

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Film Committee at Media City Qatar and NEON Sign Landmark Agreement to Co-Finance and Develop Arabic and Regional Language Films**

Doha, Qatar – 21 November 2025: The Film Committee at Media City Qatar (Film Committee) today announced a landmark memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NEON, the award-winning U.S. studio behind *Parasite*, *Triangle of Sadness*, and *Anatomy of a Fall*, to co-develop, co-finance, and distribute a slate of Arabic and regional-language films and short-form projects with global reach.

Announced during the inaugural Film Committee Industry Days at the Doha Film Festival 2025, the agreement marks one of the most significant collaborations between a Gulf-based film body and an internationally acclaimed studio, reflecting a shared commitment to bringing authentic stories from the Arab world and the Global South to international audiences.

Under the MoU, the Film Committee and NEON will co-develop and produce 6–10 feature films and short films over a four-year period. The focus will be on Arabic-language and regionally inspired productions, including original stories and acquisitions, with the aim of nurturing local filmmakers and showcasing the creative potential of the MENA region on the world stage.

The announcement was made during an intimate fireside chat, which opened the Film Committee Industry Days, during which Film Committee Chairman, H.E. Hassan Al Thawadi, and NEON Founder and CEO, Tom Quinn, examined the global entertainment landscape and the shifting dynamics shaping the industry's future. Moderated by Faisal Al Agel, Co-Founder at Sard Media Group, the conversation unpacked how creativity and commerce intersect in today's interconnected world, the evolving studio models and audience behavior, and the impact of streaming consolidation and international co-production.

H.E. Hassan Al Thawadi, Chairman of the Film Committee at Media City Qatar, said: "Our collaboration with NEON represents an important milestone in the Film Committee's mission to support Arab cinema. This agreement is about more than financing films, it's about creating a new platform for Arabic and regional storytelling, ensuring that stories from Qatar and the wider Arab world are seen, celebrated, and shared globally. Through this partnership, we are deepening creative collaboration between the Arab world and global cinema, helping position the region as a key player in the creative economy of the Global South."

Tom Quinn, Founder and CEO of NEON, said: "NEON has always been committed to supporting international cinema, and our partnership with the Film Committee at Media City Qatar gives us the opportunity to elevate an even richer diversity of filmmaking for audiences around the world."

NEON will handle distribution across all territories, ensuring that each title receives maximum visibility reaching audiences worldwide. The Film Committee will serve as lead co-financier for the slate.

The collaboration will also include the development of short films to identify and mentor emerging talent, with the long-term goal of developing those projects into full-length features.



This partnership is part of the Film Committee's broader strategy to establish Qatar as a global hub for film production, co-financing, and creative collaboration — connecting local and regional filmmakers with world-class partners, infrastructure, and funding opportunities.

The NEON agreement was the first in a series of major announcements to be made during Industry Days, including the launch of the Qatar Screen Production Incentive (QSPI). The QSPI offers up to a 50% cash rebate on qualifying production expenditure for feature films, television, commercials, and post/VFX work produced in Qatar.

Together, these initiatives underscore the Film Committee's ambition to build a sustainable, globally connected film industry that champions Arab cinema and the creative potential of the Global South.

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About the Film Committee at Media City Qatar:

About the Film Committee at Media City Qatar - The Film Committee at Media City Qatar was established to position Qatar as a leading destination for global film production, co-financing, and creative collaboration.

Under the leadership of the Film Committee at Media City Qatar Chairman, H.E. Hassan Al Thawadi, the Committee supports the development of a world-class film ecosystem through strategic partnerships, incentives, and infrastructure investments. Working alongside the Doha Film Institute, Media City Qatar, and national cultural entities, the Film Committee at Media City Qatar seeks to foster a thriving creative economy, attract international productions, and amplify Qatar's voice on the world stage of cinema and storytelling.

About NEON:

In only nine years, NEON has garnered 39 Academy Award® nominations (7 this year), 11 total wins (5 this year), including two Best Picture wins, and has grossed over \$400M at the box office. The company continues to push boundaries and take creative risks on bold cinema such as Sean Baker's *Anora*, which recently took home five Academy Awards® including Best Picture, and was released in theaters to the highest per-screen average of 2024; as well as Bong Joon Ho's *Parasite*, which made history winning four Academy Awards®, becoming the first non-English-language film to claim Best Picture, and grossed over \$54M at the domestic box office.

NEON has built an impressive streak winning the coveted Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, with six consecutive wins, including this most recent year's winner *It Was Just an Accident* from Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi, as well as *Anora*, *Parasite*, *Anatomy of a Fall*, *Titane*, and *Triangle of Sadness*. In 2024, NEON was named The Hollywood Reporter's Independent Studio of the Year and received the Clio Award for Studio of the Year.



Recent NEON releases include Osgood Perkins' horror film *The Monkey*, based on the short story by Stephen King, which marked NEON's second biggest opening weekend at the box office following Perkins' *Longlegs*, which is the highest grossing independent film of the year at \$75 million domestically.

As a burgeoning leader in the production space, NEON's recent and upcoming in-house productions include: David Robert Mitchell's *They Follow* starring Maika Monroe; Michael Covino's *Splitsville* starring Dakota Johnson and Adria Arjona; the highly anticipated Boots Riley feature *I Love Boosters* starring Keke Palmer, Naomi Ackie, LaKeith Stanfield, Demi Moore, and Eiza González; *The Wrong Girls* starring Kristen Stewart and Alia Shawkat; Tilman Singer's *Cuckoo* starring Hunter Schafer; and Brandon Cronenberg's *Infinity Pool*. NEON's international sales outfit handles the company's in-house titles as well as third party projects.

NEON has amassed a library of over 120 films, with a noteworthy selection of Academy Award® nominated films including: Mohammad Rasoulof's *The Seed of the Sacred Fig*; Wim Wenders' *Perfect Days*; *Robot Dreams* from Pablo Berger; documentaries *All the Beauty and the Bloodshed*, *Fire of Love*, *Moonage Daydream*, and *Flee*, which made history becoming the first film to score an impressive trifecta of Oscar® nominations; Joachim Trier's *The Worst Person in The World*; and Craig Gillespie's *I, Tonya*.

About the Qatar Screen Production Incentive (QSPI):

The QSPI offers up to a 50% cash rebate on qualifying production expenditure for feature films, television, commercials, and post/VFX work produced in Qatar. Eligible applicants must be Qatari-registered companies licensed through Media City Qatar. The programme is designed to attract international productions, build local skills, and establish Qatar as a creative and economic hub for global storytelling.

For more information please contact: media@filmcommittee.qa