visual elements that are difficult to receive in the traditional film format. Viewers with hearing or speech comprehension challenges will benefit from enriched subtitles in Arabic and English as well as sign language interpretation.

In **1982**, eleven-year-old Wissam struggles to pluck up the courage to reveal his true feelings to classmate Joanna. But before he can, and with his school in the midst of their final exams, the air invasions on Beirut begin, and the pupils are to be sent home. The film will be screened free of charge on Friday, Nov. 12, 8PM at Katara Drama Theatre. Please reserve a ticket for access.

Also set to delight all members of the family, is **'A World of Colour & 'Under the Trees' Cine-Concert.'** Partnering with Forum des Images, the **'Under The Trees'** cine-concert is an endearing musical show full of poetry and sweetness, accompanied live by talented musicians Leslie Bourdin and Rémi Foucard. Its Qatar premiere will take audiences on an incredible adventure into the woods, where every tree has a story to tell.

Screening on Sat. Nov. 13 at 11 AM at Katara Drama Theatre, **'A World of Colour'** includes a curated selection of colourful short films that will delight all. These include: **Little Snowman** (Russia/2021) by Alexey Pochivalov, in which a little snowman keeps losing his carrot nose that his mother replaces every evening.

Orchestra Rehearsal (Russia/2020), directed by Tatyana Okruzhnova, is about a busy dad and musician who is late for his philharmonic orchestra concert. **Kenya's Symphony** (USA/2019) by Carlos Douglas Jr is about Kenya, a young girl, who is reluctantly dragged into a symphony by her mother.

Colourful Feathers (Mexico/2021) by Maribel Suárez is about a family of blue chickens that are

ostracized from their flock. *Ink* (Netherlands/2020) by Joost van den Bosch and Erik Verkerk, introduces us to an octopus that is also a neat freak. *Under the Clouds* (Russia/2021) by Vasilisa Tikunova features Walter the Lamb, who dreams of one day becoming a cloud.

In *According to Birds* (Netherlands/2008), director Linde Fas presents the story of a great owl who arrives as the leaves begin to fall. *Racoon and the Light* (USA/2018), directed by Hanna Kim, is about a curious racoon who discovers a mysterious new friend, while *The Fox Who Followed the Sound* (Iran/2012) by Fatemeh Goudarzi charts a curious little fox who goes to investigate a sound and discovers the music within himself. *The Last Day of Autumn* (Switzerland, Belgium, France/2019), directed by Marjolaine Perreten, is about forest animals squirreling away parts to build their bikes for a big race.

Tickets for Ajyal 2021 and can be purchased at <https://www.dohafilminstitute.com/filmfestival>

The seven-day festival from Nov. 7 to 13, 2021 has a diverse mix of virtual and in-person events including film screenings, interactive discussions, multi-media art exhibit, Qatar's largest pop-culture event Geekdom, and a drive-in cinema as part of a multisensory experience for all ages.

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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:

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

About Ajyal Film Festival:

Ajyal Film Festival is an annual celebration of film designed to nurture young minds and support the development of mindful global citizens and thoughtful future leaders. 'Ajyal', Arabic for 'generations', brings people of all ages together through screenings and events that inspire creative interaction and stimulate cinematic dialogue.

Ajyal Film Festival builds on the Doha Film Institute's history of community-based programming. Through its jury programme, youth between the ages of 8 and 25 are given an opportunity to watch, analyse and discuss global cinema and culture, developing self-confidence, independent critical thinking skills, self-expression, and an appreciation of cinema, while making new friends and discovering global cultures.

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