
DOHA FILM INSTITUTE

ANNUAL
REPORT
2024

Legal Disclaimer

This 2024 Annual Report (the “Report”) contains general data and information about Doha Film Institute, a Private Institute for Public Benefit, established under the laws of the State of Qatar (the “Institute”). It is intended for information and general interest purposes only.

This Report should, therefore, not be relied upon for any purpose whatsoever. As a summary of the Institute’s annual activities, the Report is not complete and does not include all material information about the Institute. Any person, body, agency, or other legal entity seeking to rely, or who is relying, on information contained in this Report, therefore does so entirely at their own risk and cost.

To the fullest extent permissible under applicable law and regulation, the Institute disclaims any and all representations, warranties, conditions and guarantees, whether express, implied, statutory or of any other kind; nor does it accept any duty to any person, in connection with this Annual Report or otherwise. Without prejudice to (and without otherwise limiting) the generality of the foregoing, the Institute does not warrant or represent that the information or opinions contained in this Report are accurate or complete. To the maximum extent permissible under applicable law and regulation, the Institute shall furthermore not be liable for any loss, damage, or expense whatsoever, whether direct or indirect, howsoever arising.



His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani,
The Father Emir of the State of Qatar



His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani,
Emir of the State of Qatar

CONTENTS

Message from The Chair	06
Message from The CEO	07
Acknowledgements	08
Executive Directors	10
About DFI	12
Training & Development	18
Youth Programmes	32
Qumra	38
Ajyal Film Festival	48
INTAJ	58
Geekdom	60
Voices From Palestine	62
Your Ghosts Are Mine	64
Geekend	68
Film Programming	72
Funding	80
Community Outreach	88
Thank You to Our Partners	90



H.E. Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Chairperson, Doha Film Institute

Amidst the world's challenges in 2024, we were reminded of the power of art to transcend borders and become a bridge to genuine understanding and peace.

As parts of our region continue to face unprecedented hardship and ongoing immeasurable tragedies, the vital role of cultural institutions as guardians of authentic voices and catalysts for change has never carried more weight or urgency than it does today.

From the bold visions of emerging talents to the masterful works of established filmmakers, cinema has truly shown its potential to right the wrongs of misrepresentation and create the space to have the most difficult crucial conversations of our times.

Doha Film Institute's groundbreaking initiatives and strategic partnerships have strengthened Qatar's role as a global cultural powerhouse, paving paths for diverse voices, particularly those from underrepresented communities such as Palestine and Sudan.

The gathering that we hosted at the Venice Film Festival marked our ongoing commitment to strengthening independent voices. As we brought together visionary creators and industry leaders to celebrate artistic voices and cultural perspectives, we reinforced our position as a cultural nexus and a champion of global creative collaboration.

Qumra has evolved into a globally acclaimed incubator for emerging talent, while Ajyal Film Festival, powered by young jurors from across the world, has become a powerful platform for the best in independent cinema and regional storytelling. Together, these initiatives amplify vital narratives that otherwise remain in the shadows or are misrepresented.

As we prepare for Ajyal's transformation into Doha Film Festival in 2025, the Institute's impact continues to expand beyond Qatar's borders. Our year-round initiatives and grants continue to fuel a vibrant film ecosystem that is establishing a sustainable local creative economy with global influence.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated team, passionate partners, and the visionary global film community who share our bold aspirations. Together, we are not just building bridges through film, we are architects of human connection and understanding.

In 2024, we witnessed the continuation of unprecedented human suffering but were also inspired by strength and resilience. For many of us, the ongoing tragedy in Gaza reinforced our fundamental belief that every moment matters and boosted our determination to channel the power of art to illuminate truth and enact change for good.

At the heart of Doha Film Institute's mission lies our unwavering commitment to authentic storytelling and amplifying underrepresented voices from the Arab world and beyond, which we continue to demonstrate through concrete action and meaningful initiatives.

Inspiring highlights of 2024 for all of us were the special competition screenings of Made in Qatar films and the world premiere of 'Ode to Our Land,' the first-ever cinematic tribute to His Highness, the Father Emir by promising local talents Amal Al Muftah and Rawda Al-Thani. As local talents continue to reach new heights and wider audiences, we are proud of the representation of the remarkable growth of the film industry in Qatar.

The tenth edition of Qumra continued to serve as a vital incubator for emerging talent, supporting over 40 projects from more than 20 countries, while our Grants programme selected 91 diverse projects, including exciting new works by Qatari talents. We expanded our reach through our year-round workshops and innovative initiatives like 'The Ajyal Show,' our bilingual podcast curated by Ajyal alumni.

Our presence at the Venice Biennale with 'Your Ghosts Are Mine: Expanded Cinemas, Amplified Voices' showcased 40 groundbreaking films and installations from the Arab world, Africa and Southeast Asia. The exhibition, produced by Qatar Museums, co-organised by DFI, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art and the future Art Mill Museum, supported by Media City Qatar, demonstrated the potential of authentic storytelling to transform traditional narratives.

An exclusive gathering co-hosted by Doha Film Institute and Media City Qatar during the Venice Film Festival connected directors of Institute-supported films with international media executives, producers, and industry leaders, reinforcing our commitment to promoting cultural exchange through art and cinema.



The Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture opened new avenues for cultural exchange between countries at both the Marrakech Short Film Festival and Ajyal, and our special edition of Ajyal Film Club in Morocco inspired young voices to pursue their creative aspirations.

Ajyal 2024 stood in solidarity with Palestine, Lebanon, and Sudan, presenting 66 powerful works from 42 countries that embodied Qatar's commitment to peace, understanding, and justice. Two special programmes dedicated to cinema born from struggle at Ajyal highlighted the role of compassion and empathy in genuine human understanding.

I extend my deepest appreciation to our chairperson for her visionary leadership, our dedicated team at DFI for their tireless passion, and our partners whose support enables us to continue making meaningful impact in our community and beyond. Together, we remain committed to nurturing authentic voices in cinema that challenge, inspire, and transform.

Fatma Hassan Alremaihi
Chief Executive Officer, Doha Film Institute

TOGETHER FOR TRUTH AND HOPE IN 2024

In 2024, amidst a year of profound challenges and heartfelt moments, the Doha Film Institute extends its deepest gratitude to our partners, supporters, and collaborators for their steadfast commitment. Your time, talent, and generosity have been instrumental in bringing to life the diverse events and initiatives that defined our year.

As conflict and hardship continued to impact Palestine, we stood united in solidarity, using the power of cinema to amplify voices, share stories, and foster empathy. Through dedicated programmes, focused screenings, and support for Palestinian filmmakers, we provided crucial platforms for authentic narratives that highlight the resilience and strength of those affected by the genocide.

Our efforts were not only about storytelling but also about building bridges, promoting understanding, and advocating for justice. As we move forward, our commitment remains unwavering—to collaborate, educate, and inspire, ensuring that powerful stories continue to reach global audiences, bridging cultures and strengthening communities.

We are profoundly grateful to each of you for standing with us and for believing in the transformative impact of film. Together, we will continue to champion voices, celebrate human stories, and work towards a more empathetic and united world in 2025 and beyond.

- His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar
- His Highness Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani, Personal Representative of the Emir
- His Excellency Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani
- Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani
- Trustees
- Fatma Hassan Alremaihi
- DFI Executive Management
- DFI Employees
- Elia Suleiman, Artistic Advisor
- The Cultural Village Foundation
- Sarajevo Film Festival
- Giffoni Film Festival
- Sponsors
- Mentors
- Filmmakers
- Jurors
- Volunteers
- Audiences



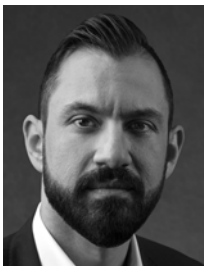
Executive Directors



Abdulla Al Mosallam
Chief
Administrative
Officer / Deputy
Director of Ajyal
Film Festival



Hanaa Issa
Director
of Strategy and
Development
/ Qumra
Deputy Director



Nikolaos Bempis Kolyfas
Director
of PMO and Event
Management /
Festival Managing
Director



Russell Frame
General Counsel

ABOUT DFI

About DFI

Doha Film Institute (DFI) is an independent, not-for-profit cultural organisation dedicated to the development of a sustainable film industry, generating film appreciation, and nurturing a vibrant film culture in Qatar.

DFI 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.

Since its inception, DFI has provided Qataris, local and regional talent with opportunities to tell their stories through the medium of film, while paving the way for the development of skills in order to equip and empower future filmmakers in their pursuit of professional careers in the film industry.

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, a film industry event. With culture, community, learning and entertainment at its foundation, the Institute is committed to supporting Qatar National Vision 2030 for the development of a knowledge-based economy.

Our Mission—We exist to support authentic voices.

Doha Film Institute is dedicated to the development of a sustainable film industry, inspiring widespread film appreciation, and nurturing a vibrant film culture in Qatar.

Our Objectives— DFI is dedicated to supporting, celebrating, and expanding creativity in all its forms.

To provide Qatari talent with a platform for storytelling through the medium of film, and the opportunity to develop skills and professional careers in the film industry.

To pave the way to a sustainable film industry in Qatar, spanning all of its relevant elements.

To support and advance Qatari and Arab film and cultural objectives by positioning Qatar and the wider Arab region in a leading role in the international film industry.

A YEAR OF IMPACT AND CONNECTION

Awards



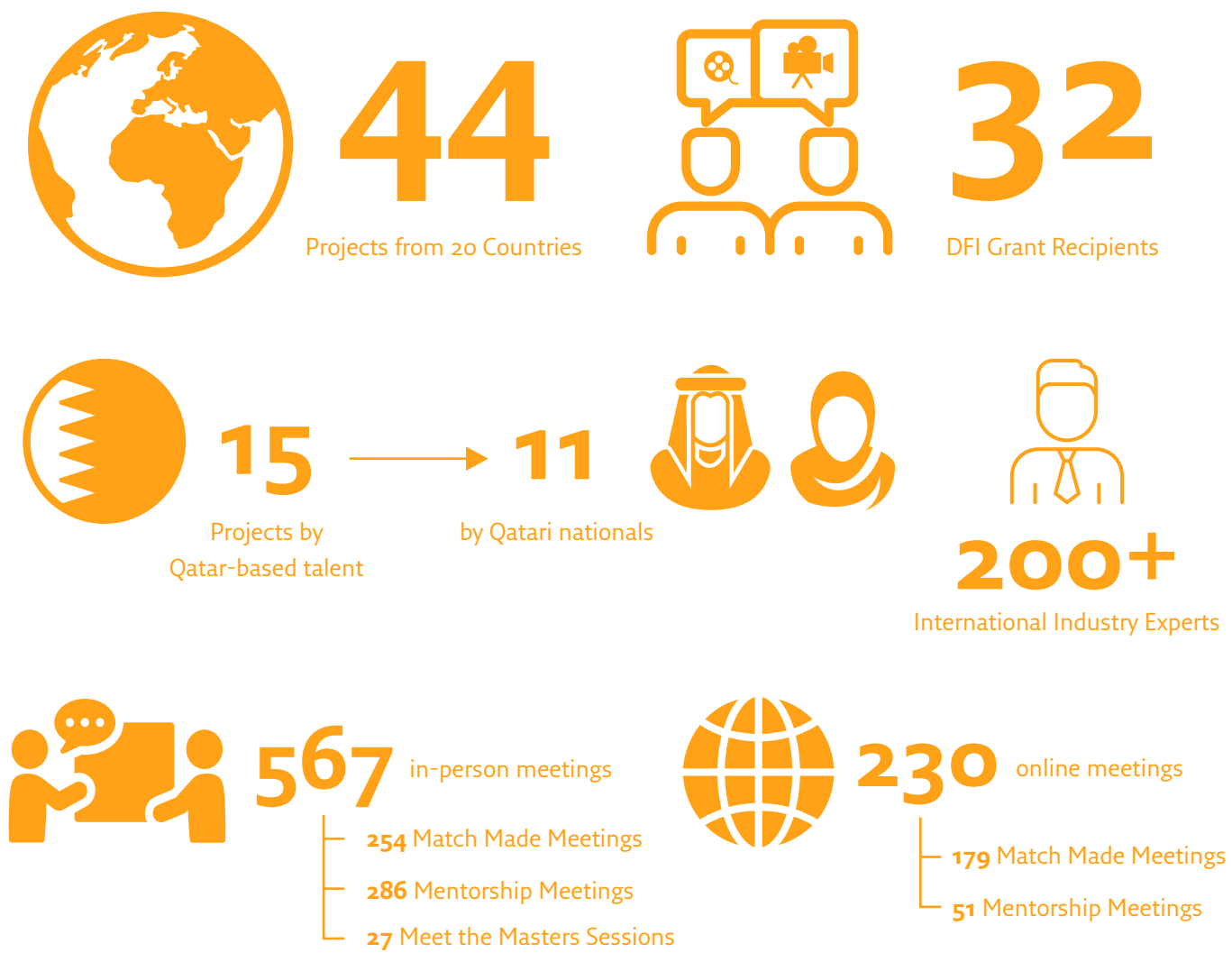
Funding



Training & Development



Qumra



Community Outreach



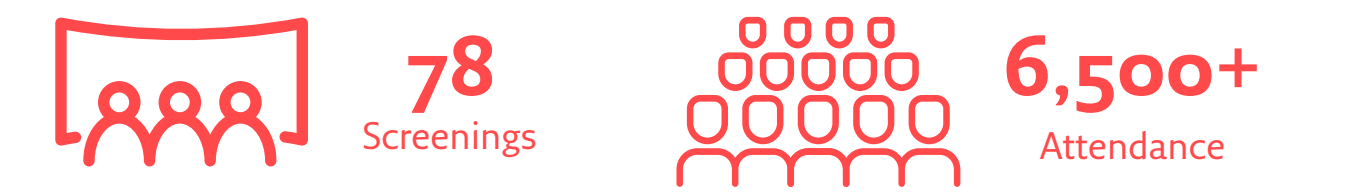
INTAJ



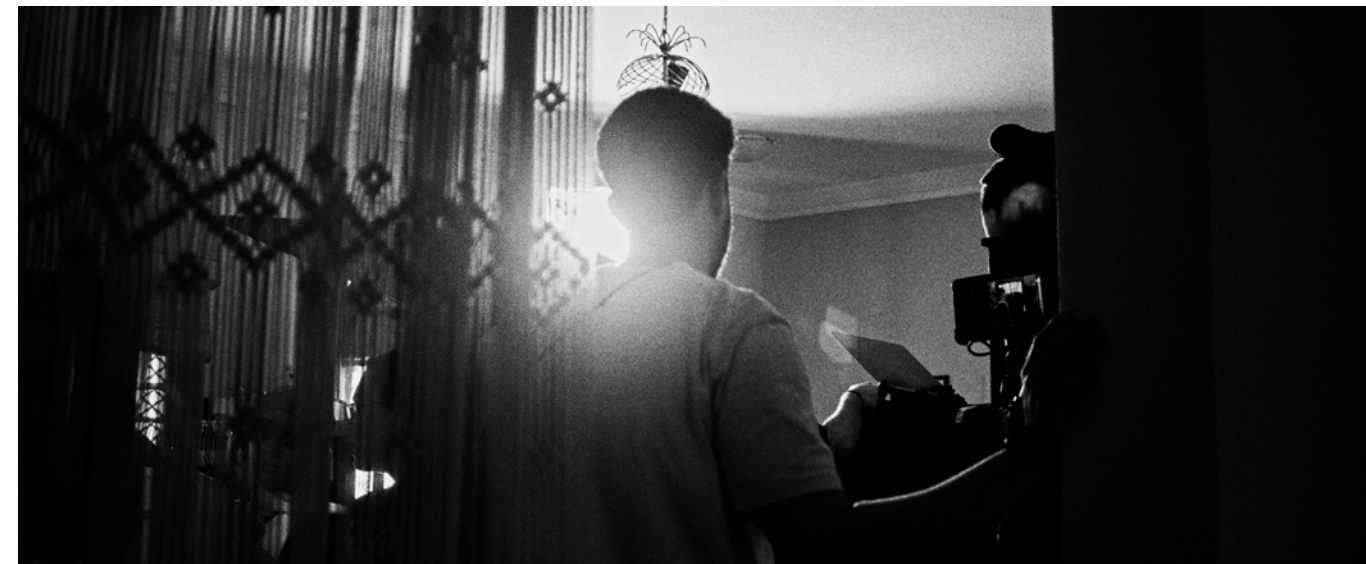
Geekdom



Year-Round Film Programming



TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

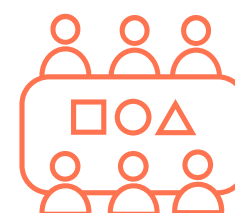


Supporting Creative Journeys

At Doha Film Institute, we are committed to discovering and nurturing creative talent in Qatar and beyond. Our training and development programmes provide aspiring and established filmmakers with transformative opportunities to connect, collaborate, and grow within a supportive environment.

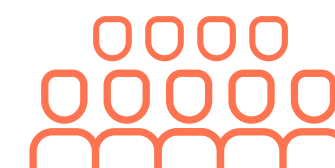
By bridging local talent with global expertise, we create meaningful exchanges between filmmakers and the wider industry—fostering innovation, professionalism, and a shared passion for storytelling.

We achieve this through two parallel streams, offering tailored opportunities for skill development, constructive feedback, and guidance from renowned mentors worldwide.



37

Workshops



290+

Participants



59

Qatari Participants



36

Educational Partners



17

Shorts Produced



110

Projects Supported

A Milestone Year for Educational Collaboration

In 2024, the Institute forged and strengthened partnerships with 36 local and international organisations, marking a record-breaking year for educational collaboration.

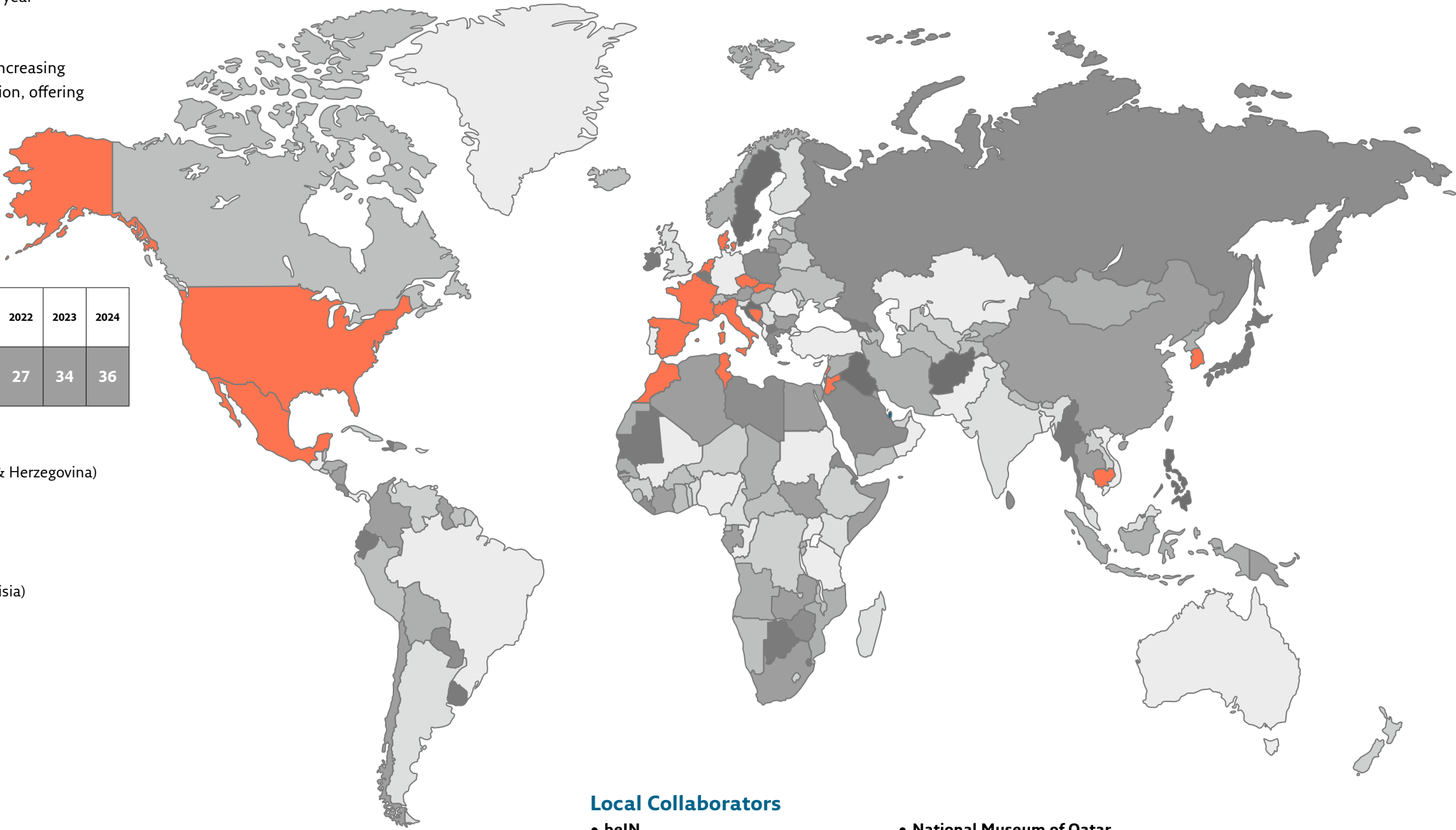
This significant growth reflects our team’s dedication and increasing global influence as a leading provider of filmmaking education, offering essential skills training to benefit Qatar and beyond.

Through these valuable partnerships, we continue to provide transformative training opportunities, further cementing our position as a trusted thought leader in global filmmaking education.

DFI'S EVER-EXPANDING	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
EDUCATIONAL INFLUENCE	8	11	15	15	15	24	24	27	34	36

International Partners

- **Al Jazeera Balkans Documentary Film Festival** (Bosnia & Herzegovina)
- **Beirut Cinema Platform** (Lebanon)
- **Bophana Center** (Cambodia)
- **Busan Asian Film Academy** (South Korea)
- **Centre Cinematographique Marocain** (Morocco)
- **Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Tunisien** (Tunisia)
- **EAVE** (Luxembourg)
- **ESA Business School** (Lebanon)
- **First Cut Lab** (France)
- **Film Independent** (USA)
- **Giffoni Festival** (Italy)
- **IDFA Academy** (The Netherlands)
- **Ji.hlava Film Festival** (Czech Republic)
- **Maskoon Fantastic Lab** (Lebanon)
- **MIA | Mercato Internazionale Audiovisivo** (Italy)
- **Midpoint** (Czech Republic)
- **Pedro Costa Lab - Playlab Films** (Spain / Mexico)
- **Point North** (USA)
- **Pop Up Residency** (Slovakia)
- **Royal Film Commission of Jordan** (Jordan)
- **Sarajevo Film Festival** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- **Series Mania** (France)
- **Sundance Film Institute** (USA)
- **The Gotham** (USA)



Local Collaborators

- **beIN**
 - **Dadu, Children’s Museum of Qatar**
 - **Education Above All Foundation**
 - **French Embassy in Doha**
 - **Institut Francais Qatar**
 - **Katara Studios**
- **National Museum of Qatar**
 - **Northwestern University in Qatar**
 - **Qatar Foundation**
 - **Qatar National Library**
 - **Qatar University**
 - **Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar**

WORKSHOPS & LABS

Workshops & Labs

Empowering Talent

Doha Film Institute's Workshops and Labs are a vital part of our Training & Development Programme, offering aspiring filmmakers exceptional opportunities to hone their skills and develop their craft. These dynamic sessions combine theory, demonstrations, and hands-on exercises, providing participants with the comprehensive knowledge needed to excel in every aspect of filmmaking.

Guided by world-renowned mentors, our programmes are meticulously designed to inspire, educate, and equip storytellers with both theoretical insights and technical expertise—fostering a culture of creativity, professionalism, and innovation.

Transforming Aspiring Filmmakers into Industry Professionals

Our comprehensive filmmaking training offers aspiring filmmakers exceptional opportunities to develop their craft through immersive workshops and labs. These hands-on programmes combine theory, demonstrations, and practical exercises, delivering well-rounded training in every stage of the filmmaking process.

Led by internationally acclaimed mentors, our training sessions are designed to inspire and educate, providing invaluable guidance on both theoretical concepts and technical skills. Participants gain the confidence, knowledge, and tools needed to succeed in the world of cinema—from scriptwriting and directing to production and post-production.

'Watching the Classics' with Richard Peña

April 2024 – January 2025

An online programme offering filmmakers and cinephiles the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of film history. Presented by renowned scholar Richard Peña—Professor of Film Studies at Columbia University and Director Emeritus of the New York Film Festival—this nine-part series, titled 'The 1970s, The 1980s: Decades of Transition', explored a pivotal period in cinema, analysing major trends and emblematic works from these transformative decades.

Films Discussed:

- **'Martha'** (1974) by R.W. Fassbinder, West Germany (29 April 2024)
- **'The Mouth Agape'** (1974) by Maurice Pialat, France (27 May 2024)
- **'Jaws'** (1975) by Steven Spielberg, USA (1 July 2024)
- **'Sholay'** (1975) by Ramesh Sippy, India (29 July 2024)
- **'The Wind'** (1982) by Souleymane Cissé, Mali (26 August 2024)
- **'Yellow Earth'** (1985) by Chen Kaige, PRC (30 September 2024)
- **'My Brother's Wedding'** (1983) by Charles Burnett, USA (28 October 2024)
- **'Little Vera'** (1987) by Vasily Pichul, USSR (25 November 2024)
- **'Sweetie'** (1989) by Jane Campion, Australia (27 January 2025)



Short Scriptwriting Lab

9–21 December 2024

DFI's Short Scriptwriting Lab offered a transformative experience for new and emerging screenwriters and writer-directors, helping them develop original screenplays with the support of international mentors. Participants learned the principles of dramatic writing for short films, including premise, theme, structure, character development, and storytelling techniques.

The lab encouraged personal storytelling that reflected contemporary life in the MENA region. Screenplays written through this lab were eligible for nomination in DFI's Qumra Shorts, Qatari Film Fund, or Production Funding programmes.

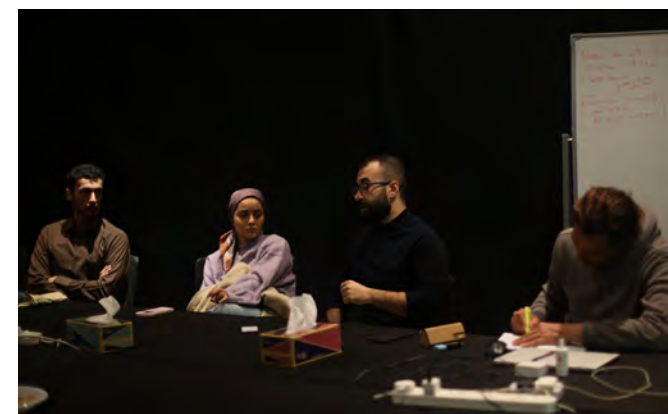


Selected Participants

- **'Inside the White Canvas'** by Amna Albinali (Qatar)
- **'Burden'** by Mohammed Fakhro (Qatar)
- **'Untitled'** by Mostafa Sheshtawy (Egypt)
- **'Jellyfish'** by Daniella and Karina Stephan (Lebanon)
- **'Apples and Olives (Tuffah & Zaytun)'** by Yazan Kdmanai and Malak Al Halabi (Palestine, Syria)
- **'Gharbala'** by Afnan Tag (Yemen, Qatar)
- **'Younes (High Tide, Low Tide)'** by Ahmed Samir (Egypt)
- **'Tender Threads'** by Sabrine Khoury (Palestine, Netherlands)

Mentors

Antoine Waked: Script Editor
Britta Krause: Script Editor
Celine Roustan: Project Coach



Filmmaking Lab with Rithy Panh

September 2024 – September 2025

DFI's Filmmaking Lab provided emerging filmmakers with an exceptional opportunity to work alongside Oscar-nominated documentarian Rithy Panh, gaining first-hand experience in his unique method of narration. This year-long lab combined in-person and online sessions, offering comprehensive training for filmmakers working on their next short or first feature film.

Throughout the lab, Rithy Panh guided participants through his approach to working with memory, culture, and identity, helping them gain a deep understanding of personal traditions, celebrations, community, and the oral history of a country. His teaching techniques focused on cultural memory, enabling filmmakers to capture fragile moments through film and create powerful, authentic stories.

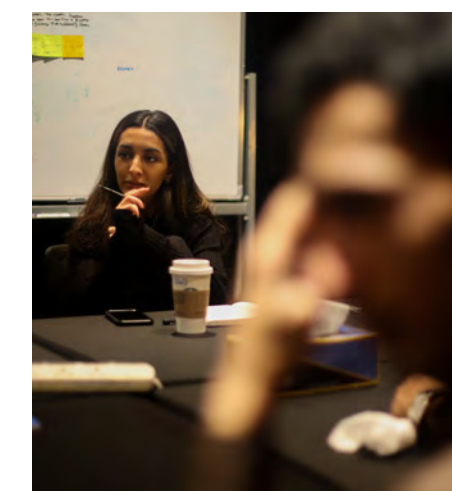
Dates

- **Session 1 (in person):**
8–19 September 2024
- **Session 2 (in person):**
24 January – 1 February 2025
- **Session 3 (in person):**
4–9 April 2025

Selected Participants

- **'Asel w Fasel'** by Tony El Ghazal (Lebanon, Qatar)
- **'Bel Falastini'** by Obada Jarbi, Dana Atrach (Palestine, Qatar)
- **'Burden'** by Mohammed D. Fakhro (Qatar)
- **'Everything She Didn't Say (Tout ce qu'elle n'a pas dit)'** by Farah Abada (Algeria)
- **'Here, There But Perhaps Elsewhere'** by Alessandra El Chanti (Lebanon, Qatar)
- **'Inside the White Canvas'** by Amna Al-Binali (Qatar)
- **'I Wished for Solitude'** by Hamad Al-Fayhani (Qatar)
- **'Lament for Arbad'** by Nadia Al-Khater (Qatar)
- **'Me Are You'** by Myriam Salloum (Lebanon, Qatar)
- **'Spiritual Diaries'** by Rim Mejdí (Morocco)
- **'The Myth of Mahmoud'** by Mayar Hamdan, Shaima Al-Tamimi (Palestine, Yemen, Qatar, Lebanon)
- **'The Sound of Silence'** by Sebastian Delascasas (Colombia, Qatar)
- **'The Thickness of the Cosmos'** by Thissa d'Avila Bensalah (France, Algeria)

- **'Three Houses'** by Jeissy Trompiz (Venezuela)
- **'Under the Moonlight'** by Ali Al Hajri (Qatar)
- **'We Are Enigma'** by Chiara Brambilla (Italy, Qatar)



First Cut Lab

June – October 2024

Doha Film Institute’s First Cut Lab supported six feature films (fiction / documentary) from Qatar and the MENA region, along with one short film from Qatar, all in the editing phase. The programme aimed to enhance the artistic potential of selected rough cuts while boosting the sales, festival, and circulation opportunities of the completed films.

The First Cut Lab offered producer / director / editor teams the chance to screen their full rough cuts and receive expert feedback from international film advisors, including creative producers, festival programmers, and sales agents. Participants engaged in tailor-made sessions with a consultant editor, benefiting from one-to-one meetings and small group discussions via video conferencing platforms.

Selected Participants

- 24-25 June 2024 — **‘Liti Liti’** by Mamadou Khouma Guete (Senegal) | Feature Documentary
- 28-29 June 2024 — **‘Life Says: Still We Must Live’** by Isabelle Zarrina Kalandar (Tajikistan) | Feature Narrative
- 30 June 2024 — **‘I Wished For Solitude’** by Hamad Alfayhani (Qatar) | Short Film
- 23-24 July 2024 — **‘Bitter Sugar’** by Ana Barjadze (Georgia) | Feature Documentary
- 26-27 July 2024 — **‘Cutting Through Rocks’** by Sara Khaki (Iran) | Feature Documentary
- 21-22 September 2024 — **‘House No. 7’** by Rama Abdi (Syria) | Feature Documentary

- 4-5 October 2024 — **‘Barzakh’** by Lina Sinjab, Ayman Nahle (Lebanon, Syria, France)

Industry Advisors

Features:

- Bob Moore – EyeSteelFilm | Co-president / Creative Producer
- Mads K. Mikkelsen – Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival | Head of Programmes
- Aranka Matits – Featurette | Acquisitions
- Matthew Takata – Sundance Institute | Assistant Director, Feature Film Program, International
- Selin Murat – The International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam | Markets Manager
- Hédi Zardi – Head of Atlas Workshops
- Maëlle Guenegues – CAT&Docs | Sales Agent

Shorts:

- Eddie Bertozzi – Locarno Film Festival | Head of Pardi di domani Selection Committee
- Lyse Ishimwe Nsengiyumva – International Film Festival Rotterdam | Programmer
- Ben Thompson – Tribeca Film Festival | VP, Shorts Programming

Series Lab

July 2024 – January 2025

Our Series Lab supported screenwriters in developing scripted series projects for all distribution platforms, including television, digital, and web. The programme provided participants with essential scriptwriting tools and industry access, empowering them to advance their projects and careers. This lab offered emerging screenwriters and writer-directors from the MENA region an exciting opportunity to:

- Complete a treatment / script for their pilot or first season.
- Develop a general concept presentation for their project.
- Enhance writing and pitching skills through practical exercises.
- Gain insight into the global series landscape, understanding the full process of series creation.

Selected Projects

- **‘The Dry Kingdom’** by Dana Atrach and Anne Sobel (Palestine/USA)
- **‘(Dis)Closed’** by Aida Kaadan (Palestine)
- **‘Palmyra’** by Carole Mezher and Gabriela Flores Torres (Lebanon/Mexico)
- **‘Rent-a-Mama’** by Dania Bdeir (Lebanon)
- **‘Al-Michelin’** by Abdul-Rahman Sakr (Jordan)
- **‘Dirty Hands’** by Georges Hazim and Maya Dagher (Lebanon)
- **‘The Lost City’** by Chantel Clack (South Africa)

Mentors

Ryan O’nan: TV Writer and Showrunner (USA)
Joelle Touma: Script Consultant (Lebanon)
Neerja Narayanan: Creative Producer (India)
Paolo Ciccarelli: Project Coach (Italy)
Gabrielle Capolino: Project Coach (USA)
Frédéric Pittoors d’Haveskercke: International Markets (France)
Marc Lorber: International Financing & Coproduction (United Kingdom)
Marike Muselaers: International Distribution (The Netherlands)

Feature Script Lab

26 July – 17 December 2024

DFI’s Feature Script Lab provided emerging screenwriters and writer-directors with an invaluable opportunity to develop and write original feature-length screenplays. The lab offered structured support through group sessions and one-on-one tutorials, guiding participants from initial concepts to refined scripts under the mentorship of experienced industry professionals.

This six-month programme consisted of three online workshops, each lasting five days, allowing participants to gain practical insights into screenwriting techniques, narrative development, and storytelling craftsmanship. The lab emphasised the importance of originality, encouraging filmmakers to create engaging stories that reflect their unique voices.

Selected Participants

- **‘Il Padre Selvaggio’** by Sammy Baloji (Republic of Congo)
- **‘Carnaval’** by Mohamed Siam (Egypt)
- **‘7 Waves’** by Hamida Issa (Qatar)
- **‘The Ogress of Fez’** by Elias Suhail (Iraq/Morocco)
- **‘Das Heim’** by Abdalah Alkhatib (Palestine)
- **‘All The Colors Blue’** by Maysaa Almumin (Kuwait)
- **‘The Missing Planet’** by Marouan Omara & Tom Rosenberg (Egypt)
- **‘Dakar Plateau’** by Zena Zeidan (Lebanon/Senegal)

Mentors

Raja Amari: Script Consultant / Filmmaker
Ghassan Salhab: Script Consultant / Filmmaker



Podcast Lab

24-31 August 2024

Our Podcast Lab offered emerging storytellers an invaluable opportunity to develop distinctive podcasts through expert mentorship, strategic insights, and hands-on training. Participants gained practical experience in recording and sound editing, refining their technical skills and narrative techniques to captivate audiences.

Beyond the creative process, the lab provided an in-depth exploration of the global podcasting ecosystem, covering industry dynamics, effective pitching, strategic marketing, and optimal release strategies. Participants also learned about funding models, audience engagement tactics, and measurement tools that define success in the podcasting world.

Selected Participants

- **‘Miss. Communication’** by Alexandria Ward (South Africa)
- **‘Dose of Dopmanie’** by Abbas Sabra (Lebanon)
- **‘Farida Podcast: We Hear You’** by Sujoud Battiri and Nuha (Palestine)
- **‘Close Your Eyes’** by Petra Serhal & Jana Wehbe (Lebanon)
- **‘Untitled’** by Mohamed Shabrawi (Egypt)

Mentors

Alexandra Blair: Project Manager at PRX, Lab Programme Producer
Al Shaibani: Podcast Producer

Guest Speakers

Alex Atack: Journalist / Audio Producer
Monzer El Hachem: Sound Engineer
Joshua Kelly: Journalist / Audio Producer
Basia Cummings: Podcast Editor
Ramsey Tesdell: CEO, Sowt Media



Producers Lab

24–29 October 2024

DFI’s Producers Lab provided local and MENA-based producers with an exceptional opportunity to enhance their skills alongside industry experts. Designed for a select group of participants, this intensive workshop focused on strengthening co-productions in the MENA region, expanding networking opportunities, and elevating the quality of regional film projects.

Over seven days, participants engaged in comprehensive training on the creative, artistic, and strategic aspects of producing feature-length documentaries and fiction films. The programme combined training exercises, group tutorials, tailor-made one-on-one meetings, and master classes led by renowned industry professionals, offering in-depth insights into the producer’s role and the end-to-end process of film production.

Selected Participants

- **‘Amara’** by Michelle Keserwany | Producer: Noel Keserwany (Lebanon)
- **‘Amnesia’** by Dima Hamdan | Producers: Jiries Cobti, Tony Cobti (Palestine)
- **‘Bride of the Summer House’** by Marjan Khosravi | Producer: Milad Khosravi (Iran)
- **‘Climbing the Mountains’** by Sabrina Chebbi
- **‘Das Heim’** by Abdallah Alkhatib | Producers: Taqiyeddine Issad, Salah Issaad (Palestine)
- **‘Pure Madness’** by Ines Arsi | Producers: Kaouthar Hadidi, Sarra Ben Hassan (Tunisia)
- **‘The Amateur Photographer’s Family Portrait’** by Nurlan Hasanli | Producer: Irina Gelashvili (Azerbaijan)
- **‘Three Days 1/3 (Yesterday the Eye Didn’t Sleep)’** by Rakan Mayasi
- Attending without a project: Mohammed D. Fakhro

Mentors

Jovan Marjanović: Festival Director, Sarajevo Film Festival
 Violeta Bava: Producer Lab Advisor
 Dora Bouchoucha: Producer Expert
 Konstantina Stavrianou: Post-Production Expert
 Jana Wehbe: Project Coach
 Aranka Matits: Sales Expert
 Hédi Zardi: Distribution Expert and Head of Atlas Workshops

Screenwriting for Beginners’ Lab (Arabic)

3–7 September 2024

Our Screenwriting Lab for Beginners offered aspiring screenwriters an accessible introduction to the creative process of writing for the screen, all from the comfort of their own homes. This online lab, conducted entirely in Arabic, focused on the fundamentals of screenwriting, blending lectures, assignments, and group discussions to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the craft.

The lab covered both the ‘architecture’ of screenplays—including storytelling, screenplay guidelines, non-verbal storytelling, and characterisation—and the ‘formatting’ of a screenplay, teaching visual grammar and industry-standard tools such as Celtx and Final Draft. As a beginner’s programme, the lab’s primary goal was for participants to write at least one scene for their screenplay.

Qatar-based participants were also offered the opportunity to continue their filmmaking journey with the DFI development team, with access to further education opportunities and potential grants.

Selected Participants

- Bahjat Al Mostafa (Syria)
- Asal Kullap (Palestine)
- Laura Enezi (Kuwait)
- Ahmed Ibrahim Yasin (Sudan)
- Yusra Abbas (Yemen)
- Ibrahim Albuainain (Qatar)
- Mohammed Beddazi (Morocco)
- Algaddal Hassan (Sudan)
- Sana Hashem (Jordan)
- Nermine Helmy (Egypt)
- Ahmed Eman Zakaria (Egypt)
- Ahmed Babiker (Sudan)
- Nader Assal (Egypt)
- Latifa Aldhaferi (Yemen)
- Mohammed A. Fakhroo (Qatar)
- Adel Yahya (Yemen)
- Aya Elhussieny (Egypt)
- Nooh Mahmoud Abdelmagid (Sudan)
- Heba Al-Otaibi (Jordan)
- Chayma EL-Hkim (Morocco)

- Karama Sayadi (Tunisia)
- Yousef Nasher (Yemen)
- Rasha Abu Taleb (Turkey)
- Haneen Saleh (Palestine)
- Aisha Adli (Palestine)

Mentor

Ayman El Amir





Internships

Empowering Tomorrow's Talent Through Inspiring Internships

Turning a Passion into a Profession

In 2024, Doha Film Institute's internship programme offered 31 aspiring filmmakers the chance to gain practical experience in the film and television industry.

By providing real-world training, the programme helped nurture talent, with many past interns now thriving at renowned production companies in Qatar, including Resolution Films, The Edge Picture Company, and The Film House.



Production

Creating Impactful Content with a Vision for Growth

Doha Film Institute's Production Department played a vital role in strengthening Qatar's film industry by offering comprehensive production solutions and services. Throughout 2024, the team supported DFI projects while meeting the needs of local filmmakers, businesses, government bodies, and NGOs.

With a commitment to international standards, DFI Productions not only delivered high-quality content but also integrated education and training opportunities for aspiring local filmmakers. Looking ahead to 2024/2025, the department is preparing to introduce new educational initiatives and capacity-building programmes, embracing the latest advancements in film production.



YOUTH PROGRAMMES

Inspiring the Next Generation of Storytellers

Doha Film Institute's Youth Programmes in 2024 continued to empower young voices through engaging and educational initiatives. Our year-round programmes offered budding filmmakers invaluable opportunities to explore their creativity, develop practical skills, and connect with cinema as an art form.

Through dynamic workshops, masterclasses, screenings, and international collaborations, we guided young participants on their journey to becoming confident storytellers.



Ajyal Film Club

18 January – 8 June 2024

The Ajyal Film Club built on the success of the Ajyal Film Festival, offered an enriching six-month programme to young film enthusiasts in Qatar. The Club provided exclusive access to international films, alongside workshops, masterclasses, and discussions designed to deepen participants' understanding of cinema.

The programme engaged promising youth across three age-based sections:

- Mohaq (8–12 years)
- Hilal (13–17 years)
- Bader (18–25 years)

Programme Highlights

- **Screenings:** Films such as *Coco Farm* by Sébastien Gagné, *If Only I Could Hibernate* by Zoljargal Purevdash, and *Bye Bye Tiberias* by Lina Soualem inspired participants through diverse storytelling.
- **Workshops and Masterclasses:** Covered a range of topics including storyboarding, screenwriting, film analysis, and music production for film, led by industry professionals such as Fadi Syriani, Dana Atrach, and Mohammad Al Khulaifi.
- **Engagement:** Participants explored advanced filmmaking techniques, narrative structures, and the roles within film production, contributing to their growth as storytellers.



Cinema in Motion - Youth Animation Workshop

21 January – 3 February 2024

In partnership with Dadu, Children’s Museum of Qatar, this workshop introduced young participants to stop-motion animation. Through theory and practice, 12 children aged 8 to 12 learned storytelling techniques, collaborated in creative exercises, and produced three short films. Under the guidance of Fadi Syriani, the workshop nurtured creativity and teamwork while offering a unique artistic outlet through filmmaking.

Film Appreciation Screenings with Dadu - Children’s Museum of Qatar

24 November 2023 – 9 March 2024

DFI partnered with Dadu, Children’s Museum of Qatar for a series of film screenings aimed at fostering a deeper appreciation of cinema among young audiences. Screenings included international favourites such as ‘Epic’ by Jason Friedberg, ‘The Land Before Time’ by Don Bluth, and ‘Made in Qatar’ short films.

These events were complemented by discussions and filmmaker Q&A sessions, providing participants with insights into the creative process.



Healthy Perspectives Filmmaking Workshop

31 January – 2 May 2024

This collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health offered an immersive introduction to filmmaking, focusing on health-related storytelling. Participants received hands-on training in directing, camera operation, lighting, sound, and editing from acclaimed mentor Corine Shawi.

The workshop culminated in the production of three short films, including ‘The Alkaline’ by Paul Abraham and Abdullah Al-Hor, which won the MIQ Best Film Award 2024.

Giffoni Film Festival

19 – 28 July 2024

The Giffoni International Film Festival in Italy provided a unique cultural exchange for two Ajyal Jurors, Lafan Hasan and Faisal Abu-Shawareb. The festival’s theme, The Illusion of Distance, encouraged participants to explore how art can bridge cultural divides. Representing Qatar, our jurors engaged with peers from around the world, contributing to and learning from a vibrant global dialogue about youth and cinema.

Cinema In Motion - Youth Animation Workshop

30 June – 13 July 2024

In collaboration with Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, this workshop highlighted animation as a powerful tool for storytelling and self-expression. Young participants aged 13 to 17 created short films inspired by artworks from Mathaf’s collection. Under the mentorship of Fadi Syriani, the workshop blended theory and practical skills, producing three short films that showcased the participants’ creative achievements.

Ajyal Film Club in Tangier

20 – 22 September 2024

As part of the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture, DFI and the Al Nuwah Foundation launched the Ajyal Film Club in Tangier. The initiative, in partnership with Cinema Alcazar, introduced 80 to 90 students aged 13 to 17 to film screenings, masterclasses, and educational activities. The programme encouraged young participants to explore cinema’s cultural impact and develop a deeper appreciation for the art of filmmaking.

Highlights included

- **Screenings:** ‘We Have a Dream’ by Pascal Plisson, ‘Saleem’ by Cynthia Madanat Shraiha, and ‘Scrappier’ by Charlotte Regan.
- **Workshops and Masterclasses:** Topics such as film critique, women in cinema, and the filmmaking process, led by professionals including Khaoula Assebab Benomar and Jillali Ferhati.



The Ajyal Show Podcast
25 April – 26 September 2024

The Ajyal Show Podcast emerged as a platform for inspiring discussions with local and regional experts in cinema and storytelling. Hosted by Moza Al-Hajri, the show featured 16 episodes exploring topics such as filmmaking as healing, the craft of acting, the role of producers, and the evolution of Gulf cinema. Guests included industry leaders like Mariam Al-Dhubhani, Amal Al Muftah, and Jana Wehbe.

The podcast highlighted DFI's commitment to nurturing a vibrant creative community and provided listeners with valuable insights into the transformative power of film and storytelling.

To watch any of the episodes from 2024, click the links below.

- Episode #1: The Art of Survival: Filmmaking as Healing with Mariam Al-Dhubhani
- Episode #2: Behind the Lens with Amal Al Muftah
- Episode #3: The Timeless Art of Storytelling with Fahad Al-Kuwari
- Episode #4: The Producer's Perspective with Jana Wehbe
- Episode #5: Architecture to Animation with Fadi Syriani
- Episode #6: The Evolution of a Storyteller with Noor Al-Nasr
- Episode #7: From Script to Screen with Dana Atrach
- Episode #8: The Honesty of Acting with Afef Ben Mahmoud
- Episode #9: The History of Gulf Cinema with Dr. Firat Oruc
- Episode #10: The Cinematographer's Craft with Yasser Al-naemi
- Episode #11: Inside the Edit Suite with Maryam Al Sahli
- Episode #12: From Narrative to Commercials with Dimitri Yuri
- Episode #13: Visual Identity in Film with Dawood Al-Anwari
- Episode #14: Screenwriting Insights with Suzannah Mirghani
- Episode #15: Stop-Motion Animation with Ibrahim Albuainain
- Episode #16: Inspiring Future Filmmakers with Justin Kramer



Supporting the Gazan Community in Doha
24 August – 19 September 2024

In partnership with Education Above All, DFI launched a series of workshops for Gazan survivors living in Doha. These workshops aimed to equip 17 to 35-year-olds with essential skills in media, content creation, and filmmaking, offering a platform to share their stories.

The programme featured film analysis, lighting and cinematography, sound recording, and board game design workshops, with expert mentorship from Yasser Al-Naemi, Falah Hannoun, and Dawood Anwari. Through practical training and creative expression, participants gained the confidence to engage with the world through their unique perspectives.



Filmmaking Challenge
In Partnership with the Ministry of Public Health
1 May – 4 June 2024

Inspired by themes and topics from the Ministry of Health, this challenge introduced first-time filmmakers to the various elements of short filmmaking within a competitive framework. Participants were inspired and challenged to create their first short film, gaining valuable experience and insights into the filmmaking process.

Mentor: Corine Shawi

QUMRA

Qumra at 10: A Decade of Mentorship, Collaboration, and Creativity.

March 2024

Doha Film Institute proudly celebrated the tenth edition of Qumra, a unique talent incubator designed to advance Arab and international cinema. This remarkable event brought together visionary filmmakers and esteemed industry experts to nurture talent through exclusive mentorship, in-depth workshops, and a curated screening series.

Over the past decade, Qumra has established a dynamic legacy, championing new voices from the Arab world and beyond. Many supported projects have earned global recognition, highlighting Qumra's vital role in shaping the cinematic landscape.

Beyond financial support, Qumra offers a holistic approach to empowering filmmakers, making it a unique event in the region—focusing on first and second-time filmmakers and creating valuable opportunities for their growth.

Through fostering connections and facilitating exchanges between leading film professionals and emerging talent, Qumra continues to drive the creation of meaningful, truly impactful storytelling.



567 in-person meetings
— 254 Match Made Meetings
— 286 Mentorship Meetings
— 27 Meet the Masters Sessions



230 online meetings
— 179 Match Made Meetings
— 51 Mentorship Meetings



44 Projects from **20** Countries
— 32 were DFI Grantees
— 3 were Supported by the Qatar Film Fund



15
Projects by
Qatar-based talent



11
by Qatari nationals



1,700
in attendance

Meet the Masters



This year's Qumra Masters were legendary figures in filmmaking whose pioneering efforts and visionary works have helped shape the industry and left an indelible mark in world cinema.

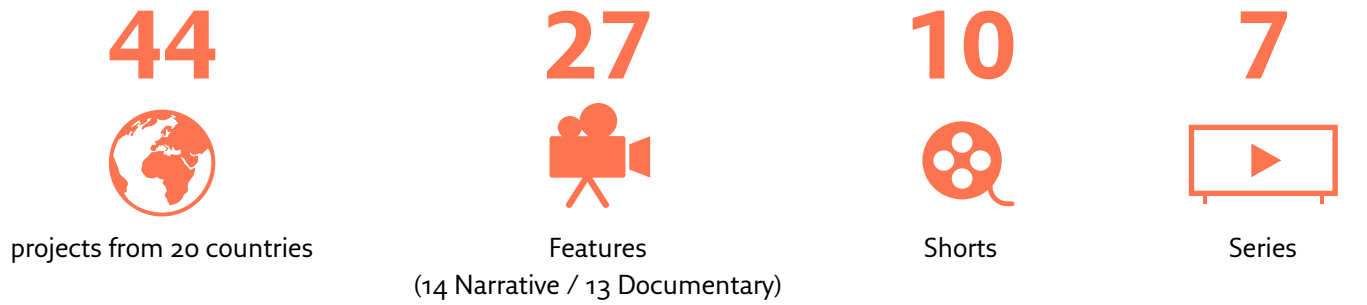
The esteemed group of six internationally renowned film luminaries shared their insights in a series of Master Classes that offered invaluable advice, guidance and inspiration for participating filmmakers, industry professionals and audiences alike.

- Three-time Palme d'Or Nominee Leos Carax
- Emmy Award-winning and Oscar-nominated actress Toni Collette
- Cannes Grand Prize-winning auteur Claire Denis
- Five-time Cannes Award Winner Atom Egoyan
- Two-time Oscar-nominated sound designer Martín Hernández
- Six-time Oscar-nominated filmmaker Jim Sheridan.

Qumra Projects

In 2024, twenty-seven feature-length, seven series, and ten short film projects at various stages of production were selected to benefit from the experience of the Qumra Masters, as well as bespoke mentorship and business meetings with international experts.

Of the 44 projects, 32 were recipients of Doha Film Institute's Grants programme, and 3 were supported through the Qatari Film Fund. Highlighting the strong support system offered by the Institute, 15 had participated in DFI Training Programmes such as the Hezayah Scriptwriting Lab, Producers Lab, Shorts Script Lab, Doc Lab with Rithy Panh, Series Lab, and First Cut Lab.



"A unique opportunity to create a space to connect with other filmmakers and receive feedback on our work. Our relationship with the Doha Film Institute wasn't only about funding, but we also received encouragement and follow-up on our journey in producing this film."

— **Wiame Haddad, La Nuit A Piene**

"I think the challenge we face as Qatari filmmakers is to find our voice. Being a part of DFI allowed us to mature and have a collective voice. Cinema, for me, is about both being selfish in wanting to tell your own story and selfless in wanting people to feel the emotions you are interpreting."

— **Amal Al-Muftah, Before the Day Breaks**

"Qumra is such a fantastic space where we learn a lot from real industry professionals. Here we widen our horizons and learn to deal with the stories in a different way."

— **Hamad Alfayhani, I Wished for Solitude**

"Our experience with the Doha Film Institute was not limited to funding support, but the experience has been exciting and rewarding. Participating in Qumra is an opportunity to meet filmmakers from around the world and to observe the similarities and differences between Arab and international cinema."

— **Tina Tišljär, Celebration**

"For me, Qumra is an ideal experience as it provides me with experiences, ideas, relationships, and meetings that I haven't had for years. I had the opportunity to find a French producer for my next film, and it won't be the last film, of course."

— **Yanis Koussim, Roqia**

"I am really thankful for the impeccable organization and boundless patience at Qumra. The experience has been immensely beneficial in countless ways. Each moment was filled with inspiration and growth. The dedication and professionalism demonstrated by everyone involved truly made a lasting impact."

— **Azedine Kasri, To Leave or To Stay?**

"Being part of such an exceptional event was a privilege. The mentoring, insights, and connections we've gained have been invaluable. We're deeply grateful for the support and guidance provided, which has significantly impacted our project and vision."

— **Moufida Fedhila, All About Adam**



Qumra Industry

The 10th edition of Qumra welcomed over 200 film industry professionals representing all aspects of the entire life cycle of film production and exhibition to mentor emerging talent and provide invaluable guidance to take their films to the next level of success. Many of these collaborators have developed lasting connections with this annual event, which has become a vital platform and incubator for emerging voices and compelling stories in Arab and international cinema.

This year's guests included distinguished film directors, producers, festival directors, programmers, consultants, fund managers, sales agents, acquisition executives, script specialists, distributors, video-on-demand (VoD) platforms, broadcasters, and other key industry figures.

A Hub of Creative Collaboration and Industry Exchange

Qumra 2024 brought together an exceptional array of internationally acclaimed mentors, consultants, and industry professionals to guide and support emerging filmmakers. Esteemed mentors, including Elia Suleiman, Annemarie Jacir, and Rithy Panh, along with specialists in editing, sound, script development, sales, and marketing, provided invaluable expertise.

Production companies, leading film festivals, global distributors, broadcasters, and regional organisations enriched the event, fostering connections and advancing projects. By uniting creativity and industry expertise, Qumra continues to shape the future of Arab and international cinema.

"I had a great time in Doha and was very impressed with the range of projects selected as well as with the intimate format of Qumra and the professionalism and ease of the staff. Thanks again for your hospitality and for putting on a world-class event. Qumra plays such an essential role in making connections between the MENA region and other parts of the wider film industry."

- Basil Tsiokos, Sundance Film Festival

"In a moment where tragedies of unfathomable scale happen in the deafening silence of the silent (but very felt and noisy) majority and their media, it is heartwarming to find come back to a place of dialogue and deep and meaningful conversations. Where artists can speak up, voice their concerns, and engage in meaningful exchanges. Therefore, it is me that is thanking the wonderful Qumra team for holding high the banner of cinema and the possibility of conversation and dialogue. Thank you for what you do and for nurturing such unconventional voices and projects."

- Giona Antonio Nazzaro, Locarno Film Festival

These opportunities are all too rare, and Qumra is very special in the way it is organised to create genuine space, time for conversation and interaction with people who at any other festival would be rushing around distracted or wholly unavailable."

- Joslyn Barnes, Louverture Films

"It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege to contribute to the development of emerging talents in the film industry alongside Qumra. The dedication to providing a platform for these voices is something we deeply admire and resonate with."

- Jean-Christophe J. Lamontagne, h264

"Projects and voices of the filmmakers need more than ever to be heard, and thanks to you, they have a safe and warm place to do it! I'm grateful for all the meetings that I had, I met inspiring people and discovered wonderful projects."

- Camille Hébert-Benazet, Festival de Cannes & Marrakech International Film Festival

"It was an incredibly enriching and rewarding experience, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to attend. The event was exceptionally well organised, and I was impressed by the level of detail and thoughtfulness that went into every aspect of the program. From the insightful sessions to the networking opportunities, every moment was valuable and contributed to my professional growth."

- Hind Touissate, Al Jazeera Digital

Discover, Connect, Inspire: The Qumra Pass Experience

The Qumra Pass offers an unparalleled opportunity for local and regional creative industry members to engage with Qumra's unique programme. Providing access to Master Classes, screenings, and networking opportunities, the pass has become an integral part of the Qumra experience, fostering discovery and inspiration for filmmakers, students, cinephiles, and professionals alike. Available both in-person and online, the Qumra Pass ensures access to a global audience, enriching the event with a diverse and vibrant community of participants.

Qumra Screenings

The programme for 2024’s Qumra Screenings was a true celebration of the art form, offering insights into different cultures, experiences, and visions that enrich our understanding of the world.

Each supported by the Doha Film Institute, these screenings highlighted the Institute’s role in championing cinema and reflected our commitment to fostering a dialogue between cultures. Audiences were invited to immerse themselves in a journey that spans genres, themes, and geographies—showcasing the power of film to entertain, enlighten, and unite.



Bye Bye Tiberias
Lina Soualem
Followed by Q&A session



Déserts
Faouzi Bensaïdi



Geology Of Separation
Yosr Gasmi, Mauro Mazzocchi
Followed by Q&A session



Banel & Adama
Ramata-Toulaye Sy
Followed by Q&A session



A Fidai Film
Kamal Aljafari
Followed by Q&A session



Tiger Stripes
Amanda Nell Eu



About Dry Grasses
Nuri Bilge Ceylan
Followed by Q&A session



The Mother of All Lies
Asmae El Moudir
Followed by Q&A session

Engaging the World Online

Qumra 2024's social media campaign captured global attention, amplifying the event's impact and reaching diverse audiences. With an impressive **7.8 million impressions** and over **2 million accounts reached**, the campaign showcased the vibrant energy of Qumra through creative content and dynamic storytelling.

Engagement was strong, with **350,000 views** across videos and reels, more than **25,000 likes**, and a robust presence via **300 Instagram stories**. The Institute's platforms also experienced growth, gaining **2,600+ new followers**, underscoring Qumra's resonance within the online film community.

A Proud Legacy Continues

Qumra's 10th edition was a testament to its enduring mission of empowering filmmakers and celebrating the art of storytelling. With a decade of mentorship, collaboration, and cultural exchange, Qumra continues to shape the future of cinema, ensuring that emerging voices are heard and their stories are shared with the world.



AJYAL FILM FESTIVAL



16 - 23 November 2024

Ajyal Film Festival reaffirmed its role as a leading platform for promoting cinema and cultivating a deeper appreciation for the creative arts. 2024's edition, themed 'Moments that Matter', highlighted the transformative power of storytelling to inspire understanding, unity, and empowerment.

Featuring a curated selection of films from Qatar, the Middle East, and beyond, the festival offered diverse cinematic experiences, including feature films, documentaries, and shorts, engaging audiences of all ages. Beyond the screenings, Ajyal hosted interactive workshops, panel discussions, and activities that foster creativity and dialogue about cinema's role in driving social change and cultural exchange.

With its enduring mission to inspire and enrich youth through the power of film, Ajyal continues to empower the next generation of storytellers and strengthen connections within the local and global creative communities.

Ajyal's Mission

To inspire and enrich the lives of youth through the power of film and media and to mobilize local and international communities to join us in this movement.

Ajyal's Vision

Empowered and Informed Youth for a Better Tomorrow.

23



Features

48



Shorts

38



Countries
represented

486



Ajyal Jurors

165



volunteers

MOMENTS THAT MATTER

A Showcase of Cinema, Courage, and Connection

The 2024 Ajyal Film Festival showcased **71 compelling films** from **38 countries**, celebrating themes of resilience, courage, and empowerment. Highlights included **26 Arab films, 24 by women filmmakers**, and **14 supported by Doha Film Institute**.

The festival also featured the powerful Voices from Palestine programme, an homage to the spirit and lived experiences of Palestinians, and introduced Made in Qatar Shabab, empowering emerging local talent. Ajyal Talks and Spotlight sessions brought inspiring insights from global artists, while adapted screenings and the Intaj: From Ground Zero Experience reflected the festival's commitment to inclusivity and meaningful storytelling.

Ajyal's unique Jury Experience brought together 486 young jurors from diverse backgrounds, including 78 from Gaza, fostering creative dialogue and cultural understanding. Special programmes like Geekend and open-air screenings enhanced community engagement, while collaborations like the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture spotlighted regional artistry.

Through these initiatives, Ajyal continued to nurture future storytellers and celebrate the unifying power of film.



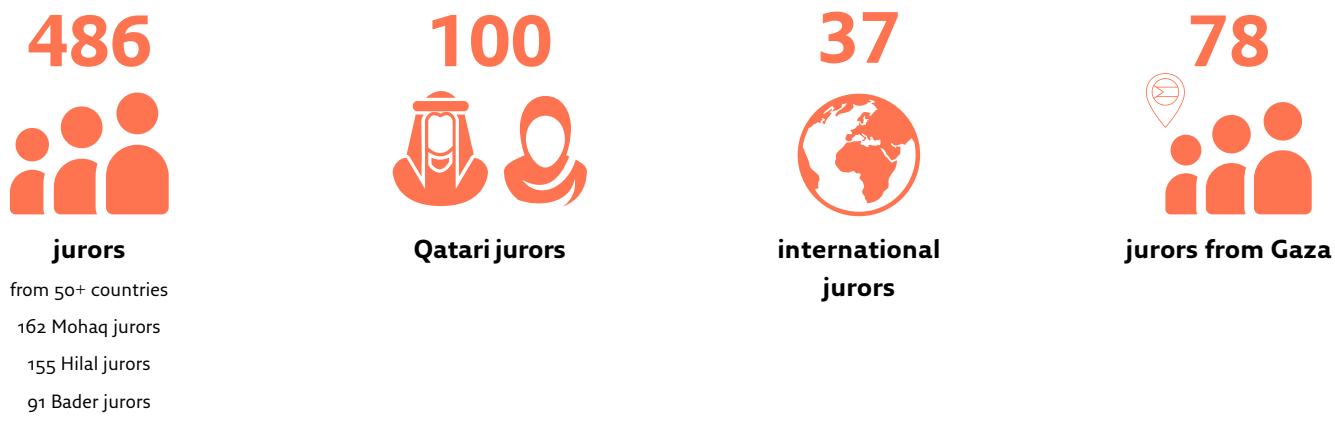
A Poignant Opening Night

Filmmaking as a Bridge to Human Understanding

Ajyal 2024 opened with a poignant reminder of cinema’s power to foster human understanding, resonating deeply with this year’s theme, ‘Moments That Matter’. In her welcoming address, Fatma Hassan Alremaihi, CEO of DFI and Festival Director, reflected on Ajyal’s journey and announced plans for the 2025 Doha Film Festival. Her Excellency Lolwah bint Rashid Al Khater presented an honorary award to Mahmoud Ajour, a young Gazan survivor, symbolising hope amidst ongoing struggles.

The evening featured the DFI-supported opening film ‘Sudan, Remember Us’ by Hind Meddeb, a powerful documentary on Sudan’s young activists, and a stirring musical performance by Sudanese artist Mustafa the Poet. Distinguished guests and cultural leaders joined to celebrate an inspiring start to Ajyal 2024.

Ajyal Jury



The Ajyal Jury Experience welcomed participants aged 8 to 25 from around the world, offering a unique platform to engage with acclaimed cinema and discuss pressing global issues. Jurors explored films as a medium for social change, participated in workshops, and connected with filmmakers and peers, fostering cultural exchange and meaningful dialogue.

Divided into three age groups—Mohaq (8–12), Hilal (13–17), and Bader (18–25)—jurors evaluated a diverse programme of feature and short films. Their votes determined funding for filmmakers, empowering young voices to shape the future of global cinema.



“I just want to say thank you for the hospitality and super organization before, during, and even after the event. It’s an unforgettable experience to be there and meet all the international and local juries and get to know the landscape of each countries’ film industry. It’s great to see your support for Qatari filmmakers, I can’t wait to see how the Qatar film industry will develop and what the Doha Film Festival will look like next year!”

- Grace Stefany, international juror

“I would like to thank you and the festival team for everything during the festival last week. It was a great experience for me. I learned a lot about cinema, about films, about the writing process, but most importantly I learned a lot about humanity. Spending a week with people from completely different parts of the world was the most instructive thing for me. Being together in the same place for the same purpose, sharing our feelings and ideas, and breaking out of the narrow molds that we are unintentionally taught in our countries has been the most beautiful and most important aspect of the festival for me. I tell my friends at my university about my experiences and the festival and I am proud to have been there.”

- Talha Yasin Yaman, international juror

“First of all, on behalf of my whole family, I would like to express gratitude for the amazing Film Festival. It was fantastic in all aspects, either in organizing or the overall show. However, I believe the greatest thing for us was the unique experience that my kid had as an Ajyal Jury member. Many thanks for such priceless and memorable moments.”

- Roman Shipilov, juror parent

“On behalf of my daughters Marya and Fatima Al Sumaiti, thanks a lot for the exciting, inspiring and memorable experience. They really enjoyed it and they want to join next year.”

- Dr Kholode Al Obaidli, juror parent

“First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire Ajyal 2024 team for your incredible efforts and the outstanding organization of the event. The experience truly reflects the dedication and passion behind it. Secondly, I would like to share my appreciation for the wonderful experience my daughter had during her first participation. She thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from the event, which left such a positive impression on her that she has encouraged her siblings to join next year.”

- Amna S Alkuwari, juror parent



Conversations That Matter: Art, Music, and Advocacy at Ajyal

Ajyal Spotlights in 2024 brought powerful voices to the forefront, featuring renowned Palestinian actress Hiam Abbass and celebrated filmmaker and photographer Misan Harriman. Their inspiring sessions highlighted the transformative role of storytelling in fostering social change and engaging young audiences.

Ajyal Talks explored the power of art and music to drive meaningful conversations. Voices Through Art featured Qatari artist Ghada Al Khater and Sudanese activist Khalid Albaih, while Trailblazing in Music showcased Sylvia M. Zakhary and musician Anees, offering fresh perspectives on creativity and advocacy.

And The Winner is...

Each of the three Ajyal Juries awards a Best Film prize to their favourite short and feature-length films, for a total of six awards. The directors of the winning films are awarded funding toward their next film, so judges are empowered to support and promote future content that is relevant and important to them, in a proactive way.

Mohaq:

- Best Short Film Award: **‘Bottles’** — **Yassine El Idrissi**
- Best Feature Film Award: **‘Block 5’** — **Klemen Dvornik**

Hilal:

- Best Short Film Award: **‘Canary in a Coal Mine’** — **Dwan Kaoukji**
- Best Feature Film Award: **‘Searching for Amani’** — **Debra Aroko and Nicole Gormley**

Bader:

- Best Short Film Award: **‘Apoleon’** — **Amir Youssef**
- Best Feature Film Award: **‘Thank You for Banking with Us’** — **Laila Abbas**

The Made in Qatar Awards, which honoured the works of Qatari and Qatar-based filmmakers, were evaluated by a three-member jury led by acclaimed Palestinian actor Saleh Bakri and included Kenyan filmmaker Debra Aroko and Qatari filmmaker Amal Al Muftah. The winners were:

Abdulaziz Jassim Award for Best Performance: **‘I Lay for You to Sleep’** — **Ali Al-Hajri**
Best Director Award: **Paul Abraham and Abdulla Al-Hor** — **‘Alkaline’**
Best Film Award: **‘I Lay for You to Sleep’** — **Ali Al-Hajri**

One of the special moments at the festival this year was the ‘Ajyal in Gaza’ programme that screened films from Qatar for 78 young jurors in Gaza, who awarded ‘Above the Tamarind Tree’ by Buthyna Al Mohammadi the top honour.

Communications and Marketing



Ajyal 2024 demonstrated the power of a cohesive communications and marketing strategy in connecting with diverse audiences, highlighting the festival’s cultural relevance and far-reaching impact.

The festival achieved remarkable media visibility, generating **596 media hits** with a total circulation of **8.39 million** and a reach of over **122 million globally**. The campaign delivered an advertising value of **QAR 7,140,120** and a perceived value of **QAR 22,302,020**, reflecting the widespread influence of the festival across traditional and digital media platforms.

Campaign

Running from 4-23 November, the campaign included programmatic ads, cinema spots (Novo and VOX), and social media platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and Snapchat. Cross-posting with influencers significantly boosted engagement, while targeted ads aligned with trending regional topics drove strong video viewership and interaction.

Social Media Engagement

Social media engagement for Ajyal 2024 exceeded last year’s performance, fuelled by timely and impactful content that resonated with audiences. Viral success was achieved through Ajyal videos, which garnered extensive reach and high levels of interaction. Film trailers performed exceptionally on Facebook, while TikTok Topview emerged as a standout platform, driving significant traffic and awareness. The strategic integration of influencers and cross-platform collaboration further amplified the festival’s reach.

The Reviews Are In...

"I salute the Doha Film Institute at the Ajyal Festival and respect their efforts in organizing such an important festival without extravagance, and with consideration for what is happening to our people in Gaza."

- Saleh Bakri, Palestinian actor

"What makes Ajyal special is its commitment to nurturing young voices in film. As artists, we strive to be positive role models, and to contribute to building a world based on mutual respect and understanding. This festival's emphasis on youth perspectives makes this particularly meaningful."

- Esra Bilgiç, acclaimed Turkish actor

I've never heard of a major film festival opening with a film about Sudan, where the world witnesses the largest loss of lives. That Ajyal recognised it by opening with Sudan, Remember Us – to me – is an extremely revolutionary moment."

- Misan Harriman, Award-winning photographer

"Ajyal Film Festival has been an eye-opening and transformative journey for me. The energy, creativity, and sense of community I experienced in Doha were genuinely inspiring. It was a privilege to witness how Ajyal and the Doha Film Institute foster empathy, independent thinking, and cultural exchange through the universal language of cinema."

- Klemen Dvornik, filmmaker

"It was a real pleasure being with you in Doha and being part of the Ajyal experience. I've been to many festivals but this one was so special in many ways. I could feel the love and dedication of everyone involved."

- Laila Abbas, filmmaker

"Wanted to send a BIG THANK YOU and all my gratitude to you all for hosting such a wonderful festival! It was truly an incredible experience, and I left Doha feeling inspired and incredibly moved by all the work that was done, and effort to showcase important films for the next generation of audiences. It was really rewarding!"

- Rand Beiruty, filmmaker

"As I am making my way back to Istanbul, I would like to sincerely thank you for your amazing hospitality and for all your help in making my experience with this year's festival so beautiful and unforgettable. It was my absolute pleasure to meet you, and I wish you all the best with the rest of the festival and everything."

- Amjad Al Nour, filmmaker / presenter

"First off allow me to congratulate you on the success of this edition of the Ajyal Film Festival, and for inviting me to witness firsthand the scale and magnitude of the positive impact it has on the Qatari and global film scene. The entire festival's theme, production, speakers and enthusiastic jurors all came together so well to deliver not only a captivating program but one with a noble cause and purpose which I cannot commend you enough on."

- Ribal Nasra, Manager, VOX Cinemas

"Ajyal is a great festival, very impressive with the young jury and audience. A very different festival from all the others in the MENA! So congrats for this edition and for the future of Ajyal!"

- Michel Zana, Dulac Distribution



INTAJ: FROM GROUND ZERO EXPERIENCE

3,000+
Visitors



The Intaj: From Ground Zero Experience at Msheireb's Intaj Exhibition was one of the most poignant showcases to date. Featuring 22 short films by Gaza-based filmmakers, the project, initiated by Palestinian filmmaker Rashid Masharawi, presented raw and deeply personal narratives of resilience and hope. Spanning diverse genres such as fiction, documentary, animation, and experimental cinema, the films offered a genuine glimpse into life in Gaza, revealing an enduring spirit amidst immense challenges.

Screened across three digital spaces, the exhibition highlighted the power of storytelling and the unyielding determination of Gaza's artistic community. Participating filmmakers included Aws Al-Banna, Ahmed Al-Danf, Basel El-Maqousi, Mustafa Al Nabih, and 18 others who brought their unique perspectives to life through this transformative project.

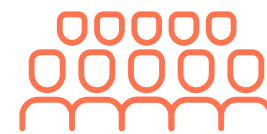


GEEKDOM: WHERE POP CULTURE MEETS CREATIVITY



Geekdom 2024, Qatar's premier pop-culture and creative event, returned to Ajyal, bringing together artists, fans, and game developers for an engaging four-day celebration. Highlights included the Geekend Game Jam, hosted in partnership with Media City Qatar and SCALE7, where creative minds collaborated to develop new games. Winning teams received valuable prizes, including cash awards and access to business incubation programmes, providing mentorship and resources to launch their ventures in game development.

The event also featured the Game Developers Hub, showcasing innovative creations from local developers, and the bustling Geekend Market, spotlighting Qatar's artisans and designers. Immersive workshops and talks, including sessions by Qatari board game creator Abdelrahman Al-Homaid and COREGAME's Dave Andrews, offered inspiration and practical skills, solidifying Geekend as a dynamic platform for Qatar's growing creative community.



17,943

Visitors



160

Exhibitors



6

Screenings



VOICES FROM PALESTINE

In a poignant tribute to the resilience, resistance and hope of the Palestinian people, Ajyal presented the next instalment of its 'Voices from Palestine' programme featuring films by Palestinian filmmakers who courageously present the lived realities of their people.

Standing in solidarity with Palestinians, the programme was a depiction of Palestine in times of profound collective mourning and reflection.



YOUR GHOSTS ARE MINE

Expanded Cinema, Amplified Voices

A Groundbreaking Exhibition at the Venice Biennale

In a significant milestone for Doha Film Institute (DFI), the exhibition Your Ghosts Are Mine – Expanded Cinema, Amplified Voices debuted at the Palazzo Cavalli Franchetti in Venice during the Biennale Arte 2024. Running from 18 April to 24 November, the exhibition brought together a selection of films and video installations that illuminate contemporary experiences of community life, transnational crossings, memory, and exile.

Produced by Qatar Museums and co-organised by DFI, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, and the future Art Mill Museum in Doha, the exhibition is a profound exploration of the shared narratives across the Arab world, Africa, and South Asia. With contributions from over 40 filmmakers and video artists, it presented a diverse array of genres, including fiction, documentary, animation, and experimental works, blending modernity with tradition and spirituality with postcolonial perspectives.

Empowering Voices Across Borders

The exhibition featured visionary works by directors such as Hassen Ferhani, Shirin Neshat, Elia Suleiman, Amal Al-Muftah, and Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese, among others, representing countries from Algeria and Palestine to Sudan and Yemen.

Through their storytelling, the films delve into the tensions between remembrance and aspiration, personal and global struggles, and the intersection of history and imagination. This collection challenged traditional notions of cinematic art, positioning the works as enduring cultural and historical artefacts.





Global Recognition and Media Coverage

The exhibition received widespread media attention, with notable coverage from the Associated Press and the Washington Post, praising its ability to elevate cinema as a vital art form.

“Highlights of the national pavilions include...the spectacular Palazzo Cavalli-Franchetti, on the Grand Canal, where the Doha Film Institute and Mathaf, the Arab Museum of Modern Art, have organized a high-tech, wide-ranging survey of contemporary art film called “Your Ghosts Are Mine.” Based on the number of “Ghosts” tote bags seen in Venice, this show has a huge promotional budget. But it’s also a compelling sampler of serious contemporary cinema.”

Associated Press

46,311,561 unique monthly visitors

“While Qatar is yet to claim its own national pavilion in the mega show, the nation had participated in last year’s Venice Architecture Biennial with an unveiling of its upcoming cultural institutions, including the Art Mill Museum which will be transformed from a flour mill by the Chilean architect Alejandro Aravena’s ELEMENTAL studio. Qatar returns to La Serenissima with an ambitious group show dedicated to contemporary moving images from not only the Middle East but also Africa and Southeast Asia.”

Washington Post

46,834,485 unique monthly visitors

Extending Impact Through Social Media and Branding

DFI collaborated with Qatar Museums, Mathaf, and Qatar Creates to promote the exhibition across social media platforms. On DFI’s Instagram account alone, posts about the exhibition garnered **2,905 likes, 436 shares**, and reached over **137,000 accounts**. The exhibition’s visual identity, inspired by its compelling theme, further strengthened its resonance with audiences globally.



A Platform for Community and Creativity

The opening event on 18 April 2024 was a resounding success, drawing filmmakers, artists, and dignitaries for an evening of cultural dialogue and artistic celebration.

A Gala Dinner hosted by DFI and Media City Qatar on 2 September during the Venice Film Festival further amplified the exhibition’s profile, connecting industry leaders and cultural ambassadors in a shared celebration of cinematic excellence.

A Poignant Contribution to Cinema and Art

Your Ghosts Are Mine stood as a testament to DFI’s dedication to fostering creativity and cultural dialogue. By providing a platform for filmmakers and video artists to explore deeply personal and universal themes, the exhibition bridged the past, present, and future, showcasing cinema as a transformative and unifying art form on one of the world’s most prestigious stages.

GEEKEND

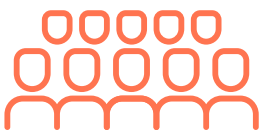
Breaking Records and Uniting Creative Communities

Geekend 2024 marked a milestone year for Doha Film Institute’s flagship pop-culture event, demonstrating its ever-growing popularity within Qatar and the region’s creative community. Held at the dedicated Geekdom Building on Lusail Boulevard, the event featured three vibrant editions in June, September, and November, each offering a dynamic mix of activities designed to inspire, connect, and empower creatives across various disciplines.

In 2024, Geekend shattered previous records, welcoming a record-breaking 3,628 visitors at the September edition and achieving another milestone with 85 exhibitors during the November event. These impressive numbers reflect the growing enthusiasm for Geekend’s unique offerings, solidifying its status as a cornerstone event for creative expression in Qatar.

Geekend June

6 – 8 June 2024



2,373

Visitors

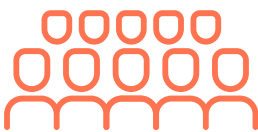


66

Exhibitors

Geekend September

12 – 14 September 2024



3,628

Visitors

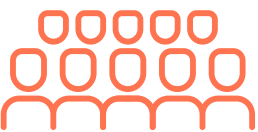


69

Exhibitors

Geekend November

20 – 23 November 2024



2,830

Visitors



85

Exhibitors





From Markets to Masterclasses—Engaging Qatar’s Creatives

Throughout 2024, Geekend provided a thriving platform for artists, gamers, filmmakers, and enthusiasts to connect, share their passions, and engage in meaningful cultural exchanges. Each edition featured a diverse range of activities, including:

- **Geekend Market:** Showcasing local and regional artists, vendors, and game developers.
- **Interactive Experiences:** Such as escape rooms, gaming tournaments, and the Snoonu Hackathon, where digital artists competed to create engaging animations.
- **Stage Programmes:** Featuring karaoke, cosplay contests, film screenings, and family-friendly events like the Tokyo Street Fashion Contest.
- **Workshops and Competitions:** From the Game Jam with Media City Qatar and SCALE7, to the Beyond Solar Gaming Challenge presented by COREGAME.



Where Creative Minds and Cultures Converge

The ever-expanding scope of Geekend is a testament to its influence as a cultural hub, nurturing talent and building connections within Qatar’s creative sector. The record-breaking attendance and exhibitor participation in 2024 showcased Geekend’s success in engaging diverse audiences and empowering creatives to push their artistic boundaries.

As Geekend continues to evolve, it remains dedicated to supporting the arts, inspiring innovation, and contributing meaningfully to local and global cultural conversations. With new educational initiatives and collaborative opportunities on the horizon, Geekend is set to drive even greater impact in 2025 and beyond.



FILM PROGRAMMING



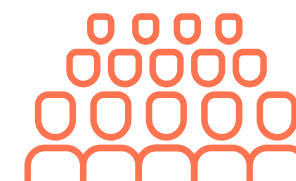
Cinema That Truly Connects

At Doha Film Institute, we are committed to offering a profound and diverse cultural experience through the power of cinema. Our carefully curated film programming brings exceptional storytelling to the people of Qatar, enriching audiences with unique perspectives and celebrating the art of film.

In 2024, we presented an inspiring line-up of new releases, timeless classics, retrospectives, and thoughtfully themed showcases, catering to audiences of all ages and interests. With 78 screenings and an impressive attendance of over 6,500—our year-round film programming demonstrated the transformative power of cinema to educate, engage, and inspire.



78
Screenings



6,500+
Attendance

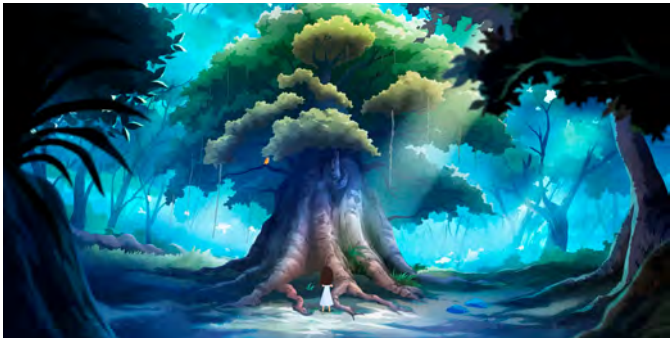
Woven Narratives: An Iranian Cinema Series

Museum of Islamic Art Auditorium

25–27 January 2024

A captivating film series inspired by the ‘Fashioning an Empire: Textiles from Safavid Iran’ exhibition at the Museum of Islamic Art. The programme highlighted the rich cultural and social tapestry of Iranian life through masterful storytelling and cinematic artistry.

- **‘Monir: Reflections and Refractions on Islamic Art’** (2015) by Bahman Giarostami
- **‘Gabbah’** (1996) by Mohsen Makhmalbaf
- **‘Through the Olive Trees’** (1994) by Abbas Kiarostami
- **‘Isfahan’** (1976), **‘Ghamsar Rosewater’** (1971), **‘Mashhad’** (1970) by Hossein Torabi



Made in Qatar

VOX Cinemas, Doha Oasis Mall

20–25 February 2024

Our ‘Made in Qatar’ programme continued to shine a light on the nation’s thriving homegrown film industry in 2024. By offering a platform for Qatari and Qatar-based filmmakers, the initiative showcased an impressive array of local talent, contributing to the development of a sustainable and vibrant film community. Screenings included engaging Q&A sessions with filmmakers, fostering deeper connections with audiences.

- **‘A Simple Cut’** (2022) by Maha Al-Jefairi
- **‘The Chandelier’** (2023) by Karim Emara
- **‘Civilization of Equality’** (2023) by Ibrahim Albuainain
- **‘When It’s Time (El Maradh Ma Bektal)’** (2023) by Awad Hashim Karrar
- **‘A Few Seconds’** (2022) by Arman Mansouri
- **‘Fraiha’** (2022) by Amal Al-Shammari, Hossein Heydar
- **‘Sanad’** (2023) by Noor Al-Nasr

- **‘A’wan Al Kheir’** (2022) by Farah Goma
- **‘A Proposal’** (2023) by Nadia Al-Khater
- **‘Do You Remember Me?’** (2023) by Maryam Al-Mohammed
- **‘Fragments’** (2023) by Zaid Al Najati
- **‘First Funeral Day’** (2022) by Jihad Hallaq
- **‘Kinship’** (2023) by Ali Alhajri
- **‘Above the Tamarind Tree’** (2023) by Buthyna Al-Mohammadi

The Best of Independent Cinema with DFI at VOX

In 2024, Doha Film Institute strengthened its dynamic partnership with VOX Cinemas Qatar, bringing an inspiring selection of independent films to audiences in Doha. This collaboration continues to champion innovative and thought-provoking cinema, offering a platform for diverse voices and stories from around the world.

This year's award-winning titles included the internationally acclaimed 'The Teacher' by Farah Nabulsi, celebrated for its powerful portrayal of the Palestinian experience, and 'Bye Bye Tiberias' by Lina Soualem, a poignant documentary exploring generational resilience.

- 1-3 February 2024 — **'If Only I Could Hibernate'** (2024) by Zoljargal Purevdash
- 2 February 2024 — **'Coco Farm'** (2024) by Sébastien Gagné
- 25-27 April 2024 — **'Bye Bye Tiberias'** (2024) by Lina Soualem
- 26 April 2024 — **'We Have a Dream'** (2024) by Pascal Plisson
- 30 May - 1 June 2024 — **'Saleem'** (2024) by Cynthia Madanat Sharaiha
- 27-29 June 2024 — **'Hajjan'** (2024) by Abu Bakr Shawky
- 28 June 2024 — **'Chicken for Linda!'** (2024) by Chiara Malta and Sébastien Laudenbach
- 29-31 August 2024 — **'The Teacher'** (2024) by Farah Nabulsi
- 26-28 September 2024 — **'Terrestrial Verses'** (2024) by Ali Asgari, Alireza Khatami
- 26-28 December 2024 — **'The Teachers' Lounge'** (2024) by İlker Çatak



Ode to Our Land

Museum of Islamic Art Auditorium
11-13 April 2024 / 25-27 April 2024

A production by the Doha Film Institute for the National Museum of Qatar, 'Ode to Our Land', helmed by two promising Qatari talents, Amal Al Muftah and Rawda Al-Thani, is a first-of-its-kind film project that celebrates the vision of His Highness the Father Emir in establishing a modern nation dedicated to the prosperity of all its people.



Mosaics of Morocco

Museum of Islamic Art
10-12 October 2024

As part of the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture, Doha Film Institute presented 'Mosaics of Morocco', a captivating series of contemporary Moroccan films. The programme showcased exceptional works by both renowned and emerging Moroccan directors, offering audiences an enriching glimpse into Morocco's vibrant storytelling and cultural heritage.

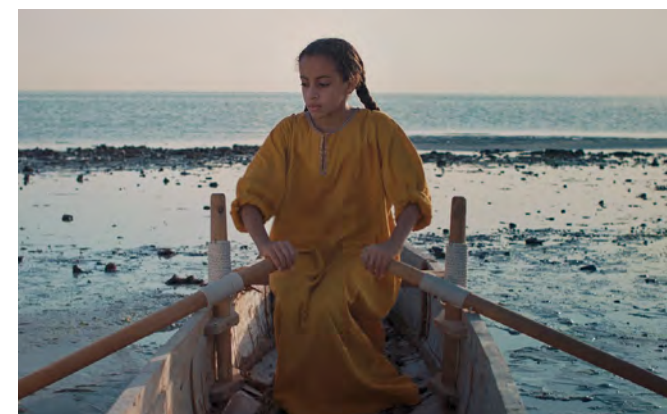
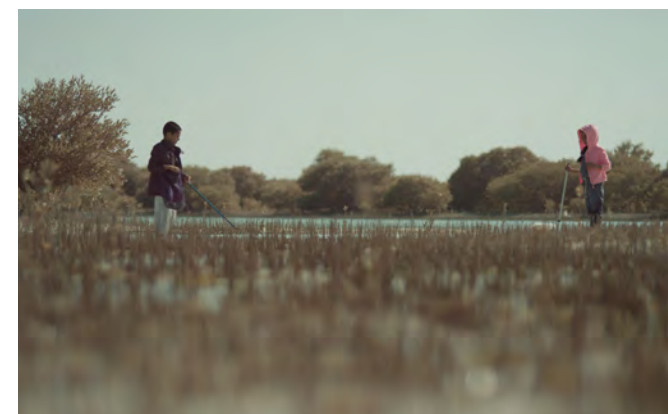
- **'House in the Fields'** (2017) by Tala Hadid
- **'Mica'** (2020) by Ismaël Ferroukhi
- **'Fragments from Heaven'** (2022) by Adnane Baraka
- **'Indivision'** (2023) by Leila Kilani



Cinema Under the Stars

As part of our 'Cinema Under the Stars' programme, audiences enjoyed a selection of family-friendly films in the beautiful outdoor setting of the Museum of Islamic Art Park. This diverse line-up featured beloved classics, heartwarming animations, and inspiring documentaries, creating memorable experiences for the community.

- 19 January 2024 — **'Hunt for the Wilderpeople'** (2016) by Taika Waititi
- 20 January 2024 — **'Frozen'** (2013) by Chris Buck & Jennifer Lee
- 21 January 2024 — **'Boy and the World'** (2014) by Alê Abreu
- 3 October 2024 — **'Happy Feet'** (2006) by George Miller
- 4 October 2024 — **'Rio'** (2011) by Carlos Saldanha
- 5 October 2024 — **'Lily Topples the World'** (2021) by Jeremy Workman
- 17 October 2024 — **'Song of The Sea'** (2014) by Tomm Moore
- 18 October 2024 — **'Chicken Run'** (2000) by Peter Lord and Nick Park
- 19 October 2024 — **'Spirited Away'** (2001) by Hayao Miyazaki
- 5 December 2024 — **'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'** (2001) by Chris Columbus
- 6 December 2024 — **'Paddington 2'** (2017) by Paul King
- 7 December 2024 — **'Paper Planes'** (2014) by Robert Connolly



Qatar National Day 2024

Katara Hills & Museum of Islamic Art Park

To celebrate Qatar National Day 2024, the Doha Film Institute presented 'Cinema Under the Stars', a vibrant programme of family-friendly screenings in the open air. The event featured 'Made in Qatar' shorts by talented local filmmakers and the DFI-supported feature documentary 'Ode to Our Land', highlighting the richness and diversity of Qatar's storytelling community.

14 December 2024, Katara Hills

- **'Made in Qatar'** – Short Films Programme
- **'Sh'hab'** by Amal Al-Muftah
- **'Al Muqanaz'** by Tarek Abu-Esber
- **'Land of Pearls'** by Mohammed Al Ibrahim
- **'Khurshid'** by Mazen Shafea, Mohamed Elamin
- **'Al Gawasa'** by Sheikha Bahzad, Maryam Al-Thani
- **'Gubgub'** by Nouf Al Sulaiti

- **'Above the Tamarind Tree'** by Buthyna Al-Mohammadi
- **'Emsahar'** by Hassan Al-Jahni
- **'Treasures of the Past'** by Rawan Al-Nassiri, Nada Bedair
- **'Simple Cut'** by Maha Al-Jefairi

15 December 2024, Katara Hills

- **'Ode to Our Land'** by Amal Al Muftah and Rawda Al-Thani

FUNDING

Supporting Authentic Storytellers Through Strategic Funding

At Doha Film Institute, we are committed to supporting compelling creative projects from diverse voices. By empowering filmmakers to tell their unique stories, we aim to contribute to a more balanced and inclusive global cinematic landscape.

Through initiatives such as our Grants Programme, Qatari Film Fund, and Co-Financing opportunities, we provide essential resources to emerging and established filmmakers. Our goal is to nurture original ideas, ensuring they can be fully realised into meaningful films that resonate with audiences worldwide.



GRANTS



Giving Creative, Financial and Logistical Support to Promising Filmmakers

Our Grants Programme aims to discover and empower rising talent among first- and second-time filmmakers from Qatar, the wider Arab region, and beyond. By funding their productions, we facilitate the exchange of creativity, knowledge, and professional collaboration among filmmakers.

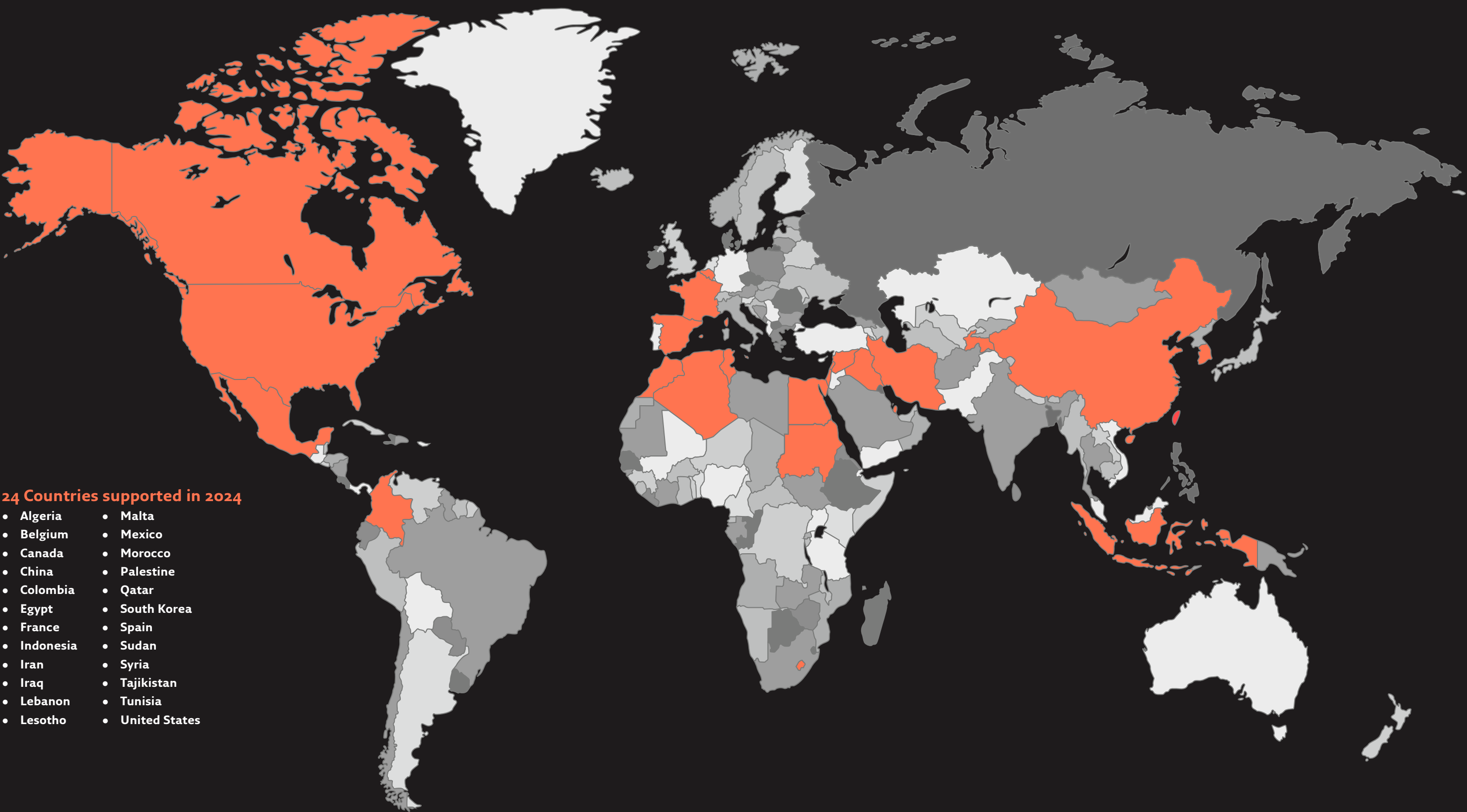
DFI provides opportunities for grantees to interact, connect, evaluate, and grow through events such as Qumra and Ajyal. We ensure that the exposure and experiences gained are utilized as a springboard to international festivals, capturing global audiences.

In response to evolving industry trends and growing audience engagement with new technologies, DFI also funds television and web series projects.





Bridging Cultures Through Film: DFI's International Influence



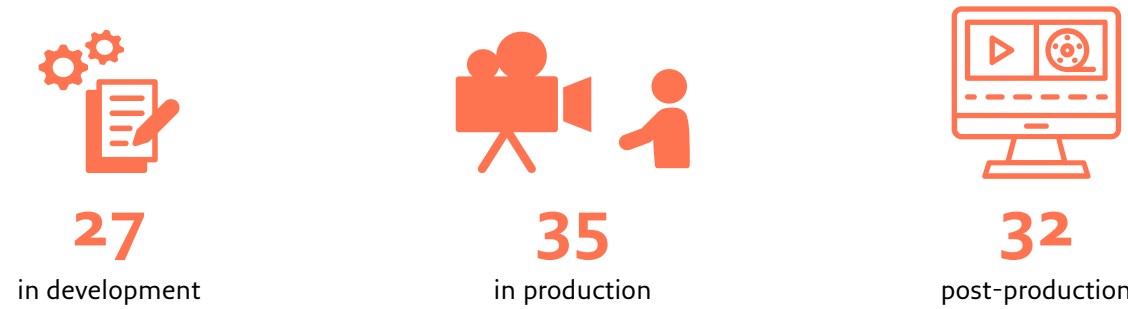
24 Countries supported in 2024

- Algeria
- Belgium
- Canada
- China
- Colombia
- Egypt
- France
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Malta
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Palestine
- Qatar
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sudan
- Syria
- Tajikistan
- Tunisia
- United States

94 projects granted in 2024



Stages of Development



DFI Films Take Centre Stage at Global Festivals

	Awards	Selections
Academy Awards®	-	-
Cannes Film Festival	-	6
Berlin Film Festival	-	6
Toronto International Film Festival	-	6
Sundance Film Festival	-	-
Sarajevo Film Festival	-	5
Venice International Film Festival	4	6
Total Selections (All Festivals)	246+	
Total Awards (All Festivals)	108+	

Cultivating Local Talent Through the Qatari Film Fund



The Qatari Film Fund (QFF) is a cornerstone of Doha Film Institute's commitment to empowering local talent, offering comprehensive support to enhance the skills and creativity of Qatari filmmakers. Each year, QFF finances up to eight short films and provides development and production support for up to four feature films, fostering the growth of exceptional projects.

Since its launch in 2015, QFF has surpassed expectations, cultivating a thriving community of Qatari filmmakers whose works continue to gain recognition and inspire audiences on the global stage.

Community Outreach

Connecting, Engaging, and Inspiring Through Film.



63

Events



676

External Collaborations

Doha Film Institute's Community Outreach Department continued to play a vital role in fostering the growth of Qatar's filmmaking community throughout 2024. By identifying key opportunities and nurturing talent both locally and internationally, our outreach initiatives created meaningful connections, encouraged public participation, and showcased DFI as the region's leading film institute.

Our approach focused on inclusivity, ensuring that all members of Qatar's diverse communities had access to our programmes and could engage with the dynamic world of film. By strengthening partnerships with external organisations and expanding local opportunities, we remained committed to cultivating filmmakers of tomorrow and inspiring film lovers of all backgrounds and ages.

Building Connections

Public and Organisational Community Outreach

We engaged local audiences and community groups through events, screenings, and awareness campaigns, offering unique opportunities to experience cinema and learn more about DFI's initiatives.

Filmmaking Community Outreach

We strengthened connections with filmmakers by providing resources, mentorship, and collaborative opportunities. Our supportive environment enabled emerging talent to thrive and contribute to Qatar's growing creative sector.

A Community-Driven Success

The Outreach Department was integral to the success of DFI's programmes in 2024, enhancing engagement through strategic invitations and targeted awareness initiatives. By collaborating with prominent voices in the creative community, we ensured impactful participation in events and educational opportunities, amplifying DFI's influence across Qatar.



Empowering Young Minds Through Education

Our collaboration with the Ministry of Education helped expand film appreciation among Qatari students. Through special events with both government and private educational institutions, we inspired the next generation of storytellers. By offering workshops, screenings, and interactive sessions, we encouraged young people to explore the art of filmmaking and express their creativity.

United Through Film—Thank You to our Partners and Sponsors

As we reflect on 2024, another year marked by both = achievements and profound challenges, Doha Film Institute extends its deepest gratitude to our partners, sponsors, and supporters. Your steadfast commitment and generous contributions have been pivotal in advancing our mission to empower filmmakers and enrich the cultural landscape of Qatar and beyond, even in the face of adversity.

Amidst the tragic events in Palestine, your support has helped us foster creativity, nurture talent, and inspire a resilient film community, demonstrating the transformative power of storytelling. Together, we have uplifted voices, shared powerful narratives, and strengthened cultural ties, contributing to a global dialogue rooted in hope, understanding, and unity.

We look forward to continuing this journey with you, united by our shared vision for a brighter, more inclusive future, where film and culture serve as beacons of resilience and inspiration.

Thank you for being an essential part of our success in 2024.



