

Doha Film Festival

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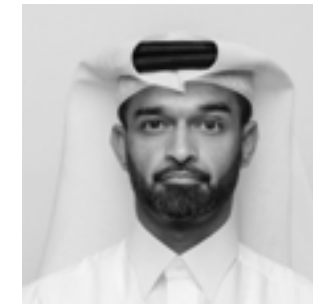
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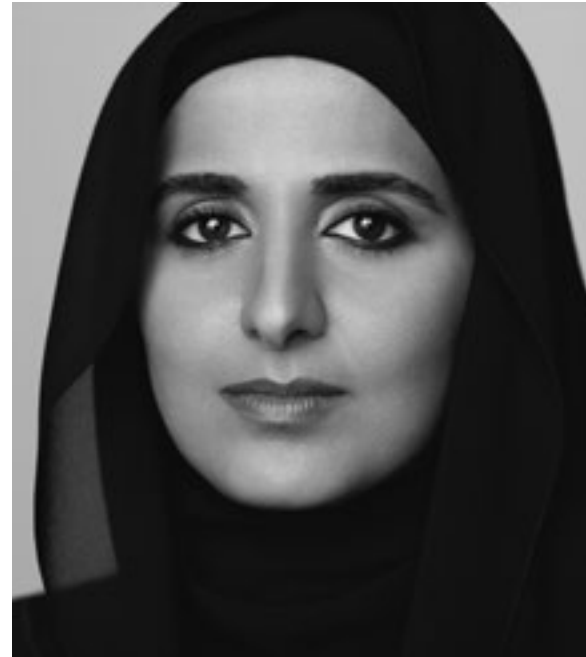
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H.E. Sheikha Al Mayassa
Chairperson, Doha Film Institute

As the curtains rise on this year's Doha Film Festival (DFF), we are reminded of cinema's timeless power to inspire, to question, and to unite. This festival reflects who we are as a nation and the values we hold most dear: openness, creativity, and dialogue between cultures.

Over the past 15 years, Doha Film Institute (DFI) has stood as a testament to Qatar's commitment to the transformative power of cinema. What began as a bold vision to share authentic Arab perspectives with the world has become a dynamic cultural movement, positioning Qatar as a global hub of dialogue, collaboration, and progress. Through film, we have created new possibilities for representation and transformation, and we have shown that a small nation can have a profound impact on the cultural map of the world when vision meets commitment.

This commitment to culture runs deep in our nation's history. As we prepare under the banner of Evolution Nation to mark 50 years since the establishment of Qatar's first museum, we carry forward the belief that creativity is essential to progress. Our museums, galleries, and institutions are places where we encounter the world and where the world encounters us. Film holds a unique place in this cultural landscape that is immediate, visceral, and universal in its ability to bridge divides and build mutual understanding.

Today, the Arab world stands at a remarkable moment of creative awakening. Our filmmakers are shaping narratives that challenge perceptions and open new horizons. Their work is part of a broader cultural movement that sees the region contributing dynamically to global creativity – from art and design to fashion, architecture, and beyond. This is not by coincidence, but by design: Qatar has long understood that investing in culture is investing in the future.

As Chairperson of DFI, I am deeply proud of how the Institute has grown into a global advocate for artistic freedom, a home for creative talent, and a force for cultural diplomacy. Our support for filmmakers across borders – especially from regions whose stories have too often been overlooked – reinforces our mission to create a more inclusive and balanced global film landscape.

We are especially proud to champion voices that are reshaping the global cinematic conversation with stories that challenge convention and bring balance to a storytelling landscape long defined by only a few perspectives.

Doha Film Festival is a place for the discovery of new ideas, new voices, and new ways of seeing. It reminds us that culture, in all its diversity, remains our most enduring bridge to one another.

To all the filmmakers, artists, and visionaries joining us this year: your courage in telling your stories is what defines this festival. And to our audiences: may these films move you, challenge you, and connect you in our shared humanity.

Welcome to Doha Film Festival – a convergence of creativity, connection, and the infinite possibilities of cinema.



Fatma Hassan Alremaihi
CEO, Doha Film Institute

As we turn the page on this exciting new chapter of Doha Film Institute (DFI), Doha Film Festival (DFF) embodies the global storytelling gatherings rooted in authenticity, empathy, and creative excellence that we have become known for.

It is an exciting reflection of everything we have worked towards over the past 15 years and a bold next step in Qatar's cinematic journey. Our evolution from Ajyal's legacy of community engagement and youth empowerment represents DFI's enduring purpose to unite audiences around our shared humanity, and to honour the transformative power of storytelling. DFF is more than a showcase of cinema; it is a meeting point for cultures, a platform for dialogue, and a testament to the belief that art can connect us even in our most divided times.

This year's programme presents a powerful constellation of films that speak to human experience in all its complexity. From the poignant to the thought-provoking, the selected works invite audiences to engage with diverse narratives and artistic voices from around the world.

A defining strength of this year's line-up is its focus on the Global South – a region of immense cultural wealth and cinematic innovation. The films we champion from Africa, Asia, and Latin America expand the global dialogue on storytelling, reminding us that creativity knows no boundaries. Their stories illuminate realities often absent from mainstream cinema, not as acts of resistance but as affirmations of dignity, hope, and shared humanity.

The festival proudly represents the creative momentum of Qatar and the wider Arab region, exemplifying the courage and honesty of our filmmakers. These works embody the confidence and originality that DFI has nurtured since its inception and are proof that Arab voices are not emerging – they are thriving.

Beyond screenings, the festival offers a vital space for exchange and mentorship. Our talks, live performances, and insightful panels foster the spirit of collaboration that has defined DFI's initiatives. Every conversation here between artists, audiences, and industry professionals is part of a larger dialogue about the future of cinema and its power to bring people together.

Since 2010, DFI has supported more than 950 films from over 75 countries, underscoring our deep belief in storytelling as a universal language. We have seen these films earn acclaim at major international festivals and inspire new audiences to look to our region with admiration and respect. Each success story is a reminder that meaningful change in the global creative landscape begins with opportunity – and that is precisely what we strive to provide.

To our filmmakers: thank you for your courage, your vision, and your trust. To our partners, audiences, and supporters: thank you for believing in the power of cinema to transform hearts and minds. To my team at DFI: thank you for everything you do to keep so many dreams alive.

May this festival renew our shared passion for storytelling and remind us that in every frame, in every voice, and in every story told, lies the possibility of a more connected and compassionate world.

Doha Film Festival Programming Team

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Cultural Partners

Katara Cultural Village Foundation

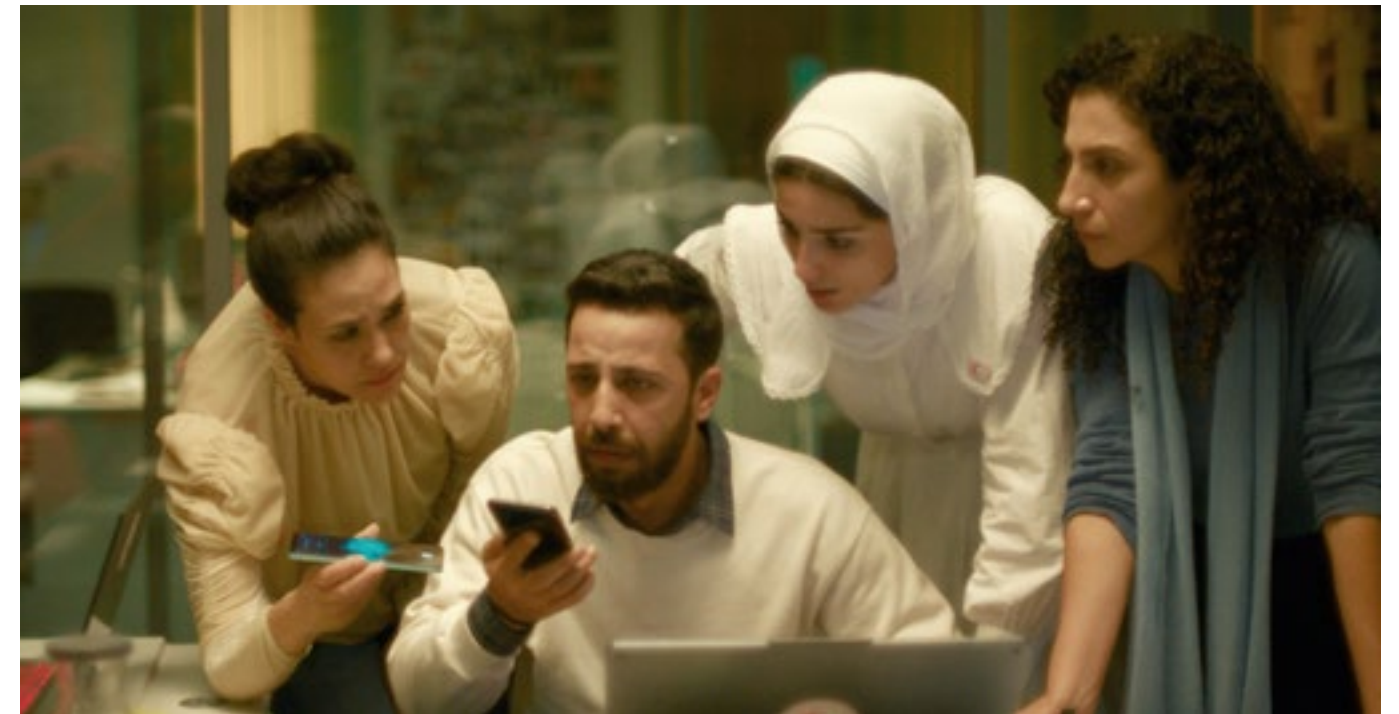
The Cultural Village Foundation is an exceptional project of hope for human interaction through art and cultural exchange – a project made possible thanks to the inspired vision, solid faith and wise leadership of HH Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir of the State of Qatar.

Keeping pace with the emerging global culture that emphasises the importance of diversity in human development, Katara Cultural Village is the largest and the most multidimensional cultural project of Qatar. It is a place where people come together to experience the cultures of the world. With beautiful theatres, concert halls, exhibition galleries, and cutting-edge facilities, Katara aims to become a world leader for multi-cultural activities.

In line with the goals set forward by the Qatar National Vision 2030, Katara serves as a guardian to the heritage and traditions of Qatar and endeavours to spread awareness about the importance of every culture and civilization and as such, Katara hosts international, regional and local festivals, workshops, performances and exhibitions.

DFF Films

Opening Night



The Voice of Hind Rajab

Tunisia, France, Qatar / Arabic, English / 2025

89 mins

Winner of the Silver Lion and UNICEF Award at Venice Film Festival 2025

On 29 January 2024, emergency responders received a call from a six-year-old trapped in a car under fire in Gaza. They kept her on the line and did everything possible to reach her. The recorded voices on that call are real; the film is built around them. Rather than reporting, it remembers, holding stillness, waiting, fear and the fragile thread of connection that binds people who cannot meet but will not let go. The narrative follows those on the other end of the phone: Red Crescent staff whose own words articulate not only what happened but the visceral horror of what it felt like to be there.

Their testimonies, alongside the archival audio, guide a carefully staged dramatisation in which actors hear the authentic voice as they speak, re-inhabiting a lived moment rather than performing it. The effect is intimate, affecting and truly devastating. What emerges is a damning indictment of systems that fail children and a study of collective responsibility. In this space between documentary and fiction, truth is carried by voice. The film becomes a memorial and a demand, naming a child, honouring the people who answered, and asking audiences to share the burden of listening. To hear is to be changed; to remember is a refusal to let violence be perpetrated in silence.



Kaouther Ben Hania constantly explores the boundaries between fiction and documentary. Her last film, 'Four Daughters', was nominated for the

Academy Award for Best Documentary in 2024 after being presented in Competition at the Cannes Film Festival. The film received numerous prestigious awards and was sold in over 40 territories. Her previous film, 'The Man Who Sold His Skin,' was also nominated at the Academy Awards® for Best International Feature Film in 2021, representing Tunisia. All her other films have premiered at prestigious festivals, including Cannes, Venice, AFI, Los Angeles, Locarno, IDFA, and Hot Docs Toronto.

Director / Screenwriter:

Kaouther Ben Hania

Producer: Nadim Cheikhrouha, Odessa Rae, James Wilson

Cinematographer: Juan Sarmiento G.

Editor: Qutaiba Barhamji, Maxime Mathis, Kaouther Ben Hania

Music: Amine Bouhafa

Cast: Saja Kilani, Motaz Malhees, Amer Hlehel, Clara Khoury

International Feature Film Competition

Our International Feature Film Competition furthers the festival's commitment to championing bold cinematic voices and nurturing creative cultural connections, with particular focus on the Global South. The jury will adjudicate 13 distinct films that represent exceptional achievements in storytelling, artistry and vision from the Arab world and beyond.

International Feature Film Competition Awards

DFF's esteemed jury will select winners in Best Narrative, Best Documentary, Best Artistic Achievement and Best Performance categories, with a certificate of Special Mention also presented to a feature narrative or documentary.



Head of the Jury

Rithy Panh

Born in Phnom Penh in 1964, Rithy Panh is one of Cambodia's most acclaimed filmmakers, known for his poignant portrayals of the Khmer Rouge era. His work often revisits the traumas of his homeland, aiming to preserve memory and seek justice for the victims of mass atrocities. Panh has directed numerous award-winning films, including 'The Missing Picture' (2013), which won the Un Certain Regard at Cannes and was nominated for an Academy Award, and 'Irradiated' (2020), which won the Berlinale Documentary Award for Best Documentary. 'Everything Will Be Ok' (2022) won the Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution. His feature 'Meeting with Pol Pot' ('Rendez-vous avec Pol Pot') premiered in the Cannes Premiere section in 2024 and continues his exploration of Cambodia's tragic past.



Raja Amari

Raja Amari is a Tunisian screenwriter and director working between France and Tunisia. A La Fémis graduate, she gained international attention with her debut feature 'Satin Rouge', which premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival. Her subsequent films, 'Buried Secrets' and 'Foreign Body', were selected at major festivals including Venice, Toronto and Berlin, and screened at MoMA New York. Her television and documentary work includes the fiction 'Tunisian Spring' (Arte/TelFrance Séries) and 'She Had a Dream' (Arte/CinéTévé), selected at IDFA, CPH:DOX and the Zurich Film Festival; the latter received an Étoile de la Scam in 2022. She has served as a mentor and juror for La Fémis, the Gan Foundation, and the CNC, as well as on juries at the Venice and Locarno festivals. She has been a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences since 2019.



Faouzi Bensaïdi

Faouzi Bensaïdi directed his first short, the multi-award-winning 'The Cliff', in 1997. He co-wrote 'Far' ('Loin') with André Téchiné. In 2000, he directed 'Le Mur', which won a prize at Cannes Directors' Fortnight, and 'The Rain Line', awarded at the Venice Film Festival. His debut feature, 'A Thousand Months', won the Prix Le Premier Regard and the Prix de la Jeunesse in Un Certain Regard at Cannes. This was followed by 'WWW - What a Wonderful World', selected for Venice Days. 'Death for Sale' won the C.I.C.A.E. Award at the Berlinale; 'Volubilis' also screened in Venice Days and won seven awards at the Tangier National Film Festival. He contributed 'A Sunny Day' and 'Why Did You Leave the Horse Alone?' to Art for the World's omnibus projects; directed 'Summer Days' (a Moroccan Chekhov adaptation) in 2022; and 'Deserts' (Directors' Fortnight) in 2023. Bensaïdi has also appeared as an actor in films directed by Audiard, Moknèche, Aoulad-Syad, and Bonello.



Dhafer L'Abidine

In 2021, Dhafer L'Abidine directed his first feature, 'Ghodwa', which he co-wrote, starred in and produced through Double A Productions. 'Ghodwa' won the FIPRESCI Award at the Cairo International Film Festival and is available on Netflix in select regions. His second feature, 'To My Son', which he also co-wrote, directed, produced and starred in, received the Platinum Reel Award and a Special Mention for Screenwriting at the Hollywood Arab Film Festival. He has recently completed filming 'Sophia', in which he stars alongside Jessica Brown Findlay and Jonathan Hyde. As an actor, he has appeared in 'Children of Men', 'Sex and the City 2' and 'Centurion', and in Netflix's 'The Eddy', produced and directed by Oscar-winning director Damien Chazelle. L'Abidine has won Best Actor awards for the Egyptian series 'Eugenie Nights' and 'Halawat Al Dounia'. His latest role in the hugely successful MBC series 'Aroos Beirut' brought him more critical and public acclaim across the Arab world.



Alessandra Speciale

Alessandra Speciale was born in Milan. Since 2013, she has been a member of the selection team of the Venice International Film Festival and curator of Final Cut in Venice, an industry programme supporting African and Arab films in post-production. She has collaborated on the programming of Turin, Locarno, San Sebastián and Kerala, and worked as an expert for industry programmes and grants. Since 1991, she has served as Artistic Director of the African, Asian and Latin American Film Festival of Milan (COE). Speciale has been President of the Milano Film Network since 2016 and co-founded Milano Industry Days. In 2025, she was awarded the title of Chevalière de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture and joined the expert advisory group of the Fondazione Prada Film Fund. Alongside curation, she has directed creative documentaries, particularly focusing on Africa and issues of human rights and immigration in Italy, and has published essays and books devoted to cinema.



Blue Heron

Canada, Hungary / English, Hungarian / 2025
91 mins

Winner of the Swatch First Feature Award at Locarno Film Festival 2025

Set in the late 1990s, 'Blue Heron' follows eight-year-old Sasha and her Hungarian immigrant family as they begin again on Vancouver Island, searching for stability and a sense of home in unfamiliar surroundings. The small rituals of settling in gradually knit a fragile peace that is soon unsettled by the erratic behaviour of Sasha's older brother, Jeremy. Years later, an adult Sasha looks back on those formative days and asks what tenderness survives upheaval. She returns to fragments of home videos, taped conversations, faded photographs, attempting to assemble a truthful picture from partial memories, hovering in the tender space between guilt and love, grief and care, what was lost and what remains.

Drawing from her own experience, writer-director Sophy Romvari crafts an intimately observed debut that delicately merges fiction and memory. The film embraces the natural textures of family life: awkward silences, sudden warmth, misunderstandings that bruise, and the small mercies that follow. Visually poetic and emotionally resonant, 'Blue Heron' dissolves the boundary between realism and recollection, letting image and feeling drift together like tides. Both haunting and humane, it is a quiet study of how we carry our families within us, even as time reshapes what we remember and how we heal.



Sophy Romvari is a Canadian-Hungarian filmmaker based in Toronto. Her critically-acclaimed short films have travelled the international festival

circuit and earned her a reputation as a leading young talent. She has screened at TIFF, Hot Docs, Sheffield, and True/False, and has received a retrospective at the Museum of the Moving Image. She has also directed films for CBC Short Docs and Kino Lorber. In 2020, Sophy completed her Master's at York University. Her thesis film 'Still Processing' premiered at TIFF in September 2020, was nominated for a Canadian Screen Award, and was featured in a collection of Sophy's eight short films on the Criterion Channel.

Director / Screenwriter: Sophy Romvari
Producer: Ryan Bobkin, Sara Wylie, Sophy Romvari, Gábor Osváth
Cinematographer: Maya Bankovic
Editor: Kurt Walker
Music: Jody Colero, Amanda Clemens
Cast: Eylul Guven, Iringó Réti, Adam Tompa, Edik Beddoes, Amy Zimmer



Cotton Queen

Sudan, Germany, France, Palestine, Qatar, KSA / Arabic / 2025
94 mins

Set in a cotton-farming village in Sudan, 'Cotton Queen' follows teenage Nafisa as she stands at the crossroads of tradition, modernity, and survival. Guided by her grandmother, Al-Sit, whose stories and memories of resistance against colonialism still shape the village, Nafisa becomes the focal point of a new struggle when a wealthy entrepreneur arrives from abroad with a proposal to modernise the village's cotton industry and seeks her hand in marriage. Torn between personal longing and communal duty, Nafisa must navigate the fragile balance between empowerment and expectation.

Qatar-based writer-director Suzannah Mirghani crafts an intimate and politically layered portrait of Sudanese womanhood, weaving themes of identity, matriarchy, and resistance into a richly textured narrative. 'Cotton Queen' continues the story world of Mirghani's award-winning short film 'Al-Sit', expanding it into a sweeping reflection on heritage and transformation. Filmed after the outbreak of war in Sudan in 2023 and recreated in Egypt with Sudanese refugees, the production itself mirrors the film's themes of displacement, resilience, and creative endurance. With lyrical cinematography and understated performances, the poignant film stands as a cinematic ode to the strength and spirit of women who persist, create, and dream in the face of loss and upheaval.



Suzannah Mirghani is a filmmaker and writer based in Doha, where she works as an editor at Georgetown University in Qatar.

Her acclaimed short film 'Al-Sit' (2020) won the Canal+ Award at Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival in 2021, as well as six Academy Award qualifying prizes at Tampere Film Festival. 'Al-Sit' is screened widely, including on Netflix MENA. Her other works include 'Virtual Voice' (2021) and 'Kamala Ibrahim Ishag: States of Oneness' (2022), commissioned by Serpentine Galleries.

Director / Screenwriter: Suzannah Mirghani
Producer: Caroline Daube, Didar Domehri
Cinematographer: Frida Marzouk
Editor: Amparo Mejías, Simon Blasi, Frank Müller
Music: Amine Bouhafa
Cast: Mihad Murtada, Rabha Mohamed Mahmoud, Talaat Fareed, Haram Bisheer, Mohamed Musa



Divine Comedy

Iran, Turkey, Italy, France, Germany / Azerbaijani, English, Farsi / 2025
96 mins

Denied, deferred, delayed: the pattern is familiar. Faced with another refusal to screen his latest work, a filmmaker chooses to create the audience that is being withheld from him. With a resourceful producer at his side, he assembles an informal network and moves beneath the radar of ministries and committees. Each step brings him back to the same counters and corridors, yet each encounter, held in steady frames, reveals the texture of a system that keeps people waiting and hopes waning. The cinematic language is deliberately restrained, heightening the absurdity it observes. Bureaucracy becomes a character; the joke is that nothing moves, and yet people do, quietly, cleverly, together.

The cast's meta presence deepens this exchange between life and cinema: they are not performing resistance so much as continuing it, allowing the camera to hold space for a reality often pushed off-screen. Humour, threaded lightly, functions as ballast, a way to stand upright in a world of shifting rules. The film is less about spectacle than about attention: the courage to look, to gather, to keep faith with the audience that might be scattered at any moment. It is a testament to endurance and to the ordinary audacity of making and showing images when silence would be easier.



Ali Asgari is an Iranian writer, director and producer whose films focus on lives at society's margins. His shorts 'More Than Two Hours' (2013)

and 'The Silence' (2016) were Cannes Short Film Palme d'Or nominees; 'The Baby' screened at Venice (2014). Features include 'Disappearance' (Venice Orizzonti 2017; TIFF), 'Until Tomorrow' (Berlinale 2022) and 'Terrestrial Verses' (Cannes 2023). 'Higher Than Acidic Clouds' premiered at IDFA 2024. He has served on the Venice Orizzonti jury and is a member of the Academy.

Director: Ali Asgari
Screenwriter: Alireza Khatami, Bahram Ark, Bahman Ark, Ali Asgari
Producer: Milad Khosravi, Ali Asgari
Cinematographer: Amin Jafari
Editor: Ehsan Vaseghi
Music: Hossein Mirzaghali
Cast: Bahram Ark, Sadaf Asgari, Bahman Ark, Faezeh Rad, Mohammad Soori, Milad Ashkali



Hair, Paper, Water...

Belgium, France, Vietnam / Rục, Vietnamese / 2025
71 mins

Winner of a Golden Leopard – Filmmakers of the Present Award at Locarno Film Festival 2025

In a remote Vietnamese village, an elderly Rục woman remembers being born in a cave more than sixty years ago. As seasons turn, she tends to her grandchildren and threads their days with the sounds of a language on the verge of vanishing, names of plants, and lullabies that carry entire worlds. Cooking fires, river water, and forest paths trace a map of belonging, while dreams return like tides: her late mother's voice still calling her home across the porous line between past and present. In gestures as modest as washing a bowl or braiding hair, memory endures; the everyday becomes a vessel for what might otherwise slip away.

Directed by Nicolas Graux and Truong Minh Quy, 'Hair, Paper, Water...' is a meditative journey through remembrance, loss, and oral tradition. Shot on 16mm in close collaboration with the Rục community, the film listens as much as it sees, allowing myth, language, and landscape to overlap and breathe. The film is both an act of preservation and a cinematic offering to those who live between silence and song. It invites us to witness the fragile resilience of inheritance and how culture is carried hand to hand, voice to voice, even as certain worlds fade from view.



Born in Buôn Ma Thuot, a city in Vietnam's central highlands, **Truong Minh Quy** often sets

and finds inspiration for his films in this region. His films have been shown in numerous film festivals such as Berlinale, Locarno, Rotterdam, and New York. His film, 'Viet and Nam' (2024), was selected for Un Certain Regard at Cannes.



Nicolas Graux was born in Binche, a small town in Belgium's former coal-mining region.

His work, blending documentary and fiction, explores sociopolitical realities through immersive research and a poetic, sensitive gaze. His debut feature, 'Century of Smoke' (2019), premiered at Visions du Réel and screened widely at international festivals.

Director / Screenwriter: Nicolas Graux, Truong Minh Quy
Producer: Julie Freres, Thomas Hakim, Julien Graff
Cinematographer: Nicolas Graux
Editor: Truong Minh Quy
Music: Ernest Karel, Truong Minh Quy
Cast: Cao Thị Hau, Cao Xuân Doanh, Cao Thị Hieu, Cao Thị Bát



Khartoum

Sudan, UK, Germany, Qatar / Arabic, English / 2025
81 mins

Five lives, one city: Khartoum. In this hybrid documentary, a civil servant, a tea vendor, two young street boys, and a resistance volunteer embody the resilience and fragility of a nation in turmoil. Filmed on donated iPhones by four emerging Sudanese directors in collaboration with Phil Cox, the film began as an intimate portrait of daily life under military rule. When war erupted in 2023, the filmmakers and participants were forced into exile, yet continued the project, incorporating animation, dream reconstructions, and fragments to capture the shifting realities of their city.

The result is a cinematic poem that fuses stark street realism with symbolic dreamscapes, reflecting both the brutality of war and the private inner worlds of those enduring it. With striking honesty, 'Khartoum' bears witness to displacement, solidarity, and the ongoing struggle for freedom in Sudan, offering a raw and unflinching look at lives reshaped by upheaval. More than a record of war, the film is an elegy to a city transformed and a tribute to the unbreakable spirit of its people. Through intimate storytelling, inventive visual techniques, and striking honesty, 'Khartoum' captures the courage, hope, and resilience that endure even amid the chaos of modern Sudan.



Anas Saeed, Rawia Alhag, Ibrahim "Snoopy" Ahmad, and Timeea Mohamed Ahmed are emerging Sudanese filmmakers whose collaborative work on 'Khartoum' captures the resilience and creativity of a generation facing conflict and displacement. Trained across journalism, screenwriting, cinematography, and experimental film, their projects explore themes of human rights, women's lives, and the culture of Sudan. Together with British filmmaker Phil Cox, they shaped 'Khartoum' as an innovative blend of vérité documentary, animation, and personal storytelling, forging a collective cinematic voice born out of resistance, collaboration, and exile.

Director: Anas Saeed, Rawia Alhag, Ibrahim Snoopy Ahmad, Timeea Ahmed, Phil Cox
Screenwriter: Phil Cox
Producer: Giovanna Stopponi, Talal Afifi
Editor: Yousef Jubeh
Music: James Preston
Cast: Lokain, Wilson, Jawad, Khadmallah, Majdi



The Last Shore

Belgium, France, Qatar / Afrikaans, Fula, Italian / 2025
71 mins

In January 2017, a mobile-phone video captured a young Gambian man in Venice's Grand Canal as onlookers hurled insults from the shore. Rather than repeating those images, this film travels 2,500 miles to sit with the family who loved him, inviting them to piece together what preceded the tragedy. Speech takes precedence over spectacle: testimony unfolds in Fula, alive with pauses, textures and differing beliefs. The choice to include the viral footage only at the beginning is both ethical and narrative: a wound acknowledged, then countered by time, care and attention.

As the family's words gather, a portrait emerges of migration routes, horizons and returns; of community rituals and the everyday courage of those who remain. The imagery is calm; it does not overwrite pain but steadies it, offering a counterweight to the clip that first shocked the world. No single explanation is offered; the Italian investigation yielded hypotheses, not certainties. By holding space for ambiguity, the film asks us to consider how grief is shaped by distance, language and faith, and how communities define care when institutions do not. In returning identity to a name consumed by virality, it restores the possibility of mourning and of seeing beyond the frame.



Jean-François Ravagnan is a Belgian filmmaker and assistant director who has worked notably on films by Luc and Jean-Pierre

Dardenne. His short 'Rise' (2015) screened at the 68th Locarno Film Festival and won several international awards. 'The Last Shore' is his first documentary feature, developed from research begun in 2018 and partly filmed in Gambia.

Director: Jean-François Ravagnan
Producer: Julie Freres
Cinematographer: Thomas Schira
Editor: Marc Recchia
Music: Jean Kapsa
Cast: Jabu Kandeh Sabally, Pateh Alhaji Sabally, Yerro Sabally, Ibrahim Diallo



My Father and Qaddafi

Libya, Qatar, USA / Arabic, English, French / 2025
88 mins

A daughter sets out to piece together the life of the father who vanished when she was a child: a Libyan human rights lawyer, former foreign minister and UN ambassador who rejected an increasingly brutal regime and became a peaceful voice of opposition. His disappearance in Cairo reverberated for decades. While her mother, a Syrian artist, fought publicly for justice, she grew up in exile, trying to bridge a silence that shaped her identity. The film draws its strength from listening. Family members, friends and former colleagues speak candidly; archives are approached not as proof alone but as prompts for memory.

Across these encounters, an official biography gives way to a more intimate portrait, allowing contradictions and complexities to remain. The journey is as much inward as historical, an attempt to move beyond a one-dimensional hero and meet the father as a person: principled, present, and suddenly gone. The fascinating work considers how private loss intersects with national history and how an absence can define a family, a community, even a country. In the space between testimony and image, the daughter confronts the fear that forgetting might erase both a parent and a heritage. The act of filmmaking becomes an ethical commitment: to hold on, to name, to carry forward a story that insists on truth.



Jihan was born in exile and raised in Paris while her father, a Libyan human rights lawyer and peaceful opposition leader, disappeared from

Cairo. Her family lived between the United States and France as her mother, a Syrian artist, led an international campaign for justice. She holds a BA in International and Comparative Politics (Human Rights, Philosophy, International Law) and an MA in Art Education and Storytelling.

Director: Jihan

Producer: Mohamed Soueid, Jihan

Cinematographer: Micah Walker, Mike McLaughlin

Editor: Alessandro Dordoni, Chloë Lambourne, Nicole Hálová



Once Upon a Time in Gaza

France, Palestine, Germany, Portugal, Qatar, Jordan / Arabic, English / 2025
90 mins

Winner of Un Certain Regard Award for Best Director at the Cannes Film Festival 2025

Set in Gaza in 2007, the story follows a student whose hunger for work, recognition, and warmth leads him to a charismatic restaurateur. Delivery runs double as drug drops; favours are traded; horizons narrow. Into this fragile equilibrium strides a corrupt policeman whose uniform inflates a small man into a threat. Their cat-and-mouse is tense yet laced with rueful humour, folding buddy movie beats and thriller undercurrents into an everyday portrait of a place too often reduced to headlines. By lingering on pauses and small negotiations, the narrative reframes heroism as endurance: the quiet labour of staying, adapting and carrying on under a blockade that makes every choice contingent.

The filmmaking tilts toward a 'reverse shot': not a statement about politics so much as attention to life, work, and the insistence on normality despite siege and sudden violence. Reality and fiction scrape against each other. The result is neither victimhood nor bravado, but a humane ledger of choices made under pressure. Men posture, joke and scheme, yet what lingers is tenderness withheld, the absence of women as an intentional void, and the sense that images themselves are weapons, sometimes shield, sometimes spectacle. Patience, endurance, and the stubborn right to be seen become their quiet acts of resistance, even as the scene threatens to close.



Tarzan and Arab Nasser are twin brothers from Gaza. They began with the Cannes-selected short film 'Condom Lead' before their debut feature, 'Dégradé', premiered at Cannes Critics' Week. Their second feature, 'Gaza Mon Amour', premiered in Venice Orizzonti and was Palestine's submission to the 93rd Academy Awards.

Director: Tarzan Nasser, Arab Nasser
Screenwriter: Tarzan Nasser, Arab Nasser, Amer Nasser, Marie Legrand
Producer: Rani Massalha, Marie Legrand, Muriel Merlin, Rashid Abdelhamid
Cinematographer: Christophe Graillet
Editor: Sophie Reine
Music: Amine Bouhafa
Cast: Nader Abd Alhay, Ramzi Maqdisi, Majd Eid



The President's Cake

Iraq / USA / Qatar / Arabic / 2025

105 mins

Winner of the Audience Award and the Caméra d'Or at Cannes Film Festival 2025

Set against the pressures of 1990s Iraq, a child is selected by chance to supply a birthday cake for the nation's ruler, an everyday ritual turned ultimatum. What follows is a delicate journey through scarcity: kitchens without sugar, markets emptied by sanctions, and classrooms where small privileges can be bartered for safety. The narrative, rooted in memories of growing up in the period, privileges the humane over the didactic. It looks closely at the quiet labour of families and neighbours, those who find ways to help without drawing attention, and those who say no when saying no is costly. Each small success, from a borrowed egg to a smuggled measure of flour, becomes a wager against consequence.

Shot entirely in Iraq, the sense of place is exacting: the marshes, city checkpoints, and modest shops function as living archives of an era rarely depicted on screen. Naturalistic performances, many from non-actors, are handled with restraint, and a subtle strand of fabulism allows a child's imagination to coexist with the hard edges of authority. Rather than lecture, the film invites us to witness how love and friendship help a young mind navigate risk. In this world, tenderness is a form of courage, and the simple act of finishing a cake is less a celebration than a test of ingenuity and care.



Hasan Hadi is an Iraqi writer and director who grew up in southern Iraq during wartime. He has worked in journalism and production, and

taught as an adjunct professor at NYU's Graduate Film Program. His honours include the Gotham-Marcie Bloom Fellowship, the Black Family Production Prize and the Sloan Foundation Production Award. A 2022 Sundance Lab Fellow, he received the 2022 Sundance/NHK Award, SFFILM Rainin Grant and a Doha Film Institute Grant for his feature debut, 'The President's Cake'.

Director / Screenwriter: Hasan Hadi

Producer: Leah Chen Baker

Cinematographer: Tudor Vladimir Panduru RSC

Editor: Andu Radu

Cast: Baneen Ahmed Nayyef, Sajad Mohamad Qasem, Waheed Thabet Khreibat Rahim AlHaj



Renoir

Japan, France, Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia, Qatar / Japanese, English / 2025

119 mins

Nominated for a Palme d'Or at Cannes Film Festival 2025

Set in 1987 suburban Tokyo, 'Renoir' follows 11-year-old Fuki as she navigates her father Kenji's terminal illness and her mother Utako's emotional distance. As illness and exhaustion take hold of the household, Fuki drifts through long, silent days in a sterile suburban home, where she escapes into a fantasy world shaped by her fascination with telepathy and art. Drawn to a replica of Renoir's 'Little Irène', she immerses herself in a vivid inner world, where grief transforms into beauty and loneliness gives way to imagination.

Inspired by her own childhood memories, director Chie Hayakawa crafts an intimate meditation on love, mortality, and the distance that can exist even within families. Through radiant imagery and quiet observation, 'Renoir' captures the fragility and resilience of human connection amid isolation. The film evokes the contrasts of Japan's late-1980s bubble era, its material abundance and emotional emptiness, mirroring Fuki's yearning for warmth and meaning. Anchored by a remarkable performance from newcomer Yui Suzuki and enriched by Hideho Urata's delicate cinematography, Hayakawa's second feature reaffirms her place among Japan's most empathetic storytellers. 'Renoir' stands as an evocative reflection on empathy, solitude, and the healing power of imagination.



Born in Tokyo, Chie Hayakawa studied photography at the School of Visual Arts in New York before turning to filmmaking. Her

short film 'Niagara' (2014) premiered at Cannes Cinéfondation, and received multiple international awards, while her debut feature 'Plan 75' (2022) received the Caméra d'Or Special Mention at Cannes and represented Japan at the 95th Academy Awards. Known for her sensitive storytelling and visual grace, Hayakawa's work explores ageing, empathy, mortality, and the human condition through understated yet deeply affecting narratives. 'Renoir' marks her second feature film.

Director / Screenwriter: Chie Hayakawa

Producer: Eiko Mizuno-Gray, Jason Gray, Keisuke Konishi, Christophe Bruncher, Fran Borgia

Cinematographer: Hideho Urata

Editor: Anne Klotz

Music: Rémi Boubal

Cast: Yui Suzuki, Lily Franky, Hikari Ishida, Yuumi Kawai



The Reserve

Mexico, Qatar / Spanish / 2025

92 mins

Winner of Best Feature Film Award at Morelia International Film Festival 2025

While most residents of Monte Virgen struggle to bring in their coffee harvest, forest ranger Julia discovers that a band of illegal loggers is cutting deep into the nearby protected reserve. Determined to stop the devastation, she turns to neighbours and local leaders for help, only to meet a wall of fear, silence, and quiet betrayal. As support falls away, Julia continues the fight alone. Patrol after patrol, the forest thins and the horizon opens where canopy once stood. The work of safeguarding the land becomes a test of endurance, and the lines between duty, survival, and sacrifice begin to blur.

Isolated amid the encroaching deforestation, she confronts the slow disappearance of her world and must decide how much she is willing to lose to preserve what she loves most. The film observes the fragile coexistence between humanity and nature with quiet intensity. Dedicated to real-life environmental defenders who risk their lives to protect their land, 'The Reserve' transforms a local struggle into a universal meditation on courage, integrity, and hope. It is both an environmental elegy and an act of resistance: a portrait of one woman standing her ground as the landscape around her recedes, and a reminder that the faintest light can still be carried forward.



Pablo Pérez Lombardini is a filmmaker and producer who graduated from the Centro de Capacitación

Cinematográfica (CCC) in 2015, specialising in film direction. He has written, directed, and produced several short films and worked as assistant director to renowned filmmakers including Claudia Sainte-Luce and Alonso Ruizpalacios. In 2016, he founded the production company PIKILA, dedicated to socially engaged storytelling. 'The Reserve', his first feature, continues his commitment to collaborative filmmaking rooted in environmental and community issues.

Director / Screenwriter:

Pablo Pérez Lombardini

Producer: Pablo Pérez Lombardini, Liliana Pardo

Cinematographer: Mortiz Tessendorf

Editor: Florian Seufert

Music: YOM

Cast: Carolina Guzmán, Verónica Ángel Pérez, Corina Paola Pérez Mérida, Abel Aguilar Morales



Sleepless City

Spain, France, Qatar / Spanish, French / 2025

97 mins

Winner of the SACD Screenwriting Award at Cannes Film Festival 2025

Fifteen-year-old Toni lives with his family of scrap metal dealers in La Cañada Real, Europe's largest informal settlement on the outskirts of Madrid. When demolitions threaten their plot, and his grandfather fights desperately to hold onto their home, Toni is forced to confront the slow disappearance of his world and the fragile bonds that hold it together. Blurring fiction and lived reality, Guillermo Galoe's first feature is a deeply human portrayal of a marginalised community rarely seen on screen. Patient and unhurried, it trusts small gestures and everyday rituals to carry meaning. Scenes accumulate like memories, inviting the audience to listen, to notice, and truly experience the community's humour, pride and doubt without judgement or sensationalism.

Filmed over several years in close collaboration with the residents of La Cañada, the work unfolds through Toni's quiet yet watchful gaze, a blend of innocence, resilience, and quiet rebellion. His journey mirrors the struggle of an entire generation caught between dignity and displacement. The film captures fleeting moments of beauty amid the dust and decay of a vanishing landscape in both a coming-of-age story and a political elegy. It is a moving testament to resilience, kinship, and the endurance of light even in the darkest corners of the city.



Born in Madrid, **Guillermo Galoe** is an award-winning filmmaker whose works have premiered at Cannes, San Sebastián, and IDFA,

earning two Goya Awards. His short film 'Even Though It's Night' (2023) premiered in the Cannes Official Selection, won the Goya for Best Fiction Short Film, and was nominated for the César Awards 2025. His collaboration with the Detroit techno collective Underground Resistance led to 'Lo-Tech Reality' (2022). 'Sleepless City' or originally titled 'Ciudad Sin Sueño' (2025), his debut feature, premiered at Cannes' La Semaine de la Critique.

Director: Guillermo Galoe

Screenwriter: Guillermo Galoe, Víctor Alonso-Berbel

Producer: Marina García López, Marisa Fernández Armenteros, Manu Calvo, Alex Lafuente, Damien Megherbi, Justin Pechberty, Anne-Dominique Toussaint

Cinematographer: Rui Poças

Editor: Victoria Lammers

Cast: Tonino Antonio "Toni" Fernández Gabarre, Bilal Sedraoui, Jesús "Chule" Fernández Silva, Felisa Romero Molina



With Hasan in Gaza

Palestine, Germany, France, Qatar / Arabic, English / 2025

106 mins

Winner of the Europa Cinemas Label Award at the Locarno Film Festival 2025

Three MiniDV tapes shot in 2001 are recovered two decades later, revealing a journey through Gaza that began as a search for a former prison mate and unfolded as a road trip with a local guide, Hasan, now lost to time and war. Streets, markets and shorelines appear with unguarded immediacy; gestures and voices return from a place that no longer exists in the same way. The footage is presented in the order it was found, allowing the images to 'make' the film and the archive to lead. An homage to people and places erased, a meditation on catastrophe and the poetry that resists, the film recognises the archive as both memory and evidence, asking what images can still do when the present is marked by devastation.

Rather than reconstructing events with commentary, the footage shows the passing textures of a day, conversations rising and falling, so that witnesses emerge from attention, not assertion. What begins as documentation becomes an ethical stance: to hold, to look again, to let life reappear where it seemed unseeable. The sense of a loss lingers, as if the material had waited for its moment to speak. By returning to what was recorded before, the film opens a present-tense encounter with absence, honouring those who may never be found and restoring to images the humane weight of time.



Palestinian filmmaker and artist **Kamal Aljafari** is celebrated for his distinctive cinematic style. He studied at the Academy

of Media Arts in Cologne and has held teaching positions at The New School in New York and the Deutsche Film-und Fernsehakademie in Berlin. His installation "The Camera of the Dispossessed" was shown at the 35th Bienal de São Paulo in 2023. Aljafari was also honoured at IndieLisboa 2024 with a full retrospective of his work at the Portuguese Cinematheque, as well as at the Spanish Cinematheque in Madrid in 2025. His feature 'A Fidai Film' (2024) was shown in over a hundred festivals and won 15 international awards. His most recent work, 'With Hasan in Gaza' (2025), premiered in the International Competition at Locarno Film Festival.

Director / Cinematographer / Editor:

Kamal Aljafari

Producer: Kamal Aljafari, Flavia Mazzarino

Music: Simon Fisher Turner, Attila Faravelli, Lucy Railton

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Eddie Bertozzi

Eddie Bertozzi earned a degree in Chinese Language and Culture from Ca' Foscari University of Venice and holds a PhD in Chinese Studies from SOAS, University of London. He has participated in conferences at several institutions and has published his research outputs in academic journals and volumes. After serving as Program Manager of the Venice International Critics' Week from 2009 to 2020, he has since joined the Locarno Film Festival, where he heads the Pardi di Domani selection committee for short films and serves as a member of the feature film selection team. Bertozzi has also been a programmer at Milan's Filmmaker Festival since 2017. Besides festivals, he has worked in film distribution and is currently in charge of film acquisitions for Italian production and distribution company Be Water Film. He is a regular contributor to the Italian weekly magazine FilmTv, as well as a member of the SNCCI (Union of Italian Film Critics) and the European Film Academy (EFA).



Faris Alrjoob

Faris Alrjoob is an interdisciplinary artist and filmmaker whose work moves between cinema, video art, and performance. A graduate of the Academy of Media Arts Cologne and Emerson College in Boston, his latest film, 'The Red Sea Makes Me Wanna Cry' (2023), premiered at the 76th Cannes Film Festival (Quinzaine des Cinéastes), won the Silver Star at El Gouna Film Festival, and was nominated for the German Film Prize. Faris utilises the cinematic form as a site of excavation and resistance, deconstructing inherited narratives, colonial frameworks, and aesthetic hierarchies. His practice aims to reclaim language, gesture, and place, tracing the personal within broader movements of decolonisation and transformation. Through intimate character studies and sensorial imagery, his films explore the tension between private and public, ruin and desire, searching for new emotional and political grammars with which to imagine belonging in the modern world.



Zoljargal Purevdash

Zoljargal Purevdash is a Mongolian producer, writer and director who studied filmmaking in Japan. Her short films were screened and won awards at prestigious international film festivals, including Locarno, Tampere, Cinequest, and the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia. Her short film, 'Stairs', won first prize at the 2021 Chicago International Children's Film Festival and was entered into the 94th Oscars. She is an alumnus of Talents Tokyo, Asian Film Academy, Torino Film Lab, and Berlinale Talents. In 2020, she founded Amygdala Films, an independent production house based in Ulaanbaatar. In 2023, her first feature film, 'If Only I Could Hibernate', was officially selected as the first-ever Mongolian film at the Cannes Film Festival. It has been screened at over 50 international film festivals, distributed to several countries, and selected as the Mongolian entry for the Best International Feature Film at the 97th Academy Awards. Currently, she is working on the development of her second feature film called 'Sane Mother'.

Adieu Ugarit

Canada / Arabic, English / 2024
16 mins



In 2012, Mohammed Awad witnessed the murder of his best friend by an armed militia near Damascus. Ten years later, now living as a refugee in Quebec, he revisits this wound through a collaborative experimental short with filmmaker Samy Benammar. Evocatively shot in black and white, the film reflects on death, displacement, and memory's fragility, while questioning how and why traumatic stories should be told. Through water, silence, and voice, it offers intimacy, reflection, and haunting resilience.

Samy Benammar is a filmmaker, photographer, and art critic based in Montreal. Drawing from his Algerian roots and working-class upbringing, his work blends a reflective documentary approach with tactile experimentation. He has served on the editorial boards of *Hors Champ*, *24 Images*, and *Panorama-cinéma*, and is currently pursuing a PhD on colonial photography in the Aurès region of Algeria.

Mohamad Awad is a writer based in Montreal. His work often explores the ties between personal memory and collective experience. His perspective is shaped by seven years spent in Lebanon before moving to Canada, where he worked as a psychological support counsellor in refugee camps, witnessing both hardship and resilience.

Director / Producer: Samy Benammar

Screenwriter: Samy Benammar, Mohamad Awad

Editor: Ralitsa Doncheva

Cinematographer: Mathieu Turcotte

Music: William Gagnon

Cast: Hoda Adra, Sameur Benammar, Samy Benammar, Hanna Zeida

All This Death

Lebanon, Germany, Poland, Qatar / No Dialogue / 2025
17 mins



Each morning, an old Beirut resident checks the obituaries, then slips into yet another funeral, with its names, flowers, and hymns, until the ritual reveals its true purpose. What appears to be a morbid habit is a private cartography of mourning: for a beloved, a neighbourhood, a city repeatedly remade by loss. Crafted in tactile stop-motion and free of dialogue, the film allows gesture, light, and rhythm to carry meaning, inviting us to witness how grief settles into routine and, slowly, becomes acceptance.

Fadi Syriani is a Lebanese animator, writer, director and architect. His debut short 'All This Death' received a DFI Cinema Grant and multiple Animark awards, followed by residencies and support from OIF and AFAC; the film world-premiered at Annecy 2025. He co-founded Beirut's Animation Collective and established the Youth Animation Platform, delivering workshops in collaboration with partners such as UNESCO and BeMA to support young filmmakers across Lebanon.

Director / Screenwriter: Fadi Syriani

Producer: Jana Wehbe, Georg Neubert, Maryam Al-Khulaifi

Cinematographer: Pierre Mouarkech, Markus Ilschner

Editor: Carine Doumit, Fadi Syriani

Antigone, or the Story of Sara Benoliel

Portugal / Cape Verdian Creole, Portuguese / 2025
20 mins



"A State for one man is no State at all" are the words from Sophocles' *Antigone*. Sara has lost her brother to COVID-19. She wants nothing more than to say goodbye to him with a traditional burial that respects the Cape Verdean culture and a suitable grave site. In a world silenced and halted by the pandemic, the young woman connects with her community and memories. The journey reframes mourning as presence: a gathering that resists erasure.

Francisco Mira Godinho holds degrees in Psychology (ISPA University) and Languages, Literatures and Cultures—North American Studies (NOVA University). A director and screenwriter, he has worked on Leonor Teles's 'Baan' (2023, Locarno) and 'Dogs That Bark at the Birds' (2019, Venice), Bernardo Lopes's 'Moço' (2020, Sophia) and Miguel Nunes's 'Anjo' (2018, IndieLisboa). He has published two books: 'Dissecting the Clown' (2014) and 'Compromise of the Broke Dogs' (2015).

Director / Screenwriter: Francisco Mira Godinho

Producer: Bernardo Lopes

Cinematographer: Leonor Teles

Editor: Bernardo Lopes, João Lucas Aguiar

Cast: Cathia Sophia, Reginaldo Spinola, Fábila Tavares, Cíntia Semedo, Neusa Barbosa, Simone Marques

Beneath Which Rivers Flow

Iraq / No Dialogue / 2025
16 mins



Set in the remote marshlands of southern Iraq, 'Beneath Which Rivers Flow' is a non-verbal, documentary-style short that blends realism with subtle science fiction. It follows Ibrahim, a quiet boy whose only solace is his buffalo, as he senses a shift in the land, drying rivers, cracking earth, and a looming environmental collapse. Through immersive sound and striking visuals, the film reflects on the erosion of traditional life and honours Iraq's Marsh communities facing an uncertain future.

Ali Yahya, born in Baghdad, is an Iraqi filmmaker whose work is rooted in his background in mental health and psychology. He spent seven years as a Creative Director in Baghdad before turning to film. His debut, 'Beneath Which Rivers Flow', explores themes of nature, identity, and human connection. For Yahya, cinema is less about providing answers than about evoking questions, emotions, and unseen layers of life.

Director: Ali Yahya

Screenwriter: Ali Yahya, Mohammed Baz

Producer: Jafar Sadik

Cinematographer: Ali Ameer

Editor: Akram Sadoon

Music: Khayam Al Lami

Cast: Ibrahim Halim, Karim Halim, Hakima Ali

Glasses

South Korea / No Dialogue / 2025

16 mins



During a routine eye exam, Yujin catches a glimpse of a distant house and is drawn inside. Moving through its rooms, she encounters shadow versions of herself, embodiments of emotions and memories she long rejected. One by one, she confronts and reconciles with these fragments, embarking on a journey of self-acceptance. Rendered in Yumi Joung's delicate pencil-drawing style, Glasses is a poetic meditation on healing, perspective, and transformation, offering a quiet yet powerful story of growth.

Yumi Joung is a South Korean filmmaker and illustrator renowned for her delicate pencil-drawing animation. A graduate of KAFA, she gained international acclaim with 'Dust Kid' (2009), the first Korean animation invited to Cannes Directors' Fortnight. Her works, including 'Love Games' (2013), 'House of Existence' (2022), and 'Circle' (2024), have been screened at Berlin, Locarno, and Animafest Zagreb, winning multiple awards. In 2019, she became a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Director / Screenwriter / Cinematographer / Animator: Yumi Joung

Producer: Kihyun Kim

Editor: Yumi Joung, Kihyun Kim

I'm Glad You're Dead Now

Palestine, France, Greece / Arabic / 2025

13 mins



On a remote Mediterranean island, two brothers return to face the ghosts of their shared past. Their childhood sanctuary has become a landscape of memory and regret, where love and betrayal intertwine. Marking the directorial debut of acclaimed Palestinian actor Tawfeek Barhom, 'I'm Glad You're Dead Now' is a haunting meditation on brotherhood, trauma, and reconciliation. Winner of the Palme d'Or for Best Short Film at Cannes Film Festival 2025, the film signals a bold new cinematic voice.

Tawfeek Barhom is a Palestinian actor and director whose work bridges performance and direction with emotional precision. Best known for leading roles in 'The Cairo Conspiracy' and 'Ghost Trail', he was named one of the César Awards 2025 Revelations. Self-taught in filmmaking, Barhom made his directorial debut with 'I'm Glad You're Dead Now', which won the Palme d'Or for Best Short Film at the Cannes Film Festival 2025. His storytelling explores identity, belonging, and the unspoken legacies of the past.

Director / Screenwriter: Tawfeek Barhom

Producer: Tawfeek Barhom, Alexandre Perrier

Cinematographer: Giorgos Valsamis

Editor: Lambis Charalambidis

Music: Andy Shortwave

Cast: Ashraf Barhom, Tawfeek Barhom

L'Mina

France, Morocco, Italy, Qatar / Darija / 2025

26 mins



Shot in collaboration with Jerada's inhabitants, this carefully constructed set invites miners to re-enact their routines, from the fragile descent to the measured sharing of tools and time. What emerges is an archive of Jerada, stories etched in coal dust and the echo of industrial architecture, where labour continues despite official closure in 2001. By letting people play themselves, the film restores context and care, mapping the choreography of survival and the quiet solidarities that hold a community together.

Born in 1987 in Casablanca, **Randa Maroufi** is a visual artist and filmmaker. She studied at the Institut National des Beaux-Arts (Tétouan), École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts d'Angers and Le Fresnoy. A fellow of the Académie de France à Madrid (2018) and the Villa Médicis (2025), her award-winning films 'Le Park' (2015) and 'Bab Sebta' (2019) began a trilogy on Moroccan cities, completed by 'L'mina' (2025).

Director / Screenwriter: Randa Maroufi

Producer: Randa Maroufi, Oumayma Zekri Ajarrai

Cinematographer: Luca Coassin

Editor: Céline Perréard, Randa Maroufi

Cast: Amine Mkallech, Laid Erramly, the inhabitants of Jerada and Hassi Blal

Les Dieux

Switzerland / French, Arabic / 2025

15 mins



In the heat of summer, two brothers try to come to terms with the loss of their father. Their grief deepens into obsession, threatening to divide them, until memory, dance, and light open a space of fragile reunion. Shot in black and white and inspired by lived experience, this intimate tale reclaims representations of kinship, exploring how mourning can also recover what seemed lost: a connection, a family, and the possibility of healing.

Born in 1992 in Dubai to an Iraqi-Turkish mother and Indian father, **Anas Sareen** studied literature and film history at the universities of Lausanne and Oxford before working as a screenwriter and director. He programmes feature films for Berlinale Generation and contributes regularly to Talking Shorts. Sareen has completed his second short, 'Les Dieux (The Gods)' (2025), and is developing his debut feature, 'Swansong'.

Director / Screenwriter: Anas Sareen

Producer: Julien Bono, Gaspard Vignon

Cinematographer: Silvio Gerber

Editor: Gianni Forteleoni

Cast: Abdeslam Jadrani, Sofiane El Bouhassani, Amine Sabir

Lost Songs of Sundari

India / Hindi, Marathi / 2025
9 mins



Mumbai once lived by its tides. Now, its bridges and land reclamation erase the sea's memory. Through the legend of the ferryboat Sundari and the lives of those who still work the water, filmmaker Sundarshan Sawant captures the vanishing world of the Koli people, Mumbai's first inhabitants. Told through a woman's myth, an old ferryman's struggle, and a child's wonder, the film mourns a city's transformation while preserving the culture of a community bound to the sea.

Sundarshan Sawant is an Indian filmmaker, sound designer, and cinematographer. After earning a Master's in Signal Processing Engineering, he studied Sound Recording and Design at FTII, Pune. His work has screened at major festivals including IDFA, Venice, and Vision du Réel. 'Lost Songs of Sundari', his debut documentary, explores Mumbai's fading relationship with its sea and history. Sawant's storytelling blends technical mastery with deep emotional resonance, giving voice to overlooked communities and disappearing worlds.

Director / Screenwriter / Cinematographer: Sundarshan Sawant
Producer: Charles Correa Foundation, Sundarshan Sawant
Editor: Dhanesh Gopal
Music: Sneha Sundar
Cast: Community members of Versova-Madh, Mumbai

Loynes

Belgium, France, North Macedonia, UK / English, French / 2025
25 mins



A Kafkaesque courtroom drama unfolds in 19th-century Liverpool as a nameless, past-less corpse becomes the subject of an absurd trial. Crowds gather for the ceremony, where justice, spectacle, and the grotesque intertwine. Dorian Jaspers crafts an unsettling meditation on power, absurdity, and collective judgment. With echoes of both surreal theatre and political allegory, 'Loynes' confronts the blurred boundaries between authority and performance in a world seeking meaning in ritual.

Dorian Jaspers is a filmmaker trained at INSAS, KASK, and Le Fresnoy. His short 'Sun Dog' (2020), set in the Russian Arctic, won over twenty international awards, including the main prize at the Rotterdam Film Festival, and was named Short Film of the Year by the Short Film Conference. It also qualified for the Ensors, the European Film Awards, and the Oscars, screening at MoMA, ICA London, and Garage Moscow. 'Loynes' (2025) is his latest short film.

Director: Dorian Jaspers
Screenwriter: Raphaël Meyer, Dorian Jaspers
Producer: Clyde Gates, Dorian Jaspers, Jules Reinartz
Cinematographer: Arnaud Alberola
Editor: Charles Dhondt, Liyo Gong, Ariane Boukerche, Omar Guzman
Cast: Elaine Collins, Vicenç Altaio, Johan Opstaele, Sheila Breen Rickerby

My Brother, My Brother

France, Germany, Egypt / Arabic / 2025
15 mins



In a split narrative, twin brothers retell their lives from conception to separation, blurring past and present, fiction and memory. Through a poetic interplay of voices, their bond emerges as both a gift and a weight. Sharing one face, one existence, and ultimately one loss. Combining animation with documentary textures, the film transforms personal grief into a universal reflection on identity, love, and what it means to carry the absence of the other within oneself.

Abdelrahman Dnewar is an Egyptian filmmaker based in Berlin. He began his career in 2012 when his animated short 'The Super Twins' screened at Sundance through the Ghetto Film School. Currently studying at the DFFB Film Academy, he works across visual arts and cinema, seeking new forms of storytelling.

Saad Dnewar was an Egyptian filmmaker and multidisciplinary artist in Berlin. Recognised for 'My Brother, My Brother', he was selected to study directing at the DFFB with his twin, Abdelrahman, before passing away in 2022 at the age of 29.

Director / Screenwriter: Saad Dnewar, Abdelrahman Dnewar
Production Companies: Dnewar Brothers, Milkman Films, Punchline Cinéma

No One Knows I Disappeared

China / Mandarin / 2025
17 mins



Amid tightening surveillance and the erasure of marginalised lives in China, an elderly woman disappears during a harsh winter, sending her caregiver, Lin, on an urgent search. As she investigates deeper, the lines between herself and the mystery begin to blur. Drawing her into a journey that intertwines her fate with the vanishing she seeks to resolve; the film is a haunting meditation on control and fragile human connection.

Hanxiong Bo, born and raised in Beijing, premiered his short film 'Drifting' (2019) at the 67th San Sebastian International Film Festival, where it garnered global acclaim and was acquired by Arte. He was selected for the 2024 Locarno Filmmakers Academy and is currently preparing his debut feature. Bo holds a BFA in Film and Media Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and an MFA in Film Directing from the University of California, Los Angeles. 'No One Knows I Disappeared' (2025) is his latest short film.

Director/ Screenwriter: Hanxiong Bo
Producer: Sol Ye, Shan Bi
Cinematographer: Jiahao Zhang
Editor: Xinzhu Liu
Music: Ryan Somerville
Cast: Aoyang Li, Yun Li, Yusha Chen, Zhaohong Zhang

Pasta Negra

Colombia, Italy, Venezuela, Canada / Spanish / 2025
15 mins



Set against the backdrop of Venezuela's ongoing humanitarian crisis, 'Pasta Negra' follows three women, grandmother, mother, and daughter, as they embark on a perilous journey across the Colombian border to buy one packet of pasta. Adapted from Karina Sainz Borgo's short story 'Tijeras', the film distills immense collective tragedy into an intimate moment of resilience and tenderness. Shot on 16mm, it captures the emotional and physical toll of migration through restrained storytelling and striking visual poetry.

Jorge Thielen Armand is a Venezuelan-Canadian filmmaker. His feature films 'La Soledad' (Venice, 2016) and 'La Fortaleza' (Rotterdam, 2020) earned him international acclaim. In 2021, he was named a Guggenheim Fellow. His short film 'Pasta Negra' (Sundance, 2025) continues his exploration of displacement, loss, and endurance in contemporary Venezuela. A partner at La Faena production company, Thielen Armand is currently developing his third feature, 'La muerte no tiene dueño', starring Paz Vega.

Director / Producer: Jorge Thielen Armand
Screenwriter: Jorge Thielen Armand, Mo Scarpelli
Cinematographer: Simone D'Arcangelo
Editor: Felipe Guerrero
Music: Leila Bordreuil
Cast: Lesbia López, Griebner Acosta, Mónica Zabaleta, Ismael Esteban Castaño

Primary Education

Cuba, Spain / Spanish / 2025
14 mins



When ten-year-old Daniela loses her voice after singing too passionately at a school event, the doctor prescribes complete silence. But as she struggles to follow the order, the adults' confusion and passivity open space for her classmates to impose their own cruel sense of control. The debut collaboration between Cuban filmmaker Aria Sánchez and Brazilian director Marina Meira, 'Primera Enseñanza' ('Primary Education') transforms a simple act of silence into a chilling reflection on power, conformity, and the fragile loss of innocence.

Cuban filmmaker **Aria Sánchez** and Brazilian director **Marina Meira** form a creative duo whose work blends surrealism, social realism, and the grotesque in everyday life. Their debut short 'Primary Education' won the Best Director Award at Locarno's Pardi di Domani competition. Drawing from different cultural sensibilities, the pair builds cinematic worlds that turn ordinary moments into uncanny reflections on power, communication, and the fragile boundaries between imagination and reality.

Director: Aria Sánchez, Marina Meira
Screenwriter: Aria Sánchez
Producer: Iván Almendros,
Cinematographer: Claudia Remedios Suárez
Editor: Dídac Quintana
Cast: Mia Hernandez Morales, Lucero Montero Dominguez, Eiling Baez Valdes, Wendy G. Castellanos

Samba Infinito

Brazil, France / Portuguese / 2025
15 mins



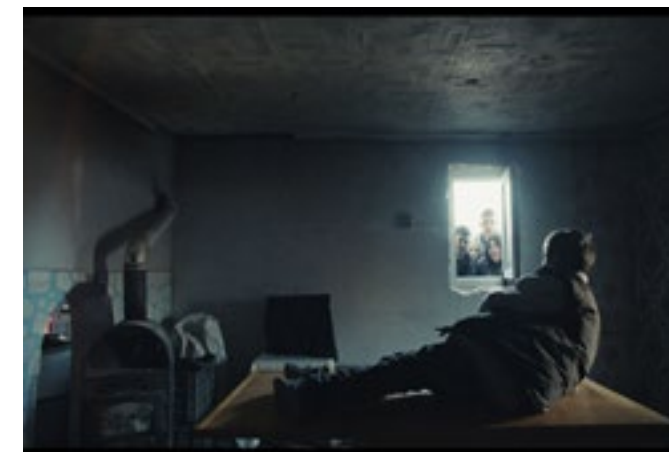
Set against the rhythm and chaos of Rio's Carnival, 'Samba Infinito' follows a street cleaner mourning his sister's death as he searches for meaning amid celebration and loss. When he discovers a lost child, their journey through the city's vibrant streets becomes one of healing and renewal. The compelling short film weaves realism, music, and fantasy into a poignant reflection on resilience, joy, and the enduring human capacity to find light in even the darkest shadows cast by sorrow.

Leonardo Martinelli is a filmmaker from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. His film 'Fantasma Neon' won the Golden Leopard for Best International Short Film at the Locarno Film Festival. His shorts have screened at festivals including Cannes, Locarno, Toronto, San Sebastián, BFI London, Clermont-Ferrand, and Palm Springs. A master's graduate in Communication from PUC-Rio, Martinelli blends music, choreography, and social reflection in his work. He is currently developing his debut feature, selected for the Locarno Residency and Hubert Bals Fund.

Director / Screenwriter: Leonardo Martinelli
Producer: Renan Barbosa Brandão, Rafael Teixeira, Leonardo Martinelli, Lucas H. Rossi, Clara Marquardt, Justin Pechberty, Damien Megherbi
Cinematographer: João Atala
Editor: Lobo Mauro
Music: André Mendonça, Fabio Carneiro
Cast: Alexandre Amador, Miguel Leonardo, Camila Pitanga, Gilberto Gil

The Spectacle

Hungary, France / Hungarian / 2025
17 mins



A young Roma boy's rare gift attracts the attention of a television crew, propelling him into a world of mounting expectations beyond his control. As admiration turns into public spectacle, his innocence, identity, and sense of self face relentless scrutiny. The piercing piece is a quietly haunting exploration of the fragile boundary between wonder and exploitation, and of how the pursuit of recognition and glaring spotlight can overwhelm those unready for its intensity, leaving both him and his world transformed.

Bálint Kenyeres, born in 1976, Budapest, is a Hungarian filmmaker and member of the European Film Academy. His shorts 'Before Dawn' (Cannes, 2005) and 'The History of Aviation' (Cannes, 2009) earned international acclaim, while his feature debut 'Hier' premiered in Competition at Locarno (2018). His latest short, 'The Spectacle' (Cannes, 2025), continues his exploration of power, perception, and human fragility through precise, poetic storytelling.

Director / Screenwriter: Bálint Kenyeres
Producer: Anna Bartók, Zita Kisgergely, Tamás Hutlassa, Jeremy Zelnik, Judit Romwalter
Cinematographer: Thimios Bakatakis
Editor: Anna Vághy
Sound: Jan Schermer
Cast: Vilmos Jónás, Jolika Józsefné Oláh, Tímea Udvari-Kardos, Soma Sándor, Gábor Váradi

The Thief

Denmark, Greenland / Tunumiisut (East Greenlandic) / 2025
20 mins



In East Greenland's remote town of Tasiilaq, Kaali searches for his missing sled dog, convinced it has been stolen. What begins as a determined pursuit becomes a journey through suspicion, betrayal, and the fragile ties that hold a small community together. Alongside his only friend, Kaali learns that the real thief is not who he imagined, confronting truths about loyalty, loss, and the complicated resilience of youth growing up on the margins.

Christoffer Rizvanovic Stenbakken is a writer and director from Tasiilaq, East Greenland, now based in Copenhagen. His filmmaking combines naturalistic style with authenticity, reflecting the lives and landscapes of East Greenland. He has created shorts including '12 Minutes' (2023) and 'Baby Food' (2022), as well as the series 'Replay' (2019). His first short from East Greenland, 'Angeerdardardor (The Thief)', premiered at Berlinale 2025.

Director / Screenwriter: Christoffer Rizvanovic Stenbakken

Producer: Asbjørn H. Kelstrup

Cinematographer: Philip Peng Rosenthal

Editor: Laura Skiöld Østerud

Music: Becca Reyes

Cast: Kamillo Ignatiussen, Mikkel Paalu P. Bianco, Simujooq Ikila

Upon Sunrise

Serbia, Spain, Slovenia, Croatia / Serbian / 2025
14 mins



Maria, a single mother in Serbia, faces precarious housing, expensive healthcare, and few job opportunities. Determined to care for her young son, she turns to petty scams, revealing the small compromises demanded by systemic inequality. Through its intimate perspective, the story captures both vulnerability and persistence, offering a stark yet compassionate portrait of a woman navigating survival in a society where the state provides little support and resilience becomes an everyday necessity.

Stefan Ivančić (b. 1985, Belgrade) is a film director, producer and programmer. His short films have screened at Cannes, Rotterdam, FID Marseille, San Sebastian, and Torino. He produced 'The Load' (2018), and co-produced 'You Have the Night' (2018), 'Have You Seen This Woman?' (2022), and 'Wondrous is the Silence of My Master' (2025). He is a Locarno Film Festival selection committee member, a programmer at the Belgrade Auteur Film Festival, and teaches at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts, Belgrade.

Director: Stefan Ivančić

Screenwriter: Nadja Petrović, Stefan Ivančić

Producer: Čarna Vučinić, Stefan Ivančić, Dragana Jovović, Ognjen Glavonić

Cinematographer: Stefan Djordjević

Editor: Jelena Maksimović

Sound Design: Bojan Palikuća

Cast: Milica Janevski, Dimitrije Baranov, Ramila Tomović, Nadežda Djermanović

Voices From the Abyss

Mexico / Spanish / 2025
23 mins



Set in Acapulco's legendary La Quebrada, 'Voices from the Abyss' follows the divers who leap 100 feet into the sea, transforming danger into ritual and artistry. Through breathtaking imagery and intimate testimony, directors Víctor Rejón and Irving Serrano capture the delicate balance between faith, art, survival, and legacy. Shot in black and white with epic slow-motion vignettes, the documentary turns each dive into a poetic act of courage, endurance, defiance, and devotion.

Víctor Rejón and **Irving Serrano** are Mexican filmmakers trained at Centro de Capacitación Cinematográfica (CCC). Rejón's work includes the documentaries 'Sanjuana' and 'Decompression', the latter winning First Place at the Sureste en Corto Short Film Contest. Serrano's previous short, 'A Charming Man', received an honourable mention at Shorts México. Together, they co-directed 'Voices from the Abyss', an award-winning documentary supported by IMCINE and screened at Hot Docs, SFFILM, and Busan International Short Film Festival.

Director / Screenwriter: Irving Serrano, Víctor Rejón

Producer: Ramón Llaven Zavala

Cinematographer: Elliott Reguera

Editor: Irving Serrano

Cast: La Quebrada Cliff Divers

Zizou

Egypt, France, Qatar / Arabic / 2025
19 mins



A coming-of-age film about 13-year-old Zizou, an overweight boy who spends most of his time on the sidelines with his only friend, Magdy. Eager to fit in, Zizou repeatedly tries to connect with the neighbourhood's popular kid, Zaki, efforts that often end in humiliation. When Zaki unexpectedly turns his attention to Magdy, tensions rise and Zizou must confront his own insecurities and the fragile bonds of friendship.

Khaled Moeit is a Cairo-based filmmaker whose debut short Major Tom (2017) won Best Debut at the Egyptian National Cinema Center. His later works, including 'One Frame Per Raid Siren' (2019) and 'Crocodile Tears' (2023), received international recognition. As an editor, he worked on 'Souad' (2020), selected for Cannes and Berlinale, earning Best Editing at FESPACO. Moeit also directed the commercial feature 'The Shanabs' (2024) and produced 'Objects Are Closer Than They Appear' (2023), which premiered at Clermont-Ferrand.

Director / Screenwriter: Khaled Moeit

Producer: Marwa Tammam, Ahmed Sobhy

Cinematographer: Ziad Abd Elbasit

Editor: Ahmed El Hawary

Sound Design: Mohamed El Taweel

Cast: Ammar Ahmed, Mohamed Bahaa, Seif Amin

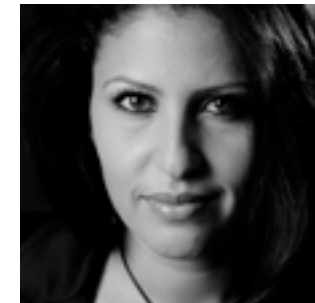
Made in Qatar

Made in Qatar Shorts Competition

A showcase of ten short films created in Qatar, celebrating local talent through diverse stories and bold creative voices as part of the Made in Qatar Competition. Dedicated to films by Qatari and Qatar-based filmmakers, this selection reflects the country's growing artistic identity and the shared experiences of its dynamic, multicultural community.

Made in Qatar Awards

The Made in Qatar awards are adjudicated by three respected arts professionals: Alaa Alasad, Fahad Ahmed Al-Kuwari and Afef Ben Mahmoud. Together they offer a balanced perspective across industry, education and creative practice to recognise outstanding achievement.



Head of the Jury

Afef Ben Mahmoud

Afef Ben Mahmoud is a Tunisian actress, director and producer who began her artistic career early, first as a contemporary dancer, then as an actress in television, theatre and film. She has held lead roles with major Tunisian directors, including Nouri Bouzid's 'Making Of' and 'The Scarecrows', and more recently in 'Streams' by Mehdi Hmili, for which she received Best Actress at Cairo International Film Festival (2021) and later at Vues d'Afrique and Pluriel.les (2023). She founded Mésanges Films and produced Bouzid's 'The Scarecrows', which premiered in Venice (Sconfini, 2019) and won the Human Rights Award. She co-produced and co-directed, with Khalil Benkirane, her first feature, 'Backstage', which premiered in competition at Giornate degli Autori, Venice 2023, winning the Cinema & Arts Award. Afef holds master's degrees in Economics and Management and in Directing and Screenwriting, followed by a Master of Research in Image Design.



Alaa Alasad

Alaa Alasad is a film producer and distributor based in Dubai and Amman. As co-founder of Tabi360 and Head of Production and Distribution at Creative Media Solutions, he specialises in arthouse films, documentaries and shorts for the MENA region and internationally. His credits include the Oscar-shortlisted 'Tala'vision' and titles that have premiered at major festivals, including Venice ('Give Up the Ghost'), Berlinale ('Yunan') and TIFF ('Sink').



Fahad Ahmed Al-Kuwari

Fahad Ahmed Al-Kuwari is a screenwriter and film educator. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Master of Arts in Film and Screen Studies from Goldsmiths, University of London. He began his career at Doha Film Institute, working across film education, production, and festival operations. He is the joint recipient of a Merit Award from the CIDA Awards for Excellence for developing a production design curriculum for Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar, where he guest lectured from 2017 to 2020. Fahad is currently Head of Development at Katara Studios, overseeing and participating in the narrative development of feature films, television shows, creative campaigns and live events.

Al-Aqiq: Darkness of Virtuality

Qatar / Arabic / 2025 / 10 mins



When his grandfather is attacked on camera, a celebrated architect follows a cryptic clue to a ransacked shop and a pair of cufflinks charged with history. Ancient visions fuse with present danger as The Trolls close in and Juna tilts toward chaos. Choosing leadership of a new generation of Protectors, he learns that strength is found in steadfastness, resisting social media's distortion while defending the ties that bind a city together.

Mohammed Al-Suwaidi is a self-taught Qatari graphic designer, cartoonist and character animator. Known as WisdomSeven, he earned awards in caricature and graphic design across the GCC, worked for Al Sharq, and animated on the short 'Rain' (DFI) and Emirati TV series 'Mandoos'. With 'Al-Aqiq: Darkness of Virtuality', made via the Qatari Film Fund, he returns to screen while developing 'Harf Wa Ism'.

Kummam Al-Maadeed is a Qatari writer and filmmaker bridging literature and cinema. She has authored three novels, a comic and a short-story collection; 'Wielding Magic' won Gold at the 2023 Moonbeam Award (YA Fantasy/Sci-Fi) and was a finalist for the American Fiction Award (YA). Two short screenplays were selected for Doha Film Institute's Qumra, marking her debut in scriptwriting and directing.

Director / Screenwriter: Mohammed Al-Suwaidi, Kummam Al-Maadeed

Producer: Ben Robinson

Editor: Abdul Jabbar Maki

Sound Design: Falah Hannoun

Music: Mohammed Al-Khulaifi

Cast: Hasan Saqer, Mohammed Hassan, Sheikha Fahad Al-Khater, Saad Al-Naimi

Baba is Melting

Qatar / Arabic / 2025 / 7 mins



As his father waits in the car for him to join Friday prayer, a son calls to confront him about a secret second marriage. Set under Doha's sweltering heat, 'Baba is Melting' unfolds in a moment of silence and tension where truth begins to surface and emotions boil over. The compelling short film examines masculinity, vulnerability, and the fragile bond between father and son with raw emotion and striking minimalism.

Karim Emara is an Egyptian filmmaker based in Brooklyn, New York. A graduate of Northwestern University in Qatar and Emerson College's MFA Film and Media Art programme, his work blends intimacy and absurdity, capturing emotional chaos within Arab family life. His film 'The Chandelier' (2023) won Best Film in the Made in Qatar category at the Ajyal Youth Film Festival. His Emerson College thesis film, 'Baba is Melting' (2025), is premiering at Doha Film Festival and will be distributed internationally.

Director / Screenwriter: Karim Emara

Producer: Sahar Bou Hamdan

Cinematographer: Yanis Cherif

Editor: Abdelrahim Kattab

Fahad The Furious

Qatar / Arabic / 2025 / 20 mins



In a small mosque, we meet Fahad and his grandfather, the Imam. Fahad has a black eye and wants nothing more than to avoid conflict and questioning from his family. Set in modern Qatar, Fahad's conservative family lack the communication skills required to have open discussions and are instead forced to create their own narratives and assumptions about what Fahad is really doing at night.

Justin Kramer is an American director-producer based in Qatar. He began in New York, founding Elwood Gentry Productions and working with HBO, MTV, CNN, VH1 and AMC. In 2009, he joined Doha Film Institute, mentoring emerging filmmakers, and later co-founded The Film House. Selected as an Up & Coming Producer at Torino Film Lab (2018), he continues to collaborate locally and internationally, with credits including 'Mala Mala' and episodes of the BBC drama series 'McMafia'.

Director / Screenwriter: Justin Kramer

Producer: Cindy Le Templier

Cinematographer: Christopher Moon

Editor: Dimitris Toliou

Cast: Abdulrahman Al Muftah, Rashid Al Sheeb, Rafeeq Ibrahim, Fatema Mohamed Bujedaih, Leen Darwiche, Wijidane Bouzergoun

Is this a Sign?

Qatar, India / English, Malayalam / 2025 / 8 mins



In the chaotic moments before her wedding, our nervous bride, Taara, finds herself in a comedy of errors. From a fiercely protective, impatient father to a sneaky younger sister who tries tagging along in the boot of a full car. And, right on cue, the disappearance of Taara's pendant, a family heirloom that she cannot get married without. Beneath the bustle, a young woman balances love and obligation, stalling a conversation she is not ready to have.

Maria Joseph Kavalackal is a filmmaker from Kerala, India, currently based in Doha. She studied at Northwestern University in Qatar, where she developed her skills in filmmaking, photography and visual media. She tells stories through film, photos or anything in between, and continually explores new ways to connect with people through her work.

Director: Maria Joseph Kavalackal

Producer: Kadhi Al Makhmari

Cinematographer: Mila Zhanat

Editor: Paribesh Sitoula

Cast: Alannah Felix, Sruthi Sreejith, Jilbin Sam Palmmoottil George, Hari Krishna, Arshaq Abdul Nassir, Riya Sebastian

A Palm Branch

Qatar / Arabic / 2025 / 14 mins



Between a shoreline and a silent home, a woman navigates the aftershocks of loss. Echoes of intimate conversations blur with coastal folklore about women who once punished the sea with fire. As dreams, omens and small domestic rituals accumulate, the tide becomes both witness and mirror. In a final gesture, palm branch aflame, she tests whether ceremony can carry grief to water, and whether the ocean's indifference can still return a measure of peace.

Mahdi Ali Ali is a Qatari filmmaker and creative producer whose work blends poetic imagery with reflections on identity, memory and human connection. Based between Doha, Paris and Los Angeles, he represents a new generation of Arab directors redefining Gulf cinema through personal, visually distinctive storytelling. A founder of Doha Film Institute's education programmes, his debut short 'Champs-Élysées, I Love You' introduced his lyrical style, merging realism and metaphor to explore cultural displacement and silence.

Director / Screenwriter: Mahdi Ali Ali
Producer: Ala'a Amer
Cinematographer: Zarye Wossene
Editor: Abdul Jabbar Maki, Noor Hayder
Music: Lindsey Nelson
Cast: Jessica Gibson

Project Aisha

Qatar / Arabic / 2025 / 9 mins



Confined after an accident, a twelve-year-old's home becomes a maze of corridors, monitors and rules. Her neurosurgeon mother, terrified of loss, rejects medical advice and builds her own regimen of care. The house shifts from haven to experiment as machines hum like lullabies and affection tightens into surveillance. Rooted in point-of-view subjectivity and shaded by the caution of 'Frankenstein', the film considers when love becomes a cage, and what it costs to force destiny's hand.

Fahad Al-Nahdi is a Qatari filmmaker and animator. He holds a BA in Digital Media with a focus on Animation from Otis College of Art and Design. He worked for Indican Pictures, editing, cleaning and promoting independent films such as 'Powerbomb', 'In Echo Park' and 'Beloved Beast'. He also worked for ALKASS as a graphic designer and animator. 'Project Aisha' is his first short film as a director and co-writer.

Director: Fahad Al-Nahdi
Screenwriter: Waheed Khan, Fahad Al-Nahdi
Producer: Waheed Khan
Cinematographer: Yanis Cherif
Editor: Aimée Merheb
Music: Mohammed Al-Khulaifi
Cast: Maryam Badr Al-Nahdi, Zaina Al-Kanaani, Sarita Kumari Singh

Qadha' W Qadar

Qatar / Arabic / 2025 / 8 mins



Anxious yet resolute, a young woman arrives determined to end a marriage that has narrowed her world. In the corridor, a mother pleads for compromise; a sister counters with candour. Inside the chamber, arguments turn abstract; in the hallway, the stakes are intimate and generational. A devastating disclosure reframes loyalty, shame and love, echoing the director's meditation on women taught to "keep the peace". To choose her voice is to confront everything that silence once protected.

Maryam Al-Mohammed holds a BSc in Media Industries & Technology with a minor in Film & Design from Northwestern University in Qatar. She directed the short 'Do You Remember Me?' (2023) after a Doha Film Institute workshop. She produced 'Behind You' (2023), selected for Cannes Short Film Corner, and 'Umm Al Duwais' (2023), winner of Best Narrative Fiction at the Media & Research Awards. Her latest short 'Qadha' W Qadar' explores culture, identity and visual storytelling.

Director / Screenwriter: Maryam Al-Mohammed
Producer: Vitória Teixeira
Cinematographer: Ramazan Zhetpysbayev
Editor: Aimée Merheb, Omar Amin
Cast: Reem Alsheeb, Fawziya Ahmed, Rana Salama, Nasser Essa

Theatre of Dreams

Qatar / Arabic, English / 2025 / 15 mins



Set against the backdrop of the FIFA Men's World Cup Qatar 2022, Theatre of Dreams tells the untold story of the first Qatar Women's National Football Team. Through a deeply personal lens, the film explores the courage, cultural defiance, and hidden sacrifices of the team's captain, who, 12 years later, confronts the emotional cost of being among the first women to break taboos in pursuit of the right to play.

Fatma Al-Ghanim is a Qatari filmmaker, athlete and entrepreneur. As the captain of Qatar's first Women's National Football Team in 2010, she later served in leadership roles across triathlon and cycling bodies, and received the World Triathlon Women's Committee Award of Excellence. She contributed to Qatar's Olympic efforts and the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. 'Theatre Of Dreams' marks her directorial debut, drawing on her pioneering sporting career. She holds a BA in Economics and an MBA.

Director / Screenwriter: Fatma Al-Ghanim
Cinematographer: Mostafa Sheshtawy
Editor: Abdul Jabbar Maki

Villa 187

Qatar, Sudan / Arabic, English / 2025 / 10 mins



Filmmaker Eiman Mirghani and her family have called Qatar home for over 30 years, despite being from Sudan. In 2020, Eiman's father broke the news to the family that their visa had suddenly been cancelled, and, for the first time ever, they were unsure of their future. Shortly after, Eiman begins to document the process of packing up the house her family have called home for over three decades—reminiscing over the past and pondering on the future in a home that was never really theirs.

Eiman Mirghani is a Sudanese filmmaker based in Qatar. Upon graduating with a BA in Film and Media Studies from the University of Nottingham, Eiman has worked on numerous short films as a director and producer. She is the founder and senior producer of FilmMENA, a film production house dedicated to assisting and elevating filmmakers from the Middle East and North Africa. In 2021, Eiman was one of the producers of the short Sudanese film 'Al-Sit', which received numerous accolades at international film festivals and became Academy Award-qualified. Eiman's second short film, 'The Bleaching Syndrome', was directed under the mentorship of world-renowned filmmaker Rithy Panh and has travelled to several international film festivals.

Director / Producer: Eiman Mirghani

Cinematographer: Baris Konbal

Editor: Jacky Nassour

Yom El Jum'a

Qatar / Arabic / 2025 / 9 mins



The film follows Mubarak, a short-tempered single father of three sons. Though they've built lives of their own, he still longs for their laughter and company. Fridays are a sacred tradition - the day when families gather under one roof. But this Friday is different. Mubarak's eldest son drops off his young daughter, Joud, before rushing off on a last-minute business trip. Left to babysit his energetic, headstrong granddaughter, Mubarak finds himself navigating an unexpected afternoon. Together, he and Joud discover that while blood brings family together, it's love that makes them stay.

Haya Al Kuwari is a Qatari writer and filmmaker whose work explores culture, love, belonging, and the complexities of the human psyche. A graduate of Northwestern University Qatar, she has written stories that move between the intimate and the imaginative. Her filmmaking brings everyday moments into focus, revealing the extraordinary within the ordinary. With 'Yom El Jum'a', Haya turns her lens toward family, tradition, and the delicate bond between a grandfather and his granddaughter. Through humour, tenderness, and conflict, she captures a Friday afternoon that unfolds into an ode to family, heritage, and the ties that bridge generations.

Director / Screenwriter: Haya Al Kuwari

Producer: Jassim Al Kuwari

Cinematographer: Ahmad Barakat

Editor: Noora Marafih

Music: The Music Lab.

Cast: Mohamed Hassan, Mona Al Hadad, Ahmed Al Shehabi

Ajyal Feature Film Competition

The Ajyal Jury is a festival-long programme for young people aged 16–25. Jurors watch a curated selection of international films, take part in discussions, attend masterclasses and talks, and vote to decide the festival's official awards.



ChaO

Japan / Japanese / 2025

90 mins

Winner of Jury Award for Feature Film at
Annecy International Animated Film Festival 2025

A mild-mannered shipyard office worker is blindsided when a mermaid princess proposes marriage and moves in. Their new life is messy and joyous, lost in translation one moment, disarmingly sincere the next. Around them, a near-future city tilts between regulation and possibility; an official willing to harm fish for profit embodies a brittle idea of progress, while the couple test another: that mutual regard can redraw civic space itself. Lovingly crafted in traditional hand-drawn animation, faces breathe, hair and hands carry intention, and shifts in light reveal the tremor of feeling beneath the humour. Style serves meaning: when characters from different worlds share the frame, the composition itself becomes a conversation about balance and attention.

Rather than scoring easy points against power, the film employs wit and genuine tenderness to move us toward patience, toward the work of understanding, and toward a future wide enough for more than one way of being. What lingers is not just the arc from shyness to devotion, but the idea that love can serve as a model for how communities might reconcile competing needs without erasing differences. In a time of entrenched divides, the story offers a bright, humane rejoinder, suggesting that tolerance is less a slogan than a daily practice of care.



Yasuhiro Aoki is a Tokyo-based animation director who began at Studio Live and has worked at STUDIO 4°C since the 2000s. He is

known for fluid character animation and meticulous detail, with expressive use of light and shadow. Selected works include the shorts 'Honey Tokyo' (2010), 'Batman Gotham Knight: In the Darkness' (2008) and 'Amazing Nuts!: Kung Fu Love' (2006).

Director: Yasuhiro Aoki

Producer: Eiko Tanaka

Music: Takatsugu Muramatsu

Cast: Uji Suzuka, Anna Yamada



The Fin

South Korea, Germany, Qatar / Korean / 2025
83 mins

In a post-war, ecologically ruined Korea, a new social order classifies “Omegas”, mutated outcasts, who are tracked, captured and exploited as disposable labour. One of them, living under false calm, works at an eerie indoor fishing store, a melancholy replica of the sea where city dwellers buy the illusion of escape. When a young civil servant notices inconsistencies in the Omega’s routine, curiosity becomes pursuit, and the pillars of doctrine begin to wobble. The film’s tension is less about chase than about a mind unlearning certainty. Made with a taste for texture over polish, the story slowly unfurls into a study of fear, grief and helplessness when systems fail and rituals disappear.

The city’s pageantry slowly recedes, and what remains are rooms, faces, and the unnerving calm of simulated nature. Even the fishing store, once a modest substitute for the ocean, appears as a symptom: a bright façade over an emptiness too persistent to cover. Rejecting easy heroics, the film asks what is forgotten in the rush forward and what mutates when buried. As suspicion and empathy pull the civil servant in opposite directions, the narrative traces the thin line between order and complicity, survival and surrender.



Syeyoung Park is a Seoul-based filmmaker. He graduated from the Korea National University of Arts (BFA in Film; MFA in Video

Arts). His debut feature, ‘The Fifth Thoracic Vertebra’ (2022), won three awards at the Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival, including Best Director at the Seoul Independent Film Festival, and a Special Jury Mention at Fantasia; it also screened at Sitges, Berlin Critics’ Week, and Torino. ‘The Fin’ is his second feature.

Director / Screenwriter /

Cinematographer: Syeyoung Park

Producer: Heejung Oh, Philippe Bober, Syeyoung Park

Editor: Clémentine Decremps, Syeyoung Park, Jiyeon Han, Benjamin Mirguet

Music: Seokyoung Haam

Cast: Yeji Yeon, Pureum Kim, Goh-Woo, Youngdoo Jeong, Joowon Meng



The Lions by the River Tigris

Norway, Iraq, The Netherlands / Arabic / 2025
92 mins

Set in the heart of Mosul, a city devastated during the battle for liberation from ISIS, ‘The Lions by the River Tigris’ captures the fight to preserve identity and memory. The documentary follows three men guarding the embers of their city’s spirit: Bashar, a fisherman protecting the marble lions that survived his destroyed home; Fakhri, a passionate, relentless collector preserving thousands of Iraq’s artefacts and cultural heritage; and Fadel, a violinist who once risked his life to keep music alive, now plays openly and his melodies represent a defiant act of healing for a new generation.

As the city slowly rebuilds, their intertwined stories reveal a haunting portrait of endurance and rebirth. Through their hands and voices, the city’s wounded soul begins to stir, to reclaim its cultural soul while confronting the shadows of extremism. The film combines poetic visuals with intimate observation, illuminating the human will to create meaning amid destruction. ‘The Lions by the River Tigris’ is both intimate and urgent, a powerful testament to resilience, memory, art, human dignity, and the enduring power of culture to heal what war has torn apart. It poses a critical question: in the aftermath of erasure, can art and remembrance truly rebuild a future?



Zaradasht Ahmed A Kurdish-Norwegian filmmaker originally from Iraq, renowned for his unflinching documentaries set in conflict zones.

With more than 20 years of experience, his films explore resilience and identity in war-torn societies. His acclaimed ‘Nowhere to Hide’ (2016) won the IDFA Best Feature Documentary Award and over 20 other international prizes, alongside two Emmy nominations. Ahmed has worked across the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia, and trained local communities in documentary storytelling. ‘The Lions by the River Tigris’ continues his commitment to telling urgent stories of survival, dignity, and cultural revival.

Director / Screenwriter /

Cinematographer: Zaradasht Ahmed

Producer: Thorvald Nilsen

Editor: Eva Hillström

Music: Daan Hofman

Cast: Bashar, Fakhri, Fadel



The Voice of Hind Rajab

Tunisia, France, Qatar / Arabic, English / 2025

89 mins

Winner of the Silver Lion and UNICEF Award at Venice Film Festival 2025

On 29 January 2024, emergency responders received a call from a six-year-old trapped in a car under fire in Gaza. They kept her on the line and did everything possible to reach her. The recorded voices on that call are real; the film is built around them. Rather than reporting, it remembers, holding stillness, waiting, fear and the fragile thread of connection that binds people who cannot meet but will not let go. The narrative follows those on the other end of the phone: Red Crescent staff whose own words articulate not only what happened but the visceral horror of what it felt like to be there.

Their testimonies, alongside the archival audio, guide a carefully staged dramatisation in which actors hear the authentic voice as they speak, re-inhabiting a lived moment rather than performing it. The effect is intimate, affecting and truly devastating. What emerges is a damning indictment of systems that fail children and a study of collective responsibility. In this space between documentary and fiction, truth is carried by voice. The film becomes a memorial and a demand, naming a child, honouring the people who answered, and asking audiences to share the burden of listening. To hear is to be changed; to remember is a refusal to let violence be perpetrated in silence.



Kaouther Ben Hania constantly explores the boundaries between fiction and documentary. Her last film, 'Four Daughters', was nominated for the

Academy Award for Best Documentary in 2024 after being presented in Competition at the Cannes Film Festival. The film received numerous prestigious awards and was sold in over 40 territories. Her previous film, 'The Man Who Sold His Skin,' was also nominated at the Academy Awards® for Best International Feature Film in 2021, representing Tunisia. All her other films have premiered at prestigious festivals, including Cannes, Venice, AFI, Los Angeles, Locarno, IDFA, and Hot Docs Toronto.

Director / Screenwriter:

Kaouther Ben Hania

Producer: Nadim Cheikhrouha, Odessa Rae, James Wilson

Cinematographer: Juan Sarmiento G.

Editor: Qutaiba Barhamji, Maxime Mathis, Kaouther Ben Hania

Music: Amine Bouhafa

Cast: Saja Kilani, Motaz Malhees, Amer Hlehel, Clara Khoury



Writing Hawa

France, Netherlands, Qatar, Afghanistan / Dari / 2024

85 mins

Winner of the FIPRESCI Award at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) 2024

Beginning as a quiet portrait of renewal, the film follows a Hazara woman who, forty years after a child marriage, starts to read and write at fifty-two. With her daughter's support, she opens a small textile business, collecting traditional embroideries in Bamiyan and transforming them into dresses for sale in Kabul. When her granddaughter is endangered by an abusive father in a remote village, she brings the girl to the city; their shared lessons become a pledge to a different future. History breaks in with the Taliban's return in August 2021, forcing the family apart: the filmmaker flees to France, while those who remain navigate fresh restrictions that threaten education, work and movement.

The camera captures everyday courage, study, stitching, and small trade while acknowledging grief and fear. It offers a rare view of a Hazara household under renewed repression and treats literacy not as symbolism but as daily labour and dignity. The director frames the story as both document and address: a call for awareness and change, and a refusal of the world's "blind eye". Without didacticism, the edit balances setbacks and small victories, allowing hope to persist alongside loss. What endures is a family's insistence on learning and the belief that a future can be written, even when institutions undo it overnight.



Najiba Noori was born in 1995 in Bamiyan, Afghanistan. She began working for media

organisations as a volunteer when she was just 15. She has made reports and photo stories for various agencies, including the AFP, Huffington Post, MSF, FMIC, NRC and UN Women in Afghanistan. She participated in the Close-Up program 2020-2021 and in IDFA Academy 2022. She joined AFP as a video journalist in 2019. In 2021, she was obliged to leave her country when the Taliban took power in Afghanistan and lives in France.



Rasul Noori was born in 1994 in Bamiyan, Afghanistan and graduated in journalism

in Kabul. He has made several short videos for NRC, GIZ, and FMIC in Afghanistan. He was one of the cinematographers of the short film 'Hoof' with the American Company Hungry Man in Bamiyan.

Director: Najiba Noori, Rasul Noori

Screenwriter: Najiba Noori, Afsaneh Salari

Producer: Christian Popp; Coproducers: Hasse van Nunen, Renko Douze

Cinematographer: Najiba Noori, Rasul Noori

Editor: Afsaneh Salari

Music: Afshin Azizi

Cast: Hawa Noori, Zahra Haidari, Fatima Noori, Musa Noori, Rasul Noori, Mahdi Noori

Ajyal Short Film Competition

Abu Jabal

Palestine / Arabic / 2025
20 mins



After seven months in tents, hospitals and schools, a mother bravely leads her daughter back to what remains of their shattered home. The streets are flattened; memory spills from the displacement bags they kept packed for flight. The son they called 'the mountain' is absent, yet present in gestures, in a grave that becomes shelter. Through a mother's voice, the film searches for a place to mourn, to resist erasure and to hold family together.

Bisan Owda is a Palestinian journalist, filmmaker and activist from Gaza. Her social media reports and the Al Jazeera/AJ+ series 'It's Bisan from Gaza and I'm Still Alive' amplified voices from the Strip, earning a 2024 Peabody Award, an Edward R. Murrow Award and a News & Documentary Emmy (Outstanding Hard News Feature Story: Short Form). Her work has appeared on Al Jazeera, BBC, The New York Times, Democracy Now and CNN.

Director: Bisan Owda

Producer: Dahman Eyad, Solafa Owda

Baisanos

Chile, Palestine, Spain / Arabic, Spanish / 2025
14 mins



Set against the echoing backdrop of Club Deportivo Palestino and its fervent fanbase, 'Baisanos' explores how the Palestinian diaspora in Chile preserves identity and belonging through football. The empathetic documentary weaves together the voices of Chile and Palestine, uncovering the emotional and political ties that connect two distant homelands. Through the stadium's chants and colours, the film portrays football as an act of remembrance, pride, and resistance, while reflecting on the meaning of kinship, exile, and collective resilience.

Andrés and **Francisca Khamis Giacoman** are sibling filmmakers from Chile's Palestinian diaspora, with ancestral roots in Beit Jala and Bethlehem. Their collaborative debut, 'Baisanos', reflects their shared pursuit of exploring identity, migration, and collective memory through art. Andrés, based in Barcelona, is a film editor focused on social and migration issues, while Francisca, based in Amsterdam, is a multidisciplinary artist whose video work examines diasporic memories and belonging.

Director / Screenwriter: Andrés Khamis Giacoman, Francisca Khamis Giacoman

Producer: Joaquín Echeverría

Cinematographer: Lucas García

Editor: Sebastián Salfate

Cast: Lina Meruane, Muhammed Abdelnaim Khader Odeh

Deadlock

France, Algeria / Algerian Arabic / 2024
10 mins



Sifou and Mahrez, seventeen and inseparable, spend their days by the port of Algiers, killing time between odd jobs, jokes, and silence. Yet behind their laughter lies the unspoken weight of absent brothers who crossed the sea to Europe. Through stillness and fleeting rhythm, their story reflects the pervasive fatalism of Algerian youth, caught between the wreckage of their neighbourhood and an uncertain horizon. A contemplation on borders both visible and invisible, it captures the fragile line between recklessness and despair.

Lucien Beucher is a French director. In 2018, he co-founded Bleu Désert, a trio of music video directors. In the future, he aims to explore longer formats, such as feature narrative and documentary, blending the boundaries between the two.

Mahdi Boucif is an Algerian photographer and filmmaker. As a documentary photographer, his art is raw, his approach spontaneous, almost instinctive. His main objective: to show a certain vulnerability where we least expect it.

Director: Lucien Beucher, Mahdi Boucif
Producer: Germain Robin, Myriam El Mounsiif
Cinematographer: Julien Artaud
Editor: Antonin Bronès
Music: Max Beucher
Cast: Seif Eddine Ait Ouareb, Mahrez Saci, Benkara Mehdi, Arbane Ayoub

Don't Wake the Sleeping Child

Senegal, France, Morocco / Wolof / 2024
28 mins



When 15-year-old Diamant refuses her family's plans for marriage, she falls into a sleep so deep it becomes both a mystery and a quiet mutiny. Bewildered doctors find no answers, and as her family tries desperately to wake her from her slumber, their home is consumed by fire. A fable of resistance and resilience, this visually striking work explores personal rebellion and the power of dreams to reimagine the external boundaries imposed by culture and control.

Kevin Aubert is a French-Cameroonian director who spent his early years in Ziguinchor, Senegal, before moving to Burgundy, France. He studied philosophy and earned a master's degree in History of Philosophy at the Sorbonne. In 2020, he relocated to Dakar, managing the Ousmane Sembène Cinematic Complex and later creating Le Sel Dakar, the city's only film laboratory. After directing music videos and documentaries, he made his first short film, 'Don't Wake the Sleeping Child' (2024).

Director / Screenwriter: Kevin Aubert
Producer: Chloé Ortolé
Cinematographer: Louis Mas
Editor: Jeanne Fontaine
Music: Pablo Altar
Cast: Kadja Ndiaye Fall, Mama Sané, Samba Ly, Adji Marème Hanne

Fin

Palestine / Arabic, Hebrew / 2025
5 mins



Alone in a rain-lashed square, a mid-career worker in uniform keeps trying to light a cigarette. The act repeats until a stranger steps in, and a small gesture alters the night. What seems incidental becomes a study of routine, fear and the thin membrane between everyday survival and the world outside the frame. Minimal and weather-beaten, the film holds a mirror to numbed habits and asks whether a spark can break complicity.

Ward Kayyal is a Palestinian film director from Haifa. He completed cinema studies at Minshar College in 2022, majoring in directing and writing. His debut short, 'Hamza: Chasing a Ghost' (2022), premiered at the Cairo International Film Festival and won awards at Amman International Film Festival, Notre Dame Arab Film Festival and Istanbul Film Festival. He recently directed 'Fin' and is developing a feature documentary and his first narrative feature, pursuing community engagement and a critical lens on political and social issues.

Director / Screenwriter: Ward Kayyal
Producer: Donna Hawa
Cinematographer: Ashraf Dowani
Editor: Nour Abukamal
Cast: Ziad Bakri

happiness

Netherlands, Turkey / English, Turkish, Dutch, Arabic, Serbian / 2025
18 mins



Chronicling sleepless nights in Amsterdam, this documentary short follows activists in exile as they confront the violence of colonisation and the weight of being far from home. Between screens and streets, their struggle against police violence, deportation, and displacement unfolds as an intimate portrait of digital resistance. Blending personal memory with new media, the film examines the emotional and political labour invested in screen time, reframing it as a collective act of solidarity, cross-border community, and shared struggle.

Firat Yücel is a documentary producer and editor based in Amsterdam and Istanbul. He is also the curator behind the video series Altyazı Fasikül: Free Cinema, which is part of the Altyazı Cinema Association, dedicated to supporting political filmmakers. His work is centred around collective filmmaking and resistance against censorship, while his documentaries focus on topics like exile and surveillance. Yücel is part of the BAK Cell, Utrecht, in the Fellowship for Situated Practice.

Director / Editor: Firat Yücel
Screenwriter: Firat Yücel, Aylin Kuryel

Mirtemir Is Alright

Uzbekistan, Germany / Uzbek / 2024
20 mins



Mirtemir is growing up in Nukus, a dusty city caught between the desert and the dead Aral Sea. His mother has moved away to earn money in a neighbouring country, as he waits tables during the day and entertains people through karaoke by night. Days full of hard work and responsibility, too demanding even for an adult, are nonetheless full of joy and adolescent bliss. A lyrical documentary, it captures the generosity of spirit that flourishes even in the face of poverty.

Sasha Kulak is a filmmaker living and working in exile. Her films include 'Salamanca' (2015, IDFA), 'Quicksilver Chronicles' (2019), and 'Mara' (2022, Rotterdam). Her latest, 'A Hawk as Big as a Horse' (2022), won a special mention at Dok Leipzig. Her work often explores fragile realities and communities under pressure.

Michael Borodin studied filmmaking in Moscow after working as a labourer and undocumented migrant. His short 'Normal' (2018) screened at Cannes Critics' Week, and his feature 'Convenience Store' (2022) premiered at Berlinale Panorama. His films focus on pressing social issues in contemporary Uzbekistan.

Director / Cinematographer: Sasha Kulak, Michael Borodin
Producer: Julia Shaginurov
Editor: Katya Truba

Once Upon a Time There Was a Mountain

Hong Kong / Cantonese, English, Mandarin Chinese, Hakka,
Urdu / 2025
14 mins



During his final summer before switching schools, Kwong plans a farewell football match with his classmates. However, as the holiday winds down, their search for a place to play is repeatedly blocked by construction, a seniors' dance group, and a gang of local teens. Refusing to give up, the friends stage one last game, a symbolic goodbye to childhood before they each head toward new and uncertain futures.

To Chun-him is a Hong Kong filmmaker whose work explores personal and emotional narratives. A graduate of the School of Creative Media at City University of Hong Kong, his debut short '17 Years' (2008) screened at several international festivals. His 2023 film 'Overman' won Bronze at the Microfilm Production Support Scheme and was nominated at festivals including Shanghai and LA Shorts. His latest project, 'Once Upon a Time There Was a Mountain', premiered at the Far East Film Festival.

Director/ Screenwriter/Editor: Chun-him To
Producer: Kee-to Lam
Cinematographer: Yung Tsz-hong
Music: Wong Hin-yan
Cast: Wong Tsz Lok Sean, Lam Shun Hang, Wen Taouxu, Wong Zakk

S the Wolf

France / Arabic / 2025
11 mins



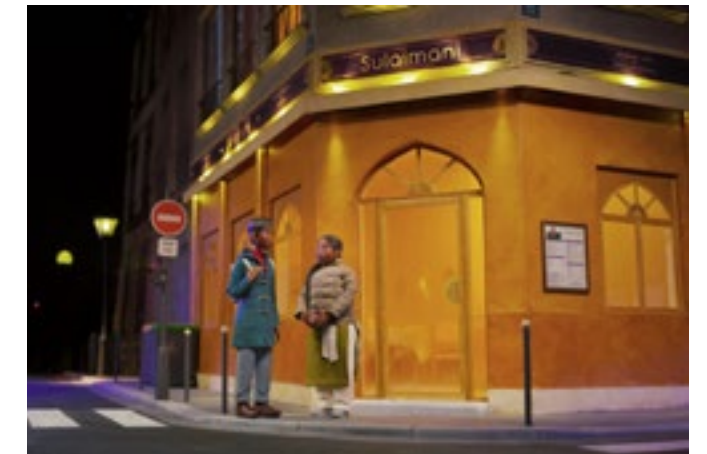
A middle-aged man recounts his life through memories rooted in hair. From childhood cuts, adolescent doubts, first love, and irretrievable loss, this animation gives form to vulnerability and masculinity, reflecting pressures placed on young men in society. By weaving humour and melancholy, the story reveals the protagonist's dual identities, neither wholly adolescent nor fully adult, neither virile nor diminished. This intimate diary transforms personal vulnerability into a universal meditation on self-image, despair, and the search for balance between strength and frailty.

Sameh Alaa is an Egyptian director, producer and writer. His short films 'Fifteen' (2017) and 'I'm Afraid to Forget Your Face' (2020) gained international acclaim, with the latter winning the Palme d'Or at Cannes, the first Egyptian film to do so. His work has screened at Toronto, Locarno and San Sebastián, and was showcased at MoMA and the Venice Biennale. He has served on juries including Cannes and Cairo and is developing his first feature alongside new short projects.

Director: Sameh Alaa
Producer: Avantika Singh Desbouvries
Music: Moataz AlQammari

Sulaimani

France / French, Malayalam / 2025
20 mins



One evening in Paris, Alia and Neena, two young women from Kerala, unexpectedly cross paths in an Indian restaurant. The shared scents, tastes, and language awaken memories of exile, family bonds, and cultural conflict. While their reasons for leaving India differ, both grapple with nostalgia, loss, and self-discovery. Through evocative animation and delicate humour, the film explores displacement and resilience, capturing how food, memory, and identity intertwine in the migrant experience.

Vinnie Ann Bose, born in Kerala, India, studied animation film design at NID Ahmedabad before joining La Poudrière in France in 2016. Her graduation films, 'What is Your Brown Number?' and 'Dimanche Matin', were celebrated for their originality and emotional resonance. Drawing on her multicultural perspective and storytelling rooted in memory and identity, Bose directed 'Sulaimani', her first professional short film, selected for Annecy International Animation Film Festival and Champs-Élysées Film Festival.

Director / Editor: Vinnie Ann Bose
Screenwriter: Vinnie Ann Bose, Patricia Valeix
Producer: Christophe Camoirano
Cinematographer: Damien Buquen
Music: Matthieu Gérard-Tulane
Cast: Jessin Jacob, Vinnie Ann Bose, Jose Sebastian Mukkaden, Achyuth Unnikrishnan

Their Eyes

France / English, Spanish / 2025

23 mins



What does it take to teach a machine to see? This documentary unfolds through testimonies and screen recordings from online workers in Venezuela, Kenya, and the Philippines who annotate data for self-driving cars. Their voices reveal not only the hidden toil and neocolonial structures underpinning artificial intelligence, but also the micro-strategies and collective efforts that allow them to reclaim agency. A vital portrait of unseen labour, it questions how technology shapes our world without consent.

Nicolas Gourault is an artist and filmmaker based in Paris with a background in visual arts and visual studies. He has worked with Forensic Architecture before graduating from Le Fresnoy, Studio National des Arts. His work navigates between online open-source investigations and the critical use of new media as documentary tools. His works include 'This Means More' (2019), 'VO' (2020), and 'Their Eyes' (2025).

Director / Screenwriter: Nicolas Gourault

Producer: Yannick Beauquis, Quentin Brayer

Cinematographer: Yvon, Oliver, Jonel

Editor: Lucas Azémar, Félix Rehm, Nicolas Gourault

Cast: Oliver, Jonel, Yvon, Yonaille, Elvina, Nancy

Gala Screenings



The Christophers

USA, UK / English / 2025
100 mins

Eight unfinished canvases sit in storage, the remnants of a myth and a career that flared during Britain's 1960s–70s pop-art boom. Desperate for an inheritance, two siblings recruit a gifted restorer, once a forger, to finish the series and return the works to hiding, ready to be “found” when their father dies. To reach them, she insinuates herself into the artist's house and daily routine, discovering a fortress of clutter, caustic humour and a man armoured by wit, vanity and fear, an icon who has stopped painting yet cannot stop performing.

The encounter becomes a duel conducted in sentences and brushstrokes. She studies the work like a conservator, layer by layer, gesture by gesture, until technique reveals biography, and mimicry shades into authorship. As the restorer's eye parses, the artist is confronted by the one critique he has avoided, honest appraisal from someone who understands both the craft and the cost of making. He parries with provocation, unwilling to cede authority even as his children scheme around him. Dry, acerbic and humane, the piece observes the economics of talent and the intimacy of criticism, finding drama in the fragile space where restoration meets creation, and where a forged line can tell a truer story than the original ever did.



Steven Soderbergh is a writer, director, producer, cinematographer and editor. He won the Academy Award for directing 'Traffic'

(2000) and was nominated the same year for 'Erin Brockovich'. His debut, 'Sex, Lies, and Videotape', won the Palme d'Or at Cannes and earned an Oscar nomination for Best Original Screenplay. His wide-ranging credits include 'Behind The Candelabra', 'K Street', 'The Knick', 'Magic Mike', 'Kimi', 'Logan Lucky', 'Contagion' and 'The Girlfriend Experience'. This film marks his fourth collaboration with Ed Solomon, after 'Mosaic', 'Full Circle' and 'No Sudden Move'.

Director: Steven Soderbergh

Screenwriter: Ed Solomon

Producer: Jim Parks, Iain A. Canning

Cinematographer: Peter Andrews

Editor: Mary Ann Bernard

Music: David Holmes

Cast: Michaela Coel, Ian McKellen, Jessica Gunning, James Corden



Re-Creation

Ireland, Luxembourg / English / 2025
89 mins

A killing in West Cork, a suspect scrutinised for decades, and a trial Ireland never saw. This fiction–reality hybrid reimagines that absence by convening a jury and asking them, and us, to deliberate. Evidence is rehearsed, narratives collide, and certainty proves elusive. The room becomes a pressure chamber where personality meets principle; some jurors seek swift closure, others hesitate. Out of their argument emerges the film’s central concern: how truth is filtered through experience, unconscious bias and emotion. Rather than proclaiming answers, the drama chooses engagement. A lone voice keeps returning to the facts, challenging groupthink without claiming to know “what really happened”.

The film explores justice as practice, not spectacle, to show how easily we transfer fear or unresolved guilt onto a suspect who fits our story. Echoes of ‘12 Angry Men’ are present, but the context is distinctly Irish, shaped by media glare and a community’s long memory. The result is an invitation for audiences to consider how quickly anger or fear can settle on a convenient narrative, and how hard it is to unlearn what we want to believe. The gripping film reminds us that truth is rarely simple. By the time the jury reaches a decision, the drama has stepped beyond verdict to ask what we demand from justice, and what it demands from us.



Jim Sheridan is an Irish playwright, screenwriter, director and producer who was also a DFI Qumra Master in

2024. His films include ‘My Left Foot’, ‘In the Name of the Father’, ‘The Boxer’ and ‘In America’, earning six personal Academy Award nominations and multiple nominations across his filmography. He founded Dublin’s Project Theatre, led The Irish Arts Center in New York and has produced work by emerging Irish filmmakers. He has directed studio features including ‘Dream House’, ‘Brothers’ and ‘Get Rich Or Die Tryin’.



David Merriman is an award-winning Irish writer–director, and frequent collaborator of Jim Sheridan. David

recently directed the feature film ‘Class’ and is in pre-production to write and direct a remake of the George Romero classic ‘Night of the Living Dead.’

Director / Screenwriter: Jim Sheridan, David Merriman
Producer: Fabrizio Maltese, Tina O’Reilly
Cinematographer: Carlo Thiel
Editor: Jack Thornton
Music: Anna Rice
Cast: Vicky Krieps, Jim Sheridan, Aidan Gillen, Colm Meaney, John Connors



Sa3oud Wainah?

Qatar / Arabic / 2025
82 mins

‘Sa3oud Wainah?’ unfolds on a seemingly ordinary night at a remote farmhouse, where brothers Hamood and Sa3oud entertain their circle of friends with a familiar magic trick passed down by their late father. What begins as harmless fun takes a chilling turn when Sa3oud vanishes before their eyes and fails to reappear. As panic takes hold, unease spreads through the group, and the boundaries between illusion and reality begin to erode. Shadows move where they shouldn’t, laughter turns uneasy, and the night thickens with unanswered questions. When a mysterious stranger arrives at the farmhouse, Hamood is forced to confront whether this is an elaborate prank or the beginning of something far more sinister and irreversible.

Rooted in Qatari folklore yet universally resonant, ‘Sa3oud Wainah?’ is a haunting exploration of brotherhood, guilt, and the unseen. Mohammed Al-Ibrahim’s debut feature blends mystery and psychological tension with cultural texture and emotional depth. Through precise direction and atmospheric storytelling, the film examines how faith, fear, and memory intertwine, and how the human mind grapples with the inexplicable. The result is a suspenseful and visually arresting journey that questions where performance ends and reality begins, leaving audiences unsettled yet deeply moved.



Mohammed Al-Ibrahim is a Qatari writer and director holding honorary degrees in Criminal Justice and Film Studies. He began

his career with the award-winning shorts ‘Land of Pearls’ (2010) and ‘Bidoon’ (2013), which toured regional festivals. As Head of Longform at Katara Studios, he has directed numerous commercial projects, including the FIFA World Cup 2022 hit ‘Arhbo’, viewed over 100 million times on YouTube. ‘Sa3oud Wainah?’ marks his debut feature film, showcasing his passion for suspense, mystery, and emotionally grounded storytelling.

Director / Screenwriter: Mohammed Al-Ibrahim
Editor: Maryam Al-Sahli
Music: Youki Yamamoto
Cast: Mishaal Al Dosari, Abdelaziz Al Dorani, Saad Al Naimi, Abdullah Al Harbi, Ibrahim Mirza



Shoot the People

USA / English / 2025
93 mins

'Shoot the People' follows acclaimed photographer Misan Harriman as he embarks on a global journey to examine the relationship between protest, photography, and social change. Renowned for his portraits of public figures and royalty, Harriman's camera becomes a tool for activism as he travels across three continents to document movements for justice and equality. From the streets of London to the aftermath of George Floyd's murder in Minneapolis, and from the legacy of Apartheid in South Africa to the red carpets of Los Angeles and the global calls for reform, Misan questions whether images and activism can truly transform societies, or if they merely bear witness to cycles of pain and resistance.

Along the way, he meets icons such as Martin Luther King III and Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, whose insights deepen his understanding of modern protest's purpose and reach. Through these conversations and moments of introspection, Harriman's personal and artistic evolution unfolds on screen. Directed by Andy Mundy-Castle, the film is a powerful meditation on empathy, courage, and the role of the artist in times of division. With its striking cinematography and emotional honesty, 'Shoot the People' stands as both a portrait of a man redefining his purpose and a testament to the power of collective action.



Andy Mundy-Castle is an award-winning British director and founder of Doc Hearts, known for producing bold and emotionally resonant

work that authentically represents diverse communities. With over 15 years of experience, his credits include 'The Commonwealth Kid' (BBC1), 'White Nanny, Black Child' (BFI/Channel 5), and 'Jimmy Akingbola: Handle with Care' (Peacock/ITV). His productions have been screened internationally and received BAFTA and RTS nominations. Andy's work continues to blend cinematic storytelling with social insight and cultural impact.

Director / Screenwriter:

Andy Mundy-Castle

Producer: Wyn Baptiste

Cinematographer:

Editor: Maeve O'Boyle

Music: Nik Ammar

Special Screenings



Palestine 36

Palestine, UK, France, Denmark, Norway, Qatar, KSA, Jordan
/ Arabic, English / 2025

119 mins

[Private Screening](#)

Set at the outbreak of the 1936–39 uprising, this ensemble drama traces a circle of lives whose paths touch and separate like threads in a piece of embroidery. A young man drifts between his village and Jerusalem, drawn to a horizon beyond colonial checkpoints, even as history gathers force. Children listen at doors; workers plot safe routes through orchards; a captain calculates the cost of control. The strike spreads, and with it fear and possibility. The RAF rakes the valleys; leaders are exiled; families are torn between safety and conscience.

Yet within this pressure, the characters locate moments of tenderness and resolve, choosing how to go forward when none of the paths are easy. The film's structure is cyclical, returning to places and faces that change under the weight of events, keeping the land as a central character. Built from deep research and personal memory, and shot amid extraordinary constraints, the work resists erasure by rendering an era with authentic intimacy. It asks, did empire win, or did something irreducible endure? The answer emerges in communal acts: a strike held, a field replanted, a farewell spoken with care. In this living archive of courage and contradiction, the past becomes legible as the ground on which the future stands.



Annemarie Jacir has written, directed and produced over sixteen films. Her work has premiered at Cannes, Berlin and Venice; all three features were

Palestine's official Academy Award entries. 'Like Twenty Impossibles' (2003) was the first Arab short selected at Cannes; 'Salt Of This Sea' (2008) won the FIPRESCI Critics Award; 'When I Saw You' won Best Asian Film at the Berlinale; and 'Wajib' (2017) won 36 international awards. She has served on juries at Cannes, Sundance and Berlin, founded Philistine Films, and is a member of APSA, AMPAS and BAFTA. Recent honours include a retrospective and the BlackStar Luminary Award.

Director / Screenwriter: Annemarie Jacir

Producer: Ossama Bawardi

Cinematographer: H  l  ne Louvard; Sarah Blum; Tim Fleming

Editor: Tania Reddin

Music: Ben Frost

Cast: Hiam Abbass, Kamel Al Basha, Yasmine Al Massri, Jalal Altawil, Robert Aramayo, Saleh Bakri, Yafa Bakri, Karim Daoud Anaya, Wardi Eilabouni, Ward Helou, Billy Howle, Dhafer L'Abidine, with Liam Cunningham and Jeremy Irons.



Paving the Way

Qatar / English, Italian, Chinese / 2025

62 mins

[Private Screening](#)

This eloquent tribute follows the creative “geographies” shaped by Franca Sozzani, charting how a singular editor became an enduring mentor to designers and image-makers across the world. Through closely observed interviews and personal contributions from family members to leading fashion voices, the film traces a practice rooted in curiosity, rigour and care. Careers are not merely discovered; they are nurtured, challenged and refined within a dialogue that values distinct voices and the power of difference.

As collaborators revisit decisive encounters, a philosophy comes into focus: success is never instantaneous but the result of time, attention and collective work. The filmmakers assemble these testimonies into a “visual cosmology”, where iconic moments and private memories cohere into a living archive. Rather than closing a chapter, the film opens a path towards mentorship as method, responsibility as inspiration and diversity as the engine of originality. In its graceful movement between past and future, it honours a legacy that continues to illuminate the possibilities of fashion, and the people who make it.



Federica Cellini is a director whose work addresses social issues across Europe, the US, the Middle East, the Balkans and Africa. Her

documentaries have won the Ilaria Alpi Award, Prix Italia, New York Festivals TV & Film Award and Sichuan TV Festival Gold Panda Award. She has created installations and live performances, taught at Georgetown University and the Holden School, and contributed to Vogue Italia.



Francesco Zippel is a director and producer active in documentary cinema since the early 2000s. His ‘Friedkin Uncut’ (2018) premiered at the

Venice International Film Festival, won the Silver Ribbon for Best Documentary on Cinema and was a David di Donatello finalist. His subsequent works include ‘Oscar Micheaux – The Superhero of American Cinema’ (Cannes, Special Silver Ribbon 2022), ‘Sergio Leone – The Italian Who Invented America’ (Venice, Silver Ribbon 2023) and ‘Volonté – The Man of a Thousand Faces’ (Venice, 2024).

Director / Screenwriter: Federica Cellini, Francesco Zippel

Producer: Quoiat Films (for Qatar Museums and Doha Film Institute)

Cinematographer: Martina Cocco

Editor: Daria De Pascale

Cast: Franca Sozzani; with the special participation of Carla Sozzani, Sara Sozzani Maino, Maria Grazia Chiuri, Silvia Venturini Fendi, Alberta Ferretti, Alessandro Dell’Acqua

My Story

Egypt, France, Syria / Arabic / 2025

47 mins

[Special Screening, in partnership with AJ360](#)



‘My Story’ is a poetic and visually rich documentary that traces the life and enduring legacy of renowned Syrian actor, intellectual, and political figure Jamal Soliman. Moving seamlessly between Cairo, Damascus, Paris, and Beirut, the film intertwines intimate interviews, rare archival material, and contemplative imagery to explore exile, art, and belonging. Each city embodies a distinct “season” in Soliman’s life, capturing resilience, displacement, and the evolving identity of an Arab artist navigating history, memory, and transformation.

Yasser Ashour is an Egyptian documentary filmmaker and producer based between Cairo and Amsterdam. With over 14 years of experience directing films and series across more than 25 countries, his work blends poetic realism with socio-political depth, exploring memory, migration, and cultural identity in the Arab world. Known for his lyrical visual style and human-centered narratives, Ashour has collaborated with institutions such as Al Jazeera and Qatar Foundation. ‘My Story’ represents one of his most personal and ambitious works, merging cinematic craft with emotional and historical resonance.

Director / Screenwriter: Yasser Ashour

Producer: Mohamed Shaker, Mohamed Ali

Cinematographer: Mohamed Refaat

Editor: Ammar Nabil, Abdel Rahman Ikram

Cast: Jamal Soliman

When the Camera Froze

Qatar, Palestine / Arabic / 2025

31 mins

[Special Screening, in partnership with AJ360](#)



A documentary talk show from Al Jazeera 360 led by photojournalist Belal Khaled, whose lens bears witness to Gaza’s unfolding reality. This episode centres on Amina Ghannam, a young survivor whose home was destroyed, claiming the lives of her father and sister. Amina lives with severe eye complications caused by internal bleeding. Through her testimony and Khaled’s contextual reflections on how he encountered and documented her story, the episode explores grief, resilience, and memory, offering a compassionate portrait of a family marked by conflict and the power of bearing witness.

Belal Khaled is a Palestinian artist, war photographer, and documentary filmmaker from Gaza. Growing up in refugee camps shaped his creative vision and deep connection to the Palestinian cause. His work blends Arabic calligraphy with visual art to explore identity, resilience, and human stories born from conflict. Belal has documented wars and humanitarian crises across the Middle East and beyond, with his photographs exhibited in over 15 countries. His art featured by Google, UNESCO, and TED Arabic uses imagery as a universal language for truth, justice, and hope.

Director: Belal Khaled

Editor: Awad Jomaa

Executive producer: Ahmad Al Emadi

Cast: Amina Ghannam

Inclusive Cinema Screening

Doha Film Festival is honoured to welcome audiences of all abilities to an inclusive screening of 'Sudan, Remember Us', a DFI-supported film. Directed by Hind Meddeb, the documentary follows young Sudanese artists and activists who turn creativity into courage, and resistance into hope.

Presented in collaboration with the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, this screening will be accompanied by an Arabic audio description, sign-language interpretation, and enriched subtitles in both Arabic and English.

By designing experiences around diverse audience needs, DFI works to make cinema a universally accessible art form that everyone can enjoy.



Sudan, Remember Us

France, Tunisia, Qatar / Arabic, English / 2024

75 mins

[Giornate degli Autori Selection at Venice International Film Festival 2024](#)

In the face of a repressive military regime, young Sudanese activists Shajane, Maha, Muzamil, and their fellow revolutionaries stand resolute, expressing their resistance through poetry, chants, and creative art. As the country grapples with political turmoil and escalating violence, these activists are driven by a dream of a civilian-led Sudan—a vision they pursue despite the risks to their lives and freedom. Their poetic revolution serves as both a weapon and a form of solace, allowing them to communicate the suffering and aspirations of their generation. As protests intensify, the activists endure relentless challenges: police crackdowns, brutal military actions, and the looming threat of exile. Yet, their words resonate as a call to action, inspiring others within Sudan and beyond.

Through powerful scenes that capture the vibrancy of Sudan's youth, the story provides an intimate glimpse into the spirit of a generation undeterred by hardship. Set against the backdrop of Sudan's contemporary political struggles, this portrait of resilience and hope underscores the profound impact of art and words in confronting oppression. The activists' journey reflects a shared determination to redefine Sudan's future—offering a deeply moving testament to the enduring power of artistic resistance.



Hind Meddeb, a Franco-Tunisian filmmaker, developed her unique perspective through life across France, Morocco, and Tunisia.

A graduate of the Paris Institute of Political Studies, she has directed documentaries acclaimed for their exploration of rebellion and cultural resistance. Her films, including 'Electro Chaabi', 'Tunisia Clash', and 'Paris Stalingrad', have received international recognition, with the latter earning the World Cinema Award at New Zealand's Documentary Edge Festival. 'Sudan, Remember Us', premiering at Venice, furthers Meddeb's dedication to amplifying voices of social change.

Director / Cinematographer:

Hind Meddeb

Producers: Abel Nahmias, Michel Zana, Alice Ormières

Editor: Gladys Joujou

Music: Arthur H

With: Shajane, Maha, Muzamil, Khattab

Year of Culture

Made in Argentina & Chile Shorts Programme

A curated showcase of seven short films, presented as part of Qatar's Years of Culture programme with Argentina and Chile. Celebrating bold new voices from both nations, the compelling slate highlights diverse stories, cinematic craft, and cultural perspectives that connect audiences across continents through the power of film.

Baisanos

Chile, Palestine, Spain / Arabic, Spanish / 2025
14 mins



Set against the echoing backdrop of Club Deportivo Palestino and its fervent fanbase, 'Baisanos' explores how the Palestinian diaspora in Chile preserves identity and belonging through football. The empathetic documentary weaves together the voices of Chile and Palestine, uncovering the emotional and political ties that connect two distant homelands. Through the stadium's chants and colours, the film portrays football as an act of remembrance, pride, and resistance, while reflecting on the meaning of kinship, exile, and collective resilience.

Andrés and Francisca Khamis Giacoman are sibling filmmakers from Chile's Palestinian diaspora, with ancestral roots in Beit Jala and Bethlehem. Their collaborative debut, 'Baisanos', reflects their shared pursuit of exploring identity, migration, and collective memory through art. Andrés, based in Barcelona, is a film editor focused on social and migration issues, while Francisca, based in Amsterdam, is a multidisciplinary artist whose video work examines diasporic memories and belonging.

Director / Screenwriter: Andrés Khamis Giacoman, Francisca Khamis Giacoman

Producer: Joaquín Echeverría

Cinematographer: Lucas García

Editor: Sebastián Salfate

Cast: Lina Meruane, Muhammed Abdelnaim Khader Odeh

The Canon

Chile / Spanish / 2024
20 mins



Set against Chile's recent wave of Haitian migration, the story follows a single day: valued everywhere, recognised nowhere. Praised as worker, model and patient, he is viewed through a detached, scholarly lens that invites us to witness cruelty without spectacle. Between composed framing and understated humour, what emerges is a critique of invisibilisation, how beauty standards and public systems admire a 'strong, exotic' body while confining a life to precarious work and social edges.

Martín Seeger (1983, Santiago de Chile) is a director and screenwriter. He runs the production company Nacrovia. He is releasing the short film 'El Canon' (2024) and producing the fiction feature 'La Mancha Roja' and the documentary 'Ventanas'. Previous works include 'Ocean Video Art' (2023); the feature 'Piotr: A Bad Translation' (Bafici, 2011); short films 'Love the T-Shirt' (Espn, 2009) and 'The Translations of Piotr Herroll' (Ficvaldivia, 2007); and the documentary 'People and Things' (Fidocs, 2006).

Director: Martín Seeger

Producer: Rodrigo Muñoz

Cinematographer: Víctor Núñez

Editor: Juan Murillo

Cast: Camilus Berdouay

Echo and Reverberation

Argentina / Spanish / 2024
14 mins



It is the 1990s. In a classroom haze, a young student begins a letter to her brother. Between reprimands and drifting thoughts, everyday spaces—lecture hall, stairwell, football field—quietly frame a neighbour's aggression. With few words and a voice-over that keeps faith with the page, she discovers a steadiness she did not know she had. The encounter becomes an awakening: not only hers, but of a generation learning to name harm and answer it with presence.

Fernanda Taleb is a director and audiovisual producer. She holds a degree in Communication and is a university lecturer. For over 20 years, from Rosario, she has developed, produced and directed content for film, TV and various platforms, working on projects including nationally released features, series, telefilms and short films.

Director: Fernanda Taleb

Screenwriter: Fernanda Taleb (based on the story by Alisa Lein)

Lime

Argentina / Spanish / 2025
10 mins



Adapted from Leandro Custó's short tale, this story follows a father and his teenage son as they do what no one wants to do: lay a beloved dog to rest. The errand becomes a rehearsal of tone within the family universe, doors opened and closed, roles shifting, silence carrying meaning. Hovering between what is shown and what is felt, the film traces the moment after separation, when belonging is uncertain and the way forward is to recognise what is no longer.

Santiago Dulce is a director and screenwriter whose projects have been selected by JIFF, Ventana Sur, Fondo Nacional de las Artes and CineQuaNon. Represented by Primo Content, his commercial work has won at leading festivals; in 2021 he received the Cannes Lions Grand Prix (Entertainment) for 'Salla 2032'. The same year he was scriptwriter and co-director on 'Ringo' (Disney, Primo). He is developing a series co-created with Leandro Custó for Gaumont International, with Manuel Martín Cuenca as showrunner.

Director: Santiago Dulce

Screenwriter: Leandro Custó

Producer: Manuel Aguer

Cinematographer: Alvar Riu

Editor: Magdalena Arrieta

Cast: Pablo Rago, Carla Pandolfi, Santiago Armas

The Look of Glass

Argentina / Spanish / 2025
11 mins



Across a single day, a hustler with few resources tries to close a decisive deal while suspecting the partner who taught him the game. The city's rhythm dictates the form: galloping edits, claustrophobic close-ups, and an off-screen world that presses in through sound. Pride and necessity pull in opposite directions. When the plan falters, the choice is stark. Secure a place by any means or protect the last thing he owns: how he sees himself.

Tomás Murphy (Buenos Aires, 1986) is a director, screenwriter and editor. His debut short 'Compraventa (The Look of Glass)' premiered at IndieLisboa 2025 and competed at the 53rd Huesca Ibero-American Short Film Competition. He co-wrote and edited 'Simon of the Mountain' (dir. Federico Luis), winner of the Grand Prize at Cannes Critics' Week 2024. He previously edited 'La Siesta' (Cannes 2019; TIFF Short Cuts Honourable Mention). He holds a BA in Social Communication.

Director / Screenwriter: Tomás Murphy

Producer: Tomás Murphy, Martín Busel Baredes

Cinematographer: Enzo Codaro, Federico Javier Kaplan

Editor: Tomás Murphy

Cast: Yonathan Toledo, Luciano Gagliardi, Héctor Meana, Laura Nevole

Sunset Over America

Chile / Spanish / 2025
17 mins



A fifteen-year-old leaves Venezuela for the Chilean coast, remembering the night she crossed the Andean plateau at 4,000 metres. Between snow and salt, alpacas and outposts, the border becomes less a line than a social reality. A place where past and present, hope and danger meet. Shifting between observation and evocation, the film listens to breath and wind, to a presence that guides as strength fails, proposing a quiet, incisive kind of political cinema anchored in endurance.

Matías Rojas Valencia is a Chilean filmmaker. His debut feature 'Raíz' premiered at San Sebastián and won Best Chilean Film at Valdivia, screening at Havana, Cartagena de Indias, BAFICI, Palm Springs, Pesaro, Tübingen, Málaga, New York, Glasgow and Miami. He produced the short 'Necesito Saber' through the Cannes Factory Programme. His second feature, 'Un Lugar Llamado Dignidad' premiered in Tallinn's international competition. He is developing 'Patatas de Perro', co-produced with Rhayuela Films.

Director: Matías Rojas Valencia

Screenwriter: Matías Rojas Valencia, Françoise Nieto-Fong

Producer: Françoise Nieto-Fong, Tomás Gerlach Mora

Cinematographer: Andrés Cárdenas

Cast: Bárbara Flores

Towards the Sun, far from the Center

Chile / No Dialogue / 2025

17 mins



Two women wander a city. The journey unfolds through distance and approach: wide shots later explored by digital zoom, reframing familiar avenues and revealing unnoticed gestures. Streets and windows become a sentimental architecture where peripheries move to the centre. Conceived as a love letter to Santiago, the film favours tenderness and everyday affection, embracing imperfection to spark new imaginaries.

Luciana Merino and **Pascal Viveros** are co-directors of 'Al Sol, Lejos del Centro'. Working from Santiago, they shape a love letter to the city using wide 4K frames and post-production digital zoom to reveal unnoticed textures. Their approach embraces imperfection, foregrounds tenderness and everyday affection, and invites new imaginaries of how we inhabit shared space. Viveros also serves as cinematographer on the film; the project is produced by Javiera Pineda with editing by Elisa Leiva.

Director / Screenwriter: Luciana Merino, Pascal Viveros

Producer: Javiera Pineda

Cinematographer: Pascal Viveros

Editor: Elisa Leiva

Music: Tomás Carrasco

Cast: Jimena Albarrán, Fernanda Vicens

DFF Outdoor Screenings

Doha Film Festival returns with editions of two of our most beloved open-air community screenings, 'Cinema by the Sea' at West Bay Beach and 'Cinema Under the Stars' at the Museum of Islamic Art Park. Set against Doha's night skyline and the Arabian Gulf, these family-friendly evenings invite audiences to share big-screen stories together. This year's programme spans wonder and adventure for all ages with the joyful galaxy-hopping of 'Home', the mythic heroism of 'Monkey King: Hero Is Back', and the time-twisting curiosity of 'Time Hoppers: The Silk Road'.

Home



After an alien race, the Boov, relocate humanity to tidy up Earth, a resourceful teenager, Tip, evades capture and searches for her mother. She reluctantly teams with "Oh", a well-meaning Boov misfit whose blunder may have alerted their enemies, and the pair road-trip across a transformed planet with Tip's cat, Pig. Dodging officious leader Captain Smek and the looming Gorg, they learn that home isn't a place but the people you choose, and that friendship can rewrite even galactic plans.

Director: Tim Johnson
USA / English / 2015 / 94 mins

Monkey King: Hero is Back



Sealed beneath a mountain for centuries, Sun Wukong, the once-unstoppable Monkey King, is accidentally released by Jiang Liuer, a brave village boy, after a mysterious force snatches local children. Weakened and wary, Wukong begrudgingly agrees to help, joined by the bumbling Pigsy and a kindly monk. Their trek across perilous lands forces the fallen legend to confront fear, pride and responsibility, culminating in a showdown with the demon lord Hun Dun, where protecting others becomes his path back to true strength.

Director: Xiaopeng Tian
China / English / 2015 / 89 mins

Time Hoppers: The Silk Road



Set in 2050 Vancouver, four gifted students at Aqli Academy, Abdullah, Aysha, Khalid and Layla stumble upon time travel and are thrust along the Silk Road to protect the pioneering scientists whose discoveries shape the modern world. Pursued by the power-hungry alchemist Fasid, the team navigates bustling markets and caravan routes, learning collaboration, courage and the wonder of scientific inquiry as they race to keep history intact and find their way back home.

Director: Flordeliza Dayrit
Canada / English / 2025 / 80 mins

Bariq Short Film Programme & Cine-Concert

Wonderful Explorations

Blending live performance and cinema, DFF's Bariq Short Film Programme & Cine-Concert: Wonderful Explorations invites audiences of all ages on a journey through five family-friendly and dialogue-free shorts, guided by musician Lisa Portelli's sonorous voice.

From a window garden harvested at dawn to a playful pancake caper, from a flooded forest seeking refuge at a farm to a curious mystery in a new flat and a quest to revive a sacred spring, these gentle tales celebrate friendship, courage and sharing.

Lena's Farm: Full Nest



From a window garden harvested at dawn to a playful pancake caper, from a flooded forest seeking refuge at a farm to a curious mystery in a new flat and a quest to revive a sacred spring, these gentle tales celebrate friendship, courage and sharing.

Director: Elena Walf
Germany, Croatia / No Dialogue / 2025 / 6 mins

Mojappi - It's Mine



The tale of a trio of rascals who set out to steal their friends' delicious pancakes, but their plan doesn't go quite as expected.

Director: Nijitaro
Japan / No Dialogue / 2024 / 3 mins

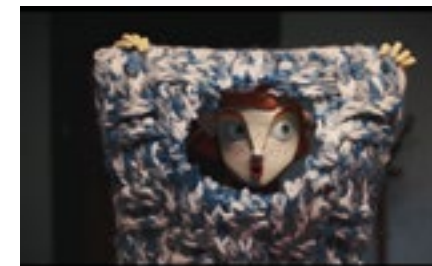
A Small Garden by the Window



Early Morning. An architect picks ripe cherry tomatoes from a small garden by the window to pack a lunchbox for work as they head to the frontlines of the climate crisis.

Director: Jonghoon Lee
South Korea / No Dialogue / 2024 / 5 mins

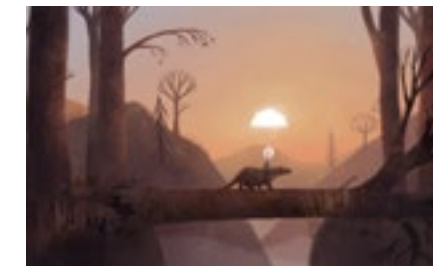
De-Sastre



Daniela has just moved into an old apartment and is ready to make it her new home. As the months go by, she notices that something strange is happening to her clothes.

Director: Marolyn Ávila, Constanza Melio, María Antonieta Fernández, Kuang-Yi Lee, Tommaso Mangiacotti
Spain / No Dialogue / 2024 / 8 mins

MŪ



As an essential divine water spring has dried up, a child accompanied by an otter-like creature sets out to find a cure for the life-threatening water shortage.

Director: Malin Neumann
Germany / No Dialogue / 2024 / 6 mins

Ajyal Film Club

For younger film enthusiasts, the Ajyal Film Club: Festival Edition offers a fun, two-day guided journey into the world of cinema. Through carefully curated films, creative activities, and meaningful conversations, participants develop new perspectives and a deeper understanding of the world around us.

The Ajyal Film Club encourages curiosity, empathy, and self-expression, helping young audiences see film as both entertainment and a tool for dialogue and discovery. The experience is grouped into two separate streams by age:

- Mohaq: 8–11 years old
- Hilal: 12–15 years old



Olivia and the Invisible Earthquake

Spain, France, Belgium, Chile, Switzerland / Catalan
71 mins

A family must leave their flat and begin again in a new neighbourhood. To protect her younger brother from fear and shame, a 12-year-old recasts their upheaval as a film shoot with him as the lead. Daily survival takes centre stage: no fridge, little furniture, intermittent power. With mischief and resolve, the children improvise a life, helped by new friends Vanessa and Lamin, and learn that even a sparse home can hold pride. The city around them shifts from hostile to welcoming as Mamafatou, Roc and others show that community can be found anywhere.

Imagination, here, is not escape but ballast. By narrating events in her own way, Olivia discovers she can love a life that is still hard. When the burdens their mother carries begin to spill onto small shoulders, she recognises the weight and has the courage to ask for help from relatives, neighbours and social services. Made through meticulously crafted stop-motion animation, it invites us to reconsider our perspective on others, to discover the family we didn't know we had, and to accept that we all share a vital power: the ability to choose how we respond to what happens to us.



Irene Iborra Rizo is an Alicante-born screenwriter, director and stop-motion animator. Co-director of Barcelona studio Citoplasmas Stop

Motion, she has created shorts, series, commercials and music videos, including the co-directed short 'What's Up With The Sky?'. Her work often engages education, food sovereignty and ecology. She teaches writing on the animation master's programme at BAU College of Arts and Design, Barcelona, and co-authors children's books with Maite Carranza, including the 'Los 7 Cavernícolas' series. 'Olivia and the Invisible Earthquake' adapts Carranza's novel 'The Film of Life'.

Director: Irene Iborra Rizo

Screenwriter: Irene Iborra Rizo, Júlia Prats, Maite Carranza

Producer: Mikel Mas Bilbao, Ramón Alós, Irene Iborra Rizo

Cinematographer: Isabel de la Torre

Editor: Julie Brenta

Music: Laetitia Pansanel-Garric, Charles de Ville

Cast: Eliza Cornet, Gaspard Rouyer, Maia Baran, Tim Belasri

Capybaras

France, Uruguay, Chile / No Dialogue / 2024

11 mins



When hunters invade their marshland, a mother capybara and her young seek refuge in a nearby chicken coop. The hens, fearful and territorial, keep their distance until their children's curiosity bridges the divide. Through this unlikely friendship, both species rediscover trust and solidarity in a world ruled by fear. 'Capybaras' is a poignant, dialogue-free animation blending gentle humour and exquisite hand-drawn artistry to explore migration, empathy, and the universal craving for belonging.

Alfredo Soderguit is a Uruguayan filmmaker, illustrator, and art director based in Montevideo. Founder of Estudio Palermo, he has directed numerous award-winning animation projects, including the feature 'Anina' (2013) and the acclaimed series 'Dos Pajaritos' (2022). His work has screened at Annecy, Prix Jeunesse, and HBO Latin America. 'Capybaras' (2024), based on his own internationally published book, continues his exploration of empathy, coexistence, and the human condition through poetic storytelling and rich visual artistry.

Director / Screenwriter: Alfredo Soderguit

Producer: Nicolás Schmerkin, Alfredo Soderguit, Luciana Roude, Bernardita Ojeda

Music: Pablo Notaro

Shoes

Italy, Kenya / Swahili / 2024

15 mins



Set over a profound Nairobi night, the film follows K. and his best friend as they sift through a vast landfill, reselling what others have discarded. In this delicate world of childhood, the filmmaker realises a simple yet radical force: friendship. The superpower that unlocks imagination. K.'s wish is endearingly clear: to see his friend, who uses a wheelchair, walk again. Together they hunt for 'magic shoes', a faith that reframes hardship with hope.

Giuseppe Carrieri makes cinema focused on forgotten communities and hidden places. His 'In Utero Srebrenica' was nominated for the David di Donatello (Best Documentary). With Rai Cinema, 'Hanaa' and 'Le Metamorfosi' screened at international festivals. He is Professor of Film Direction at IULM University, Milan, and runs Natia Docufilm, producing documentary series for broadcasters. Since 2017, he has collaborated with UNICEF Italia on missions and shoots across Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

Director / Screenwriter: Giuseppe Carrieri

Producer: Giuseppe Carrieri, Krysteen Savane

Cinematographer: Andrea Longhin

Editor: Elisa Chiari

Cast: Joseph Odhiambo, Joris Omwamba

Vishu Kani

India / English, Malayalam / 2024

24 mins



A festival day turns into a gentle reckoning. While preparing an elaborate feast, a father tallies what he has taken for granted; a curious son discovers that kitchens are classrooms for tenderness and respect. What begins as culinary calamity becomes conversation: about patience, masculinity learned and unlearned, and the love that rewrites habit. Through humour and cultural detail, the story savours tradition while opening space for boys and men to share care, together.

Smriti S Ramakrishnan co-created the Filmfare Award-winning short 'Soul Kadhi', which has over one million views on Netflix India's YouTube. A champion of celluloid, she co-created and shot 'Khidki' and 'Happy Honeymoon' on 16mm, winners at international festivals including Best Short at Cannes International Shorts. She co-founded Si Films, specialising in post-production consultancy and festival strategy for independent films.

Sameeha Sabnis' short 'Happy Honeymoon' won the Festival Director's Award at Cannes International Shorts. In 2022, Netflix introduced her among its top ten upcoming filmmakers. Her Netflix-produced short 'Soulkadhi' became the highest-watched short on Netflix India's YouTube and won the 2023 Filmfare Award for Best Popular Short. Most recently, 'A Tale Of Two Cities' won the Silvergate Award at MAMI 2024.

Director: Smriti S Ramakrishnan, Sameeha Sabnis

Screenwriter: Ashwathi Namboodiri

Producer: Syed Sultan Ahmed



Fantastique

Belgium, France, Netherlands / Susu, French / 2025
71 mins

A gifted teenager trains as a contortionist with a local troupe while caring for her ill mother and trying to keep pace at school. She is one of the only girls in the group; as the next big tour draws closer, so does the pull of expectation. What begins as a straightforward observational portrait becomes a richer exploration of how emancipation actually happens through effort, hesitation and the courage to ask whether a dream is truly one's own. The film addresses that question patiently, allowing doubt, discipline, and desire to coexist.

Hybrid in form, the work reflects a world where fantasy and reality often intertwine. Magic-realist touches are less escape than translation, visual ways of expressing how bravery is imagined before it is lived. Rather than declaring empowerment, the film shows it: a body learning strength; a young woman developing; a family negotiating what is possible. Amid pressures of tradition, economics and social structures, the girl's resolve is tested. She learns to hold competing truths: responsibility and ambition, family care and personal agency. What endures is not a single triumph but a growing capacity to decide, to refuse or to leap, and to carry the consequences with grace.



Marjolijn Prins is a documentary filmmaker with a background in fine arts. While studying, she explored directing life like

fiction—an experiment that led her to embrace documentary's embrace of failure and the unexpected. She graduated cum laude from RITCS (Brussels) in 2016; her graduation film 'Mum, Me and the House' won multiple awards, including the Jury Award at the London International Documentary Festival. She co-directed the web series 'Hairy Heroes' (2020/2021) and the short documentary 'Paper Borders' (2022).

Director: Marjolijn Prins
Producer: Ellen De Waele, Mirna Everhard
Cinematographer: Johan Legraie
Editor: Ciska Slowack
Music: Johanna Beaussart

Debaters

USA / English / 2025
10 mins



A first-time competitor enters a chamber of polished prodigies and unfiltered adult judges. The agenda is minimum wage; the subtext is status, gatekeeping and who gets to referee knowledge. As decorum frays and tactics escalate, a reluctant speaker must find conviction under pressure. Observing the mechanics of rhetoric with sporting intensity, this nimble chamber piece becomes a lesson in listening across difference. Funny, bristling and honest about the gap between winning an argument and understanding one.

Alex Heller is a writer-director from Chicago's South Side. Her debut feature, 'The Year Between', an autobiographical comedy about bipolar disorder starring J. Smith-Cameron and Steve Buscemi, premiered at the 2022 Tribeca Film Festival, earned critical praise, and was acquired by Peacock. Her short 'Debaters', starring J. Smith-Cameron and Kenneth Lonergan, premiered at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival and is being developed as a feature. A Northwestern University graduate (2015), she works between Los Angeles, Chicago and Oslo.

Director / Screenwriter: Alex Heller
Producer: Angie Gaffney, Brittani Ward, Alex Heller, Amy E. Powell
Cinematographer: Dagmar Weaver-Madsen
Editor: Glenn Fellman
Cast: Sripadh Puligilla, J. Smith-Cameron, Kenneth Lonergan, Bernadette Santos Schwegel, Monica Prokup

Nsala

Congo, France / No Dialogue / 2025
10 mins



Blending Belgian colonial archives with images filmed in a contemporary Katanga mine, this precise, dialogue-free study places two regimes of images in conversation. Parallel editing allows gestures to rhyme across decades; slight accelerations blur continuity, producing a spectral sense that history persists in the bodies at work. Declining commentary, the piece leans on the concrete sound of stone, breath, and scrape, to draw out memory and its silences, revealing how extraction becomes invisible even as it governs daily life.

Mickael-Sltan Mbanza is a filmmaker based in Goma, DRC. Trained at Yole! Africa, he develops a personal, poetic cinema exploring memory, trauma and their transmission. A recipient of the SCAM Brouillon d'un rêve grant, he is currently in residence at Ateliers Picha (Lubumbashi) with his first feature documentary 'Rising Sun (Soleil Levant)', selected for the Vision du Réel 2025 Development Lab and the Atelier de Grand-Bassam 2025.

Director / Screenwriter: Mickael-Sltan Mbanza
Producer: Ndaliko Petna
Cinematographer: Mickael-Sltan Mbanza, Danny Amisi
Editor: Danny Amisi

Out for Ice Cream

Canada / French / 2025

9 mins



On the last week of summer, two girls stop at their neighbourhood dairy bar with a 19-year-old dog and an unspoken worry that next term will separate them. The piece observes everyday details, queues, chatter, and the awkwardness of first leadership as a shy friend tests how far the friendship can stretch. Without melodrama, it presents a clear, warm account of early adolescence: what stays the same, what doesn't, and how small decisions signal bigger changes ahead.

Rachel Samson is an animation filmmaker and programmer from Quebec City. A BFA graduate of the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema, she makes traditional, digital and under-camera animated shorts, and writes for screen and fanzines. Her films include 'Let's Talk Ergonomics', 'Temps De Glace', 'Parc À Chats' and 'Soir De Semaine'. Her most recent short, 'Crème À Glace', was produced with the support of Embuscade Films.

Director / Screenwriter: Rachel Samson

Screenwriter: Rachel Samson

Producer: Raquel Sancinetti, Félix Dufour-Laperrière
(Embuscade Films)

Editor: Rachel Samson, Xi Feng

Music: Samuel Gougoux

Cast: Joëlle Gajac-Giguère, Ève Picard-Nagga, Louise Bourque.

DFF Talks

DFF Talks represents the industry component of the festival with specially curated panels and discussions on the global creative industry, with the Industry Days programme powered by Film Committee at Media City Qatar, Education Summit, and talks with film and music creatives.

All of these initiatives express the full spectrum of creative work that intersects with film and affects how films are made and what they are made about, contributing to Qatar's leadership as a global hub for creative development for the region and beyond.

Voice of Resistance: Activism, Journalism & Palestine

A conversation on the power of storytelling and reporting in movements for justice, highlighting the role of journalists and activists in uplifting oppressed voices.

Panellists



Mehdi Hasan

Mehdi Hasan is an award-winning British-American journalist, broadcaster, and author. He is the founder, CEO and editor-in-chief of the new media company Zeteo. Mehdi is also a Guardian columnist, host of 'Head to Head' on Al Jazeera English and the best-selling author of 'Win Every Argument: The Art of Debating, Persuading, and Public Speaking'. He previously worked as an anchor at MSNBC and a columnist for The Intercept.



Rahma Zein

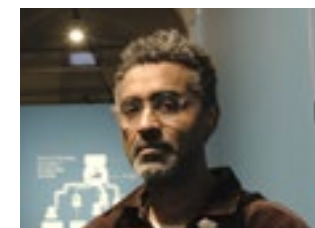
Rahma Zein is an Egyptian former journalist with over a decade in field reporting, media strategy and public relations. She began as an investigative reporter for Egyptian TV and CBC, covering the Arab region during the 2011 political changes and interviewing key political figures. In 2023, she gained international attention for a viral confrontation with a CNN reporter at the Rafah Border Crossing, where she challenged the network's biased reporting on Israeli war crimes. She currently works as a consultant for Tech for Palestine, an incubator for advocacy projects worldwide.



Ahmed Shihab-Eldin

Ahmed Shihab-Eldin is an Emmy-nominated journalist, producer and actor. He is known for award-winning social-justice documentaries and films premiering at Cannes and other major festivals. His career includes PBS, Al Jazeera, HuffPost Live and 'VICE on HBO'. He co-created Al Jazeera English's 'The Stream' and published 'Demanding Dignity' (2013). He currently hosts the podcast 'Out Loud', conversations with people challenging the status quo; teaches as Adjunct Professor at the University of Bari, and is producing 'The Visitor'. His work has been recognised by GQ and Forbes' '30 Under 30'.

Moderator



Khalid Albaih

Khalid Albaih is a Romania-born, Doha-raised, Oslo-based Sudanese political cartoonist, writer and cultural producer known worldwide as 'Khartoon'. His art and commentary have appeared at Documenta 15, Mathaf and NIROX Sculpture Park, and in The Guardian and Al Jazeera. He is the author of 'Khartoon!' (2018); editor of 'Sudan Retold' (2019) and 'Sudan Retold 1½' (2025); and creator of 'Foreigner Everywhere' (2026). Albaih founded KhartoonMag.com and @DohaFashionFridays, and was shortlisted for the Freedom of Expression Award (2025).

Identity in Song: Music as Self-Expression

Artists discuss how music becomes a powerful tool for articulating identity, highlighting cultural influences and personal narratives in contemporary sound.

Panellists



yasiin bey

yasiin bey is a Brooklyn, New York-born multi-media artist of international acclaim who has produced significant works in various mediums within an ongoing career that spans nearly 40 years to date. He strives to continually refine, evolve and expand his practice across disciplines. This is his first visit to Qatar.



Jara

Jara is a pioneering Saudi rapper from Jeddah, widely recognised as Saudi Arabia's first female rapper. Her work blends personal story, identity and a drive for impact, pairing sharp lyricism with modesty, creativity and resilience. On stage and on record, she challenges stereotypes and expands what it means to be a Saudi woman in hip-hop. Rooted in her community yet outward-looking, Jara's voice carries from Jeddah to the world.



Oddisee

(Amir Mohamed el Khalifa) is a Sudanese-American rapper, producer, and composer from Washington, D.C., known for his sharp lyricism, soulful production, and socially conscious perspective. Blending boom-bap with jazz, funk, and live instrumentation, he bridges underground hip-hop with global appeal. Rising with Diamond District, his solo work, 'People Hear What They See', 'The Good Fight', 'The Iceberg', has earned acclaim for its honesty and depth. A consistent, respected voice, Oddisee turns reflection into rhythm.



Nemahsis

Nemahsis is a Palestinian-Canadian singer-songwriter known for her powerful voice and deeply personal lyrics exploring identity and belonging as a hijabi Muslim woman. Her 2024 debut album 'Verbathim' earned critical acclaim and praise from artists like Stevie Wonder and Lorde. In 2025, she launched a sold-out North American tour and won two JUNO Awards, including Alternative Album and Breakthrough Artist of the Year. Recently named Women In Music's Artist of the Year, Nemahsis is redefining independent artistry.

Moderator



Mikey Muhanna

Mikey Muhanna is the Founder and Executive Director of afikra | عفكرة (afikra.com), a global movement reframing narratives about the Arab world through community events, academy courses, podcasts and its magazine 'Daftar'. Muhanna advises and serves as a trustee for institutions across the Middle East. He previously worked at Morgan Stanley and PwC in New York, led the MENA-based Muhanna Group, is an Associate of the Society of Actuaries, and holds a BS (2007) from Duke University in Economics and Jazz Piano.

In Every Frame, A Rhythm

A deep dive into the interplay between cinema and music, showing how rhythm guides storytelling and evokes emotion across film genres.

Panellists



Suad Bushnaq

Suad Bushnaq is an internationally acclaimed, multi-award-winning Jordanian-Canadian composer of Bosnian, Palestinian and Syrian roots, praised by Hans Zimmer as an 'incredible artist'. With 12 wins and 15 nominations, honours include two Hollywood Music in Media Awards, four Canadian Screen Award nominations and two Canadian Screen Music Awards. Recent highlights include the BAFTA/Emmy-winning 'Secret World of Sound with David Attenborough' (CSMA winner; HMMA nominee) and the Syrian series 'Al Batal' (CSMA winner). She also scored Egypt's Oscar submission 'Flight 404' and Iraq's 'Hanging Gardens'. A McGill graduate and CFC/Cannes alumna, she has 60+ credits and teaches worldwide.



Ben Frost

Ben Frost is a composer, sound artist and stage director born in Melbourne and based in Reykjavík. Over the past two decades, he has developed a practice encompassing studio recordings, performance, installation, and collaborations in dance, theatre, and film. Albums include 'Theory of Machines' (2007), 'By the Throat' (2009), 'Aurora' (2014) and 'Scope Neglect' (2024). Screen credits include 'Sleeping Beauty', 'Palestine 36', 'Raised by Wolves', '1899' and 'Dark'. A Rolex Arts Initiative protégé of Brian Eno (2011), he collaborated with Richard Mosse on 'The Enclave', 'Incoming' and 'Broken Spectre', and wrote the operas 'The Wasp Factory' and 'The Murder of Halit Yozgat'.



Gustavo Santaolalla

Gustavo Santaolalla is an internationally acclaimed Argentine composer, producer, and musician. A two-time Academy Award winner for 'Brokeback Mountain' (2006) and 'Babel' (2007), he has also received a Golden Globe, two BAFTAs, two Grammys, and 19 Latin Grammys. As one of the most influential producers in the Spanish-speaking world, he has shaped Latin American music through over 100 albums. He founded Bajofondo, a collective blending tango, electronic, and Río de la Plata traditions. In audiovisual culture, he's known for scoring 'The Last of Us' video games and HBO series. Currently, he is touring globally with the Ronroco Tour, celebrating 25 years of his iconic album 'Ronroco', which launched his cinematic music career.

Moderator



Mikey Muhanna

Mikey Muhanna is the Founder and Executive Director of afikra | عفكرة (afikra.com), a global movement reframing narratives about the Arab world through community events, academy courses, podcasts and its magazine 'Daftar'. Muhanna advises and serves as a trustee for institutions across the Middle East. He previously worked at Morgan Stanley and PwC in New York, led the MENA-based Muhanna Group, is an Associate of the Society of Actuaries, and holds a BS (2007) from Duke University in Economics and Jazz Piano.

Voices We Share

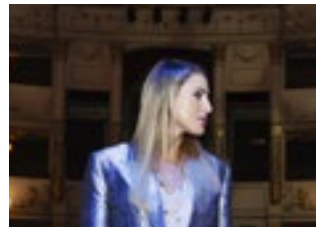
From the studio to the street, from Doha to the diaspora, music travels faster than language. This conversation gathers voices from Qatar and beyond to ask how sound shapes who we are as people, as cities, and as a global audience. Drawing on perspectives from industry, leadership, and the arts, we examine how music takes root, fosters community, and transcends borders.

Panellists



Ahmed Al Baker

Ahmed Al Baker is a Qatari filmmaker with over a decade of experience across film, television, and live events, rooted in thoughtful storytelling and a clear creative vision. He directed the Opening Ceremony of the first FIFA Arab Cup (2021); served as Creative Director for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022; and led 'The Lost Chapter of Kelileh and Demneh' for the AFC Asian Cup Opening Ceremony (2023). On screen, he was a showrunner and director on 'The Pact' (Roku) and 'Medinah' (Starzplay), and produced 'Orca' and the football docuseries 'Chasing Dreams'. Today, he leads Katara Studios as CEO and Executive Producer, developing projects that bring regional stories to life and connect with audiences both at home and internationally.



Dana Al Fardan

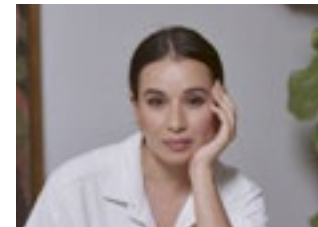
Dana Al Fardan is a Qatari composer, songwriter and symphonic artist whose work bridges Arab heritage and Western contemporary classical music. As Qatar's first female contemporary composer to gain international recognition, she acts as a cultural ambassador, connecting audiences across cultures. Her musicals 'Broken Wings' (West End, 2018) and 'Rumi: The Musical' (London Coliseum, 2021) introduced Middle Eastern narratives to global stages. She also scores film, including 'Orca' and 'The Necromancer', and collaborates across genres. Her latest orchestral album, 'Tempest', inspired by Qatar's maritime and pearl-diving legacy, premiered with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra at Katara Opera House.



Dana Al Meer

Dana Al Meer is a Qatari singer, composer, and cultural ambassador known for performing at the 2022 FIFA World Cup and 2023 AFC Asian Cup ceremonies. She is the director of Music Lab Qatar, an institute that promotes cultural education and nurtures young talent. In September 2025, she won third place at the Intervision Song Contest in Russia for her song 'Huwa Dha Anta'.

Moderator



Sylvia M. Zakhary

Sylvia M. Zakhary is an award-winning filmmaker, creative director and entrepreneur. An Egyptian American who has lived in seven countries, she brings cultural insight to work across 'Donald Glover Presents', Disney+ 'Black Is King', Apple's 'Alicia Keys: Holiday Masquerade', the BBC's 'Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II', Hulu's 'Trap Jazz' and 'A Living Legacy: 80 Years of the United Nations'. Her projects have earned honours from the Emmys, NAACP, Grammys, Cannes Lions, Clios and D&AD, plus MTV VMA nominations. Founder of MAMAG (ADWEEK's 4th Fastest-Growing US Agency), she also founded Storyhouse World in 2021, a global creative community of over 5,000 members across 50 nations, with partnerships spanning The Academy, the United Nations, and various governing bodies around the world.

Film Panels

The Voice of Hind Rajab

A conversation with Kaouther Ben Hania and collaborators on making the powerful dramatisation of six-year-old Hind Rajab's final call for help from war-torn Gaza. Hear how actors worked with Hind's recorded voice to reconstruct events, as we explore the intersection of testimony, memory and cinema.

Palestine 36

Set in 1936 under British Mandate, the film follows Yusuf as he moves between his rural village and Jerusalem's charged streets, witnessing the uprising that ignites a nation's fight for identity. Join director Annemarie Jacir and guests to explore the film's creative process, ensemble storytelling and historical resonance.

Sa3oud Wainah?

Join writer-director Mohammed Al-Ibrahim for a conversation on 'Sa3oud Wainah?'. When a magic trick performed by two brothers goes fatally wrong and one disappears without a trace, their remote farmhouse becomes the stage for secrets, suspicion and a chilling mystery. In this fascinating panel, we explore craft, performance and tone of this compelling debut feature.

The Christophers

A once-lauded painter, an unassuming restorer and a scheme that tests integrity, 'The Christophers' turns a private battle into a public reckoning. Join members of the creative team behind the film for a conversation on writing reversals that feel like a thriller, shaping a ferocious yet fragile partnership at the film's core, and building comedy from power dynamics rather than punchlines.

Industry Days

21-23 November 2025

Presented by the Film Committee at Media City Qatar, in collaboration with Doha Film Institute, the Industry Days form an exciting element of this year's programme.

Held under the auspices of H.E. Hassan Al Thawadi, Chairman of the Film Committee at Media City Qatar, the Industry Days will bring together leading figures from global cinema, media, and technology to explore the future of filmmaking in Qatar and across the region. The series features an inspiring line-up of fireside chats, panel discussions, masterclasses, and keynote addresses delivered by distinguished industry executives.

Across three days of creative exchange and collaboration, participants gain insights into emerging trends, innovation in storytelling, and the exciting growth of Qatar as a regional hub for film, media, and entertainment, championing new voices from the region and the Global South and fostering dialogue that contributes to the evolution of global storytelling.



Fireside Chat with Tom Quinn and H.E. Hassan Al Thawadi

Mr. Tom Quinn, Founder and CEO of the award-winning studio NEON, joins Film Committee at Media City Qatar, Chairman, H.E. Hassan Al Thawadi, for an intimate fireside conversation on the global entertainment landscape and the shifting dynamics shaping the industry's future.

Panel: Global South Productions: Redefining the Future of Film

Siddharth Roy Kapur, acclaimed Indian producer; Mo Abudu, Nigerian media mogul, philanthropist, and CEO of EbonyLife; John Penotti, film producer and executive known for 'Crazy Rich Asians' and other major international productions; and Cui Rui, acclaimed Chinese filmmaker and producer, join this panel to discuss how stories, talent, and financing from the Global South are reshaping the global film ecosystem – and why authentic, culturally rooted storytelling is driving the future of cinema.

Panel: The Producer's Playbook – Navigating the New Global Economy of Storytelling

The modern producer is more than a creative force – they're a strategist connecting talent, capital, and audience. Mike Larocca, Michael Schaefer, and Rodrigo Teixeira explore how producers are adapting to an industry defined by streaming, shifting distribution, and new financing models. They discuss the evolving art of the greenlight, creative risk-taking, and how global collaboration is reshaping the business of storytelling.

Panel: Beyond the Frame - Reimagining Cinematic Design

Famed American production designer and art director – and two-time winner of the Academy Award for Best Production Design – Rick Carter, BAFTA and Academy Award-nominated costume designer Joanna Johnston, and Academy Award-nominated Production Designer Anne Seibel explore the artistry of visual storytelling. Moderated by Jim Carter, Founder & CEO of Legacy West Media, they reveal how design – from sets to costumes – shapes emotion, character, and the cinematic worlds we see on screen.

Panel: Building Production Ecosystems: Infrastructure and Incentives in the MENA Region

In this in-depth conversation, Jonathan Olsberg (Olsberg SPI) speaks with Andrew M. Smith OBE DL (Pinewood Studios), Mohannad Al Bakri (The Royal Film Commission – Jordan), Bavi Yassin (Kurdistan Film Commission), and George David (Film Committee at Media City Qatar) about how the MENA region is building world-class production ecosystems. Together, they discuss the power of infrastructure, incentives, and regional collaboration in attracting international productions – and positioning the Middle East as one of the most exciting frontiers in global filmmaking.

Fireside Chat: The View from a Global Producer

Barbara Broccoli, world-renowned producer of the James Bond franchise and co-head of EON Productions, joins acclaimed broadcaster Ayman Mohyeldin, for an intimate conversation on the art and business of global filmmaking. Together, they discuss sustaining one of cinema's most iconic brands, championing new voices, and how great storytelling continues to evolve – captivating audiences across cultures and generations.

Fireside Chat: Scott Karol and Steven Paul discuss The New Economics of Global Storytelling

Scott Karol (President, SP Media Group) and Steven Paul (CEO, SP Media Group) join Zeina Shanaah for a fireside chat examining how talent, financing, and platforms are transforming the global entertainment economy. They discuss how projects are greenlit, who funds them, and what "marketability" means in today's fragmented marketplace – offering rare insights for regional producers and creators navigating the evolving economics of international storytelling.

Masterclass: Building A24

In little more than a decade, A24 has grown from a boutique distributor into one of the most distinctive and influential studios in the world, behind groundbreaking hits like 'Moonlight' and 'Everything Everywhere All at Once' and TV successes like 'Beef' and 'Euphoria'. In this conversation, Daniel Katz, A24's Co-Founder and CEO, traces the studio's evolution to cultural powerhouse. Daniel will explore how bold creative risk-taking, a deep trust in artists, and an instinct for cultural moments turned A24 into a brand that audiences recognise. The session will unpack what A24's evolution says about the future of independent film in a global age.

Television Meets Cinema: When the Small Screen Thinks Big

Moderated by Helen Hoehne (Golden Globes), this compelling panel will see Andy Harries (Left Bank Pictures) and Mohamed Hefzy (Film Clinic) explore how television has become cinema's most dynamic counterpart. This dynamic group will discuss the rise of prestige series, cinematic storytelling for the small screen, and what it takes to captivate global audiences – revealing how TV and film are converging to shape the future of screen storytelling.

Panel: GCC Champions

Moderated by Mariam Naoum, award-winning writer and Founder & CEO of Sard Writers' Room, this session unites the CEOs of Telfaz11, Shasha, 1001 Media, and Katara Studios to explore how the Gulf is redefining Arabic content for the world. Together, they discuss creative risk-taking, cultural authenticity, and the global rise of the GCC's fast-growing media and entertainment industry.

Masterclass: The Power of Data in Global Entertainment

Wared Seger, CEO of Parrot Analytics, the industry leader in global audience demand measurement, explores how audience data is transforming global entertainment. From creative development to investment strategy, this masterclass reveals how insights are reshaping storytelling, empowering creators, and driving smarter, more impactful decisions across the industry.

Masterclass: Producing for a Global Audience with Jon Glickman

Jon Glickman, acclaimed Hollywood producer and former MGM executive, joins media strategist Karim Sarkis to explore what "international appeal" really means in today's film industry. Together, they discuss how local stories find universal resonance, how regions outside the U.S. are shaping global trends, and what cross-cultural collaboration means for the next generation of filmmakers.

Film Education Summit

26–27 November 2025

As part of our festival this year, we are proud to present the Film Education Summit, a two-day forum dedicated to reimagining film education, talent development, and the future of cinema in our region and beyond.

The Summit convenes leading film schools, educators, filmmakers, producers, cultural leaders, and film institutions to exchange ideas, share pioneering models, and inspire fresh approaches to mentorship and training.

Through curated panels, it highlights alternative pathways into the industry, fosters dialogue between academic and vocational practices, and builds inclusive professional networks that empower the next generation of filmmakers in the region.



Rethinking Film Education for a New Generation

This panel explores how film schools and training institutions are adapting to the needs and aspirations of new generations of filmmakers. By examining the balance between theory, practice, and industry realities, it will address how programmes are evolving to prepare students for an increasingly global and competitive market. The discussion will also highlight the importance of short films as an entry point into the industry, and the role of innovative pedagogical approaches in shaping the next generation of storytellers.

Panelists

Cécile Blondel - Les Gobelins
Rana Kazkaz - Northwestern University Qatar
Marcin Malatyński - The Polish National Film, Television and Theatre School in Łódź
Mark Prescott - London Film School
Yassine Ramdani - Ecole Kourtrajmé
Julie Tingaud - La Fémis

Moderator

Jovan Marjanovic

Learning by Doing International Vocational Schools, Labs, Residencies & Alternative Pathways

Focusing on practice-based learning, this panel examines the growing importance of vocational schools, labs, residencies, and grassroots initiatives that open alternative routes into filmmaking. From apprenticeships to peer-led spaces, participants will discuss how hands-on mentorship and collaborative structures can expand access to the industry and develop vital crew and creative skills. Case studies from leading institutions and innovative programs worldwide will showcase how diverse training models are building resilient, adaptable, and skilled film professionals.

Panelists

Claude Borna - Sèmè City Development Agency
Matthieu Darras - Tatino Films (Pop Up Film Residency / First Cut Lab)
Dominic Davis - Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program
Sam Genet - Grand Bassam Workshops and Ouaga Film Lab
Alice Kharoubi - Festival de Cannes (Cinefondation / Cannes Makers)
Louay Khraish - Film Independent
Antoine Lebos - Le Groupe Ouest / LIM
Rithy Panh - Bophana Center
Meike Statema - IDFAcademy
Kristina Trapp - EAVE

Moderator

Jovan Marjanovic

Regional Focus

Building Sustainable Regional Film Ecosystems

This conversation brings together regional film institutes, commissions, and cultural organisations to reflect on the current challenges and opportunities shaping cinema from the Arab world and wider MENA. By comparing experiences from across the region, spanning education, policy, and market trends, the panel will shed light on how collaborative strategies can strengthen infrastructure, empower filmmakers, and foster sustainable growth. It will also consider the role of regional festivals and markets in providing platforms for emerging talent and independent voices.

Panelists

Jad Abi Khalil – Aflamuna

Mohammed Alghadhban - Baghdad Film Institute

Abedalsalam Alhaj - Royal Film Commission Jordan

Ryan Ashore – Red Sea Film Foundation (Red Sea Labs)

Dora Bouchoucha - Sud Ecriture

Lamia Chraibi - Tamayouz Cinema Foundation / AYWA

Ali Khechen – Doha Film Institute

Adel Ksiksi - Al Jazeera Media Network

Mohamed Sayed - Cairo International Film Festival (Cairo Industry Days)

Moderator

Jana Wehbe

Building a Sustainable Ecosystem for Children's Cinema in the Arab World

Realities, Challenges, and Pathways for Audience Development

Fimlab Palestine invites filmmakers, educators, and cultural leaders to reimagine cinema for the next generation. Through the lens of its Story Lab program, the panel will explore how authentic and diverse stories can inspire Arab youth, particularly in regions affected by conflict and instability. The conversation will look at the current absence of quality Arabic-language content for children, the systemic obstacles to producing it, and the urgent need to nurture critical young audiences. By sharing both challenges and emerging initiatives, the panel will highlight how creative collaboration, education, and regional partnerships can spark a vibrant ecosystem for youth cinema that reflects local identity and speaks directly to the realities of Arab children and young people.

Panelists

Nada Bakr – Network of Arab Alternative Screen (NAAS)

Jessica Khoury – Film Clinic

Ola Salama – Fimlab Palestine

Moderator

Darine Hotait

Filmlab Palestine

The Story Lab Pitch

27 November 2025

As part of our collaboration with Filmlab Palestine, we are delighted to host The Story Lab Pitch. This special event showcases six selected projects developed through Filmlab Palestine's training programme, which supports Arab filmmakers in creating high-quality short films for children and youth audiences.

The director and producer of each project will present their work during this public pitch session at DFF 2025. It is a unique opportunity for them to share their vision with an international jury of producers, filmmakers, and industry professionals, and to connect with the wider festival community.



Participating Projects

A Blue Melody | نغمة زرقا

Juman Qneis | Munther Khawalda | Maram Nubani – Palestine
Samir, who is on the autism spectrum, faces learning difficulties and bullying. His music teacher encourages him to overcome these challenges through his passion for piano, inspiring him to perform in front of an audience.

Drumkid | صوت صامت

Salim Jbeli | Hassen Marzougui – Tunisia
Omar, a quiet 10-year-old, finds a hidden drum set in a feared room. Playing it unleashes a magic that silences the world around him.

My Hands Made Stronger | يدي التي قويت

Zakaria Nouri | Nabil Ben Yadir – Morocco
Awa, the child of undocumented immigrants from Sub-Saharan Africa, embarks on a challenging journey with her father toward education and belonging in Morocco.

The Birds Have Also Gone | حتى الطيور رحلت

Serkan Yellice | Muhammad Taymour – Syria, Turkey, Egypt
Along Egypt's coast, 14-year-old Mohammed finds a wounded sunbird, sparking conflict with his father and leading to a lesson about freedom and compassion.

Whispers from the Other Side | صوت بيهمس الناحية الثانية

Nadine Salib | Hala Lotfy – Egypt
A mute ten-year-old girl drags her cold-hearted father into the haunting remnants of a past he has long buried, where memory waits to awaken them both.

Wild Flowers | ورود برية

Ahmad Khouja | Ghassan Halwani | Jinane Dagher – Lebanon
When Thuraya discovers an ancient artefact at her mother's archaeological dig downtown, her reality begins to change in magical and adventurous ways, placing her in conflict with Sidi Bek, one of the city's powerful magnates.

Made in Qatar Shabab

24 – 25 November 2025

Made in Qatar Shabab continues our commitment to amplifying local voices through cinema. As a dynamic two-day programme, it invites our creative community into a space of inspiration, exploration, and learning.

From curated film screenings to hands-on workshops and open conversations with film professionals, Made in Qatar Shabab offers emerging talent practical insights into the art and craft of filmmaking. It's more than a learning experience—it's a call to create, connect, and continue the tradition of storytelling rooted in our region.

This initiative reflects DFI's commitment to nurturing the next generation of storytellers. By providing tools that foster both skill and self-expression, we aim to empower young filmmakers to share their perspectives with audiences across Qatar and beyond.

Screenings

3 CM

Qatar, Pakistan / English, Urdu / 2025 / 14 mins



A young model prepares for her first show in a backstage world of cordial smiles, calorie counts and choreographed compliance. She navigates a fragile friendship that curdles under pressure and a market that measures worth in centimetres. When a seam refuses to close, whispered kindness turns punitive. The number three returns like a pulse, and she chooses a response that reframes the gaze, insisting bodies are not made to fit clothes.

Haleema Khan is a Pakistani filmmaker and traveller whose work explores psychology and visual arts, centring marginalised communities shaped by Lahore and Kashmir. In 2023, a film she assisted as first camera won Best Student Film at the Cannes World Film Festival; she also received an IAS_NUQ research award for a solo documentary on Pakistan's 2022 floods. Previously, she worked with FIFA World Cup Films and QNRF's UREP. She is now a Producer at Nexstar Media Group.

Director: Haleema Khan

Producer: Latifa Al-Neama, Katongo Lungu

Cinematographer: Fariha Ahmed

Editor: Zauraiz Javaid

Cast: Sublah Hassan, Anusheh Zaman

Al Seeb

Qatar, India / No Dialogue / 2025 / 4 mins



At the water's edge, a former pearl diver drifts between past and present until a child's discovery opens a portal to the deep. In the quiet pressure of the sea, where memory is made visible, trust is measured in a rope's length and breath's count. Surfacing with a single pearl, the journey folds sea into desert, sorrow into renewal. A tender meditation on heritage and interdependence, it honours wisdom passed hand to hand, generation to generation.

Vivek Vasudevan Nair is an Indian-born and Doha-based filmmaker and creative director whose work bridges animation, cultural storytelling, and art direction. With over fifteen years' experience, he has collaborated with national cultural institutions and media organisations. His earlier short, 'We Become Stronger', earned recognition from Doha Film Institute for its visual style. 'Al Seeb', his first independently produced short, continues his focus on heritage, memory and human connection through evocative animation.

Director / Screenwriter: Vivek Vasudevan Nair

Producer: Sooraj Vasudevan Nair

Editor: Rejith Revi

Music: Ajoy Jose

Ana Batal

Qatar / Arabic / 2025 / 8 mins



After witnessing an unexplainable event, Mohammed, a reserved and practical older brother, becomes entangled in his younger brother Abdulla's unwavering belief that he possesses superpowers. Abdulla's vivid imagination and relentless determination drive him to increasingly reckless actions, forcing Mohammed to navigate the fine line between protecting his brother and dismissing his fantastical claims.

Khalifa Al-Kuwari is a Northwestern University in Qatar graduate and an award-winning creator in the region's gaming and film industries. His projects include 'Jumbo: Jewel Of Realms', a solo-developed game showcased at Doha Film's annual Geekdom event, and 'Bint Al Sayyad', a post-apocalyptic short he produced and executive-produced. Recently recognised as a Verified Creator for Bethesda Game Studios, he contributed to 'Starfield' and 'Skyrim', blending compelling narratives with engaging interactive elements.

Director: Khalifa Al-Kuwari

Producer: Ahmad Hashim Al-Mushaddani

Cinematographer: Mohammed A. Aziz Fakhroo, Ahmad Barakat

Editor: Rishal Liam Chowdhury.

Cast: Faisal Al-Balushi, Nasser Essa Balgheth, Abdullrahman Nidal Sabbah

Curly Girl Method

Qatar / Urdu / 2025 / 10 mins



Set in Lahore on the morning of Eid, 'Curly Girl Method' follows 15-year-old Ayzad, whose attempt to straighten her curly hair for a family gathering spirals into chaos when the power cuts mid-way. As tensions rise, beauty ideals, expectations, and frustrations collide, revealing the deep emotional cost of conformity. Written and directed by Eiman Nasir, this heartfelt dramedy explores how Eurocentric beauty standards shape self-image and generational relationships, ultimately celebrating acceptance, individuality, and the quiet rebellion of being oneself.

Eiman Nasir is a writer and filmmaker from Lahore, Pakistan. She is pursuing a BS in Communications with a Minor in Film and Design at Northwestern University in Qatar. Her storytelling focuses on gender, identity, and representation in South Asian contexts. A fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in the Global South, she has published in 'The Aleph Review' and 'The Daily Q'. Through film and ethnography, Eiman explores marginalised narratives with empathy, humour, and authenticity.

Director / Screenwriter: Eiman Nasir

Producer: Houra Haji

Editor: Nadia Khan

The Queen of the Mountains

Qatar / Arabic, English / 2025 / 5 mins



Rooted in a Qatari poem, this work explores how immersive media can hold a community's textures: wind on dunes, light on water, a chorus of accents in the dark. Crafted in collaboration with students and guided by international practitioners, it transforms technical inquiry and spatial sound into an invitation to wonder. The result is less a story told than a landscape encountered together, where looking up becomes an act of remembrance and quiet pride.

Erika Tsuchiya is a Japanese multidisciplinary artist and producer working in immersive media, mainly fulldome. Born in the United Kingdom and raised in the United States, she moved to Qatar in 2021 and is Academic Coordinator of the Innovative Media Studios at VCUarts Qatar. She organised Doha's first fulldome festival at Katara Al-Thuraya Planetarium. 'Queen of the Mountains' premiered at Ars Electronica 2024 and screened internationally. She has performed at Mutek Dubai and led 'Hidden Lives Illuminated' in Philadelphia.

Director: Erika Tsuchiya

Producer: Nada Abdo

Editor: Ayza Sheikh

Cast: Nada Hijawi

Masterclasses

I Wrote a Short Film, What Next? Finding Purpose and Direction After Your First Draft

This inspirational masterclass invites emerging filmmakers to confront that very question, not with a checklist, but with a deeper call: to understand why we tell stories, how to find your voice, and what it truly takes to turn an idea into impact. More than a talk, this session is a creative ignition, a spark to fuel participants' next step forward.

Speakers



Sarah Kaskas

Sarah Kaskas is an award-winning Lebanese-American filmmaker and Emmy-nominated producer. Her work centres marginalised communities in Lebanon and has screened at Tribeca and Aspen Shortsfest. She co-founded Karaaj Films and released 'Bread And Tea', winner of Best Short Documentary at Cinéma Vérité. Her feature 'Underdown' premiered at IDFA, winning five awards, including the Grand Prix at Mediteran Film Festival and the Jury Prize at Malmö Arab Film Festival. She produced 'Beirut Dreams In Color' (Emmy-nominated) and made 'The Window' (2021).

From Set to Screen: Building Your Creative Ecosystem

Understanding the Roles of Producers, Distributors, and the Power of Collaboration

This panel pulls back the curtain on the creative and professional relationships that shape a film's journey from idea to audience. What does a producer actually do? When should a distributor be involved? And what's their role in a short film vs. a feature? How do these roles intersect, and how can you, as a filmmaker, collaborate with them in a way that amplifies your vision rather than compromises it? In a world where emerging talents are driven to wear multiple hats, this session breaks down who does what, when, and why.

Speakers



Majid Al-Remaihi
Film Director & Programmer
(Doha Film Institute)

Majid Al-Remaihi is a Doha-based filmmaker and artist. His work moves between documentary practice and poetic reconstruction, exploring the unseen where history, power and social conditions converge. A graduate of Le Fresnoy – Studio National des Arts Contemporains, his films have screened at Locarno, CPH:DOX, and Vienna Shorts, and he became Qatar's first filmmaker to qualify for the Oscars. In 2024, he assisted in curating 'Your Ghosts Are Mine: Expanded Cinema, Amplified Voices'; he programmes for Doha Film Institute.



Marc Nauleau
Festivals Manager & Acquisitions
(Best Friend Forever)

After studying humanities and economics in France, Marc Nauleau joined Best Friend Forever in 2019 as Festivals Manager. He oversees festival strategies from world premiere to local screenings, and later expanded into acquisitions, scouting emerging talent in fiction and animation. He has managed global launches for 'Banel & Adama' (Cannes Competition 2023), 'Shambhala' (Berlinale Competition 2024) and 'A Useful Ghost' (Ami Award, Cannes Critics' Week 2025).



Jana Wehbe
Producer (The Attic)

Jana Wehbe is a producer working across film, cultural initiatives and education. A Université Saint-Joseph filmmaking graduate, she launched her producing career with the FIPRESCI-winning '2 1/2'. She has produced documentaries and fiction, line-produced international co-productions, and co-founded The Attic in Beirut (2009). She manages projects in Development at Qumra – Doha Film Institute and teaches producing. Former Executive Director of Reef, she was selected for the Afac-Netflix Equity fund and nominated for the Sony Future Filmmaker Award.



Ben Robinson
Producer (Qatari Film Fund)

Since joining DFI in 2010, Ben Robinson has produced over 100 short films with Qatari and local filmmakers. He worked closely with universities, contributing to a Film Design minor with Northwestern and Virginia Commonwealth. Since 2016, he has produced 2D animated shorts for the Qatari Film Fund, winning awards at international festivals, and is developing an animated feature at DFI. He also manages DFI's Internship Programme, building the next generation of technicians, producers and craftspeople.

From Spark to Sell: Turning Your Idea into a Pitch That Lands

How to Shape, Package, and Present Your Film Project to Attract Producers, Partners, and Support

In this practical and inspiring masterclass, emerging filmmakers are guided through the development process, not just creatively, but strategically. From clarifying their concept to building a compelling pitch deck, this session will equip participants with the tools to present their project in a clear, confident, and irresistible way. It's not just about selling, it's about connecting. Filmmakers will learn how to translate passion into structure, how to speak to potential collaborators' needs and expectations, and how to position their project in a way that makes people say "yes".

Speaker



Dana J. Atrach

Dana J. Atrach is a Palestinian screenwriter, educator and storyteller whose character-driven work uses comedy, world-building and animation to explore grief, loss and resilience. She holds an MFA in Screenwriting from UCLA. Her debut short 'Alterations' and short documentary 'Bel Falastini' are in post-production with support from UK and Qatar grants. She is co-writing 'Task Force! Apocalypse'. An Assistant Professor at Northwestern University in Qatar and a Script Consultant with Doha Film Institute, she has supported award-winning scripts.

Headliners

Headliners spotlight a dynamic lineup of acclaimed regional and international artists whose work has captivated global audiences and redefined the boundaries of contemporary music. These are voices that not only shape culture but spark dialogue through sound, storytelling, and unforgettable live performances.

From viral sensations to critically acclaimed musicians, each Headliner brings a unique artistic vision rooted in identity, place, and purpose. Whether performing on world stages or breaking ground in their home countries, these artists transcend borders and genres, offering a glimpse into the future of music across the Arab world and beyond. This section celebrates creative excellence, cultural pride, and the power of performance to connect people across continents.



Saint Levant

Marwan Abdelhamid, known as Saint Levant, is a Jerusalem-born artist of French-Algerian and Serbian-Palestinian descent. Blending Arabic music, R&B, and hip-hop, he embraces his multicultural roots and the global Palestinian experience. Singing in Arabic, English, and French, his music resonates worldwide. Raised in Gaza, he dedicated his first EP 'From Gaza, With Love' to his hometown. His debut album 'DEIRA' honors Palestine and his family's Al Deira Hotel, destroyed in Gaza in January 2024.



Nemahsis

Palestinian-Canadian singer-songwriter Nemahsis is known for her powerful voice and deeply personal lyrics exploring identity and belonging as a hijabi Muslim woman. Her 2024 debut album 'Verbathim' earned critical acclaim and praise from artists like Stevie Wonder and Lorde. In 2025, she launched a sold-out North American tour and won two JUNO Awards, including Alternative Album and Breakthrough Artist of the Year. Recently named Women In Music's Artist of the Year, Nemahsis is redefining independent artistry.



yasiin bey

Born in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood, yasiin bey is a multidisciplinary artist. He has been making hip-hop music since 1994, and first gained national attention in 1998 with the release of Mos Def and Talib Kweli are Black Star, with Talib Kweli, and his subsequent solo album, 'Black on Both Sides', in 1999. Throughout his career, Bey has balanced music with acting, appearing in films such as 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy' (2005), '16 Blocks' (2006), 'Be Kind Rewind' (2008), and 'Bamboozled' (2000), among others.



Zeyne

Since her 2021 debut 'Minni Ana', Zeyne has gained over 48 million streams and rising fame with her hit 'Asli Ana'. A powerful voice from the Levant, she became the first female artist from the region to perform on COLORS and toured in 2025 with Ed Sheeran, playing to 65,000 fans. As an Equal Arabia ambassador, she uses her platform to spotlight key issues, expanding her influence far beyond music.

Roots

Roots spotlights emerging musical voices from the region and beyond, offering a stage for talent that reflects the energy and creativity of today's music scene. This year's program features distinct showcases, including Sounds of Sudan and Sounds of Saudi, each highlighting powerful new interpretations of traditional styles infused with contemporary influences.

Audiences can also look forward to an intimate acoustic set featuring local Qatari performers alongside artists from across the Middle East. From soulful storytelling to genre-blending innovation, Roots invites you to explore the diverse soundscapes shaping the cultural heartbeat of the region and to discover the artists who are defining its future.



Elyanna

Elyanna, a Palestinian-Chilean singer-songwriter, blends alternative pop with Middle Eastern influences, shaping a unique global sound. Moving to the U.S. in 2017 to pursue music, she gained recognition with projects like 'Elyanna' and 'Elyanna II'. Her singles charted on The Official Lebanese Top 20, solidifying her as a rising star with a soulful voice and boundary-pushing artistry.



Dana Al Meer

Dana Al Meer is a Qatari singer, composer, and cultural ambassador known for performing at the 2022 FIFA World Cup and 2023 AFC Asian Cup ceremonies. She is the director of Music Lab Qatar, an institute that promotes cultural education and nurtures young talent. In September 2025, she won third place at the Intervision Song Contest in Russia for her song 'Huwa Dha Anta'.



Oddisee

Oddisee (Amir Mohamed el Khalifa) is a Sudanese-American rapper, producer, and composer from Washington, D.C., known for his sharp lyricism, soulful production, and socially conscious perspective. Blending boom-bap with jazz, funk, and live instrumentation, he bridges underground hip-hop with global appeal. Rising with Diamond District, his solo work, 'People Hear What They See', 'The Good Fight', 'The Iceberg', has earned acclaim for its honesty and depth. A consistent, respected voice, Oddisee turns reflection into rhythm.



Sammany Hajo

Sammany Hajo is a Sudanese artist, multi-instrumentalist and producer based in Qatar. His music is rooted in the sounds of Sudan, blending cultural melodies with contemporary genres. He is most known for 'Briefcase', a Beat Tape sampling traditional Sudanese songs remixed with genres like Soul, Funk and Hip Hop. His performance on the COLORSXSTUDIOS stage marked the debut of his singing career as he performed his single 'Matalib'.



Gidaa

Gidaa is a Sudanese-Dutch singer and songwriter known for her soul-infused sound and emotionally rich storytelling. Blending R&B, neo-soul, and jazz, her music creates an intimate space for vulnerability and self-discovery. Her latest project, 'Yarn', is a deeply personal exploration of identity, healing, and transformation, crafted over five years of introspection. With a voice that balances strength and softness, Gidaa unravels themes of self-doubt and growth, offering music that is both tender and empowering.



DJ NEDZ

DJ NEDZ is a self-taught, multi-genre DJ and creator with a distinctive style that reflects her Egyptian roots and global journey. Shaped by her upbringing in Cairo and her college years in New York and Los Angeles, she draws inspiration from diverse cultural influences. Her sets seamlessly blend Hip-Hop and RnB with African, Caribbean, Latin, and Middle Eastern sounds, crafting a unique sonic experience. Through her music, NEDZ connects cultures and takes audiences on a journey that bridges Africa with the rest of the world.



DJ Mubarak

DJ Mubarak is a visionary Saudi artist and producer making waves globally. His innovative style bridges heritage and contemporary culture, both visually and sonically. In 2023, he placed second in MDLBEAST's XPERFORM competition, earning a performance slot at Jeddah's 2024 Formula 1. Over the past year, multiple of his singles have gone viral, amassing millions of streams. He is determined to help connect Arabic music with the world.



Nooriyah

Born in Saudi Arabia, raised in Japan, and now based in the UK, Nooriyah is a DJ, audio producer, and presenter known for championing the sounds of the diaspora. She founded the SWANA-focused collective 'Middle of Nowhere', which hosted her debut 'Boiler Room'—garnering over 4.5 million streams. Gaining global acclaim, she has performed at major festivals, including Glastonbury, and headlined sold-out shows across London. Her debut European tour, 'Middle of Everywhere', further cemented her rising influence in dance music.



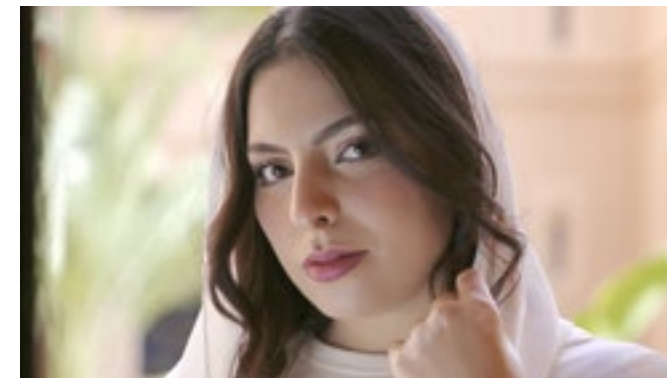
Jara

Jara is a trailblazing Saudi Arabian rapper who blends modest fashion with rap music, using a blend of languages to address topics such as racism, gender roles, and mental health through lyrical messages.



Asayel

Asayel is a rising star in the Saudi music scene, known for her bold fusion of rap, R&B, and pop. Originally from Mekkah and based in Jeddah, she draws on her cultural roots to craft empowering lyrics about self-confidence, resilience, and social justice. Her breakthrough came after winning the XPerform competition at XP, leading to the release of her debut track 'Asliyah', which earned 150K views in its first week, cementing her status as a powerful new voice.



Aisha Al Ziani

Aisha is a Qatari singer-songwriter who gained international recognition performing 'Hayya Hayya (Better Together)' for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ alongside Davido and Trinidad Cardona. Known for her soulful voice and heartfelt lyrics, she has performed at prestigious venues such as the UN General Assembly and Doha Festival City. As the first Arab female artist to feature on a FIFA World Cup song, Aisha inspires a new generation, using music to bridge cultures and celebrate creativity in Qatar.



Dana Salah

Dana Salah is a Jordanian-Palestinian singer, songwriter, and producer formerly known as King Deco. Blending Palestinian folklore, Middle Eastern sounds, and global rhythms with Arabic lyrics, she rose to fame in New York with singles like 'Castaway,' earning acclaim from outlets like Billboard and Nylon. Despite her success, Salah sought a deeper cultural connection, prompting a return to her roots. Now, she creates music that celebrates her Arab identity and artistic authenticity.

Scoring

Part of Qatar Argentina and Chile 2025 Year of Culture

Scoring celebrates the powerful relationship between music and cinema, spotlighting how soundtracks shape emotion, narrative, and memory on screen. This section explores the artistry of film composition through live performances that bring iconic scores to life.

Featuring musical legacies that transcend borders, this program honours the composers, musicians, and orchestras who transform visuals into unforgettable emotional experiences, and showcases music's vital role in shaping the cinematic imagination.



Gustavo Santaolalla

Gustavo Santaolalla is an internationally acclaimed Argentine composer, producer, and musician. A two-time Academy Award winner for 'Brokeback Mountain' (2006) and 'Babel' (2007), he has also received a Golden Globe, two BAFTAs, two Grammys, and 19 Latin Grammys. As one of the most influential producers in the Spanish-speaking world, he has shaped Latin American music through over 100 albums. He founded Bajofondo, a collective blending tango, electronic, and Río de la Plata traditions. In audiovisual culture, he's known for scoring 'The Last of Us' video games and HBO series. Currently, he is touring globally with the Ronroco Tour, celebrating 25 years of his iconic album 'Ronroco', which launched his cinematic music career.



The Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra

The Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra promotes both Western and Arabic music, inspiring a love of the art form among people of all ages in Qatar and the Arab world. Through performances, education, and cultural outreach, it builds connections between musical traditions and communities. As part of Qatar Foundation, the Philharmonic supports the country's shift from a carbon-based to a knowledge-based economy, playing a key role in unlocking human potential and enriching the nation's cultural and creative development.

Geekdom

The Community that Creates

18–22 November

Geekdom is Qatar’s home of pop culture, run by Doha Film Institute and built with our community at its heart. Since 2013, thousands of fans of all ages have gathered to celebrate films, games, comics, cosplay, and the stories that connect us all. More than an event, it is a not-for-profit platform where artists, vendors, gamers and developers collaborate and grow.



As an essential meeting point, Geekdom nurtures emerging talent and supports pathways into Qatar’s thriving creative economy. It provides space for skills to develop through talks and workshops, for ideas to be tested through game demos and tech showcases, and for people to meet through screenings, karaoke, tournaments and live performance.

Artists and vendors share ideas with real audiences. Cosplayers and gamers step onto supportive stages. Developers meet future collaborators. What begins as a shared interest often becomes creative partnerships, with new skills, friendships and small businesses emerging.

Set at the Geekdom Building on Lusail Boulevard, the programme invites guests from the region and abroad while investing in the local community. The aim is to turn participation into progress, supporting individuals and small businesses by building their confidence to develop and take their next step. In the words that guide the initiative, Geekdom helps “create industries,” feeding a deep, future-facing, and innovative economy.

In the spirit of Qatar National Vision 2030, it champions local talent, encourages cultural exchange, and supports new creative enterprises, particularly in gaming, interactive media and digital arts.

Play. Learn. Connect.



This year’s programme transforms the Geekdom Building on Lusail Boulevard into a five-day pop-culture hub.

Main-stage moments include guest talks, family screenings, karaoke nights, an Animated Geekdom edition with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra and the Cosplay Competition, closing with a Music Lab concert featuring Dana Al Meer.

Guest highlights span composer Akira Yamaoka, voice actor Kazuki Yao, chef-creator Abir Alsaghir, designer Steven Medway and cosplayer Ziad Emad. Their sessions and meet-and-greets bridge globally acclaimed talent and local fans.

The GeekdomVerse showcases VR arenas, XR movie adventures, Motion Hovor full-body games and The

Portal immersive room, with an AI-powered Holobox experience.

Side Quest with CoreGame runs all week as a treasure hunt that rewards exploration. Exit Code 71 challenges teams to race the clock in an exciting escape room challenge.

Competition threads through the week include eSports in VALORANT, Tekken 8, EA FC 26, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate and Mobile Legends, plus board-game tournaments in Catan, Quoridor and Odin.

Across talks, screenings, and live, this year’s edition is a curated invitation to connect, learn and create, celebrating pop culture’s power to bring people together in Qatar.

DFF Team

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| Chief Executive Officer, Director of Doha Film Festival Fatma Hassan Alremaihi | DFF Team Aanar Alobeid Abdalahadi Shurair Abdelaziz Diab Abdelkader Zoukh Abdelkarim Ghassan Abdul Hafeedh Haneefa Abdulla Jassim Al Mosallam | Anas Aldous Angel Cheng Angel Raphael Angela Lavarias Angeliki Leivaditi Ania Wojtowicz Anida Devedzic Anthea Devotta Antoaneta Ilcheva Anuja Srivastava Arwa Abul Foul Ashma Guiamadin Ashwin Valiyaveettil Aya Al Blouchi Ayah Battiri Ayat Salim Nazar Ayisha Mishbah Ayoub Laroui Bara Aladoud Bassam Lebbos Belal Hiroli Benjamin Robinson Bilal Iqbal Carole Mezher Cerdon Fajardo Chadi Abdulrahim Clare Peacock Dalibor Spasevski Dana Abou Nahl Dana Al Refaei Dana Mohammed Darin Al Saqqa Dariusz Bolton David D'Souza Dawood Al-Anwari Deena Wafy Delia Mackenzie-Cameron Dina Bolboul Doaa Alasmar Doaa Rashwan Eiman Nasir Ela Wtulich Elena Pavlaki Ellen Rocha Eman Kamel Emanuel Kalu Kenga Eslam Abdelghany Fadeela Totah Fahad Abdulkareem Faisal Abdurashed Faisal Alasmer Faisal Khan Falah Hannoun Farah El Buy Farah El Kassis Faran Raza Fares Nadir Faruk Mirojevic Fathima Nasifa | Fatima Adieb Fatima Asif Fatima Attia Fawzi Abdelfattah Fedja Purivatra Furkhan Ali Gaby Abi Rached Galib Bin Dastagir Georges Arban Ghada Salha Ghali Olabi Ghanimeh El-Taweel Gheed Fawwaz Graziela Garcia Gustavo Cunha Habeba Badawy Habeb Khalfan Hajara Korompally Hanin Ahmed Ghareb Ali Hashem Haroon Muhammad Hassan Almadhoun Hazem Nayel Heleni Koshy Hend Khader Husam Babar Ibrahim Idris Iman Ghareeb Ines Lucic Inigo Palenzuela Ismail AlShawish Jailli Haijo Jam Moreno Jaser Alagha Jason Chaaya Jenny Nomikou Joelle Abou Chabake Johnny Kallas Joseph Abelhak Jubail Hussain Roman Julie Alagos Julie Taribo Kaawish Akhtar Kamal Sai Karem Kamel Karl Harris Katerina Kotsiarini Khaled Abdoh Khaled Al-Atawneh Khalil Benkirane Kinan Akaoui Kleopatra Korai Kostas Politis Kyriaki Giagli Labeeba Ahmed Laila Noor Lama Matta Lana Abu Abed Lauren Mekhael | Lejla Karišik Lena Alkahaleh Leonor da Costa Lubaba Al-Hawari Lubna Al Azzeh Lubna Wafi Luiza Modesto Luna Khatib Maha Al Ajmi Maha Fathy Mahdi Al Sharshani Mahdya Tayubur Rahman Mahitab Taha Mahmood AlSamman Maida Shafiq Majid Al-Remaihi Majid Wasi Mansha Farooq Manuel Santini Mariam ElSharafi Marianna Grigoraki Marie Ayag Marilou Zotiadou Marina Chiperciuc Marko Lendic Marwa Abbas Marwa Hajwel Maryam Al Musleh Maryam Al Taher Maryam Khalil Maryam Shaheen Maya Mechmoum Mayar Hamdan Michael De La Rosas Mihai-Corneliu Ciobanu Mike Marsland Minas Stratigos Mino Hosseinipour Mohamed Abdulrahim Mohamed AlSalem Mohamed Anas Mohamed Babiker Mohamed Omer Mohamed SidAhmed Mohammad Fazal Hadi Mohammad Khalid Mohammed Abu Nahl Mohammed Arda Mohammed Fadlalla Mohammed Farouq Mohammed Gani Mohammed Ismail Mohammed Jradi Mohammed Shahabas Mohammed Yunus Mohammed Zameen Mostafa Al Sheshtawy Mostafa Bensaad Muawia Ababker Abdalla | Mubarak AlKuwari Muhammed Zain Muna Ibrahim Muntaha El-Mumin Mustafa Azhari Nouredin Mustafa Esam Mustafa Hassan Mustafa Mohamed Khair Mustapha Sahouadj Nada Algahiny Nada Guiamadin Nadine Kain Naeem Shoab Nagham Dahleh Najlah Mohammed Ali Najwan Al Saqqa Nashim Shukkur Nasreen Zahan Nasser Abdulla Nesma Sherif Nikolaos Bempis Kolyfas Nimer Abonaadj Nour Abukhattab Nour Al Soliman Noura Habjouqa Noura Sharaf Nurmala Easty Obada Bahri Omar Wafi Omer Shahzad Owais Shaikh Panagiotis Giannakos Patricia Donohue Paul Abraham Paulo Pelá Rosado de Oliveira Pelin Cifti Bircan Peter Okorn Quay Chu Rabwa Moidu Raghad Mahmood Rajeev Nair Rameez Poyil Rami Jarjour Ramina Kim Rana Houssami Rana Mostafa Rand Assad Rania Ghanem Ranim Ajeeb Raquel Pintor Rasha Awada Ravinder Kaur Rawan Halawi Raymond Bobar Renjith Babu Ricardo Ceballos Riyas Peediyekkal Roald Aron Ruksana Valappil | Russell Frame Safaa Saqer Sahar Bou Hamdan Salah Marouani Saleha Nazneen Saleem Salim Poovathiyullathil Samaa El Baba Samah Shoshe Sameer Kavungalayil Sameera Yasmin Sanjeewa Roshan Sara Abdul-Razzak Sara Abou Nahl Sara Allouba Sara El Natsha Sarah Abu Hejleh Seren Abouhassanein Shahab Shahid Shahan Akkawi Shaheen Kothur Shaima Al Tamimi Shaima Shiref Shamim Tabandeh Shamna Hameed Shane Brennan Shebin Kunnath Sheikh Aoun Siddique Sheikh Khalifa Abdulla Al Thani Sheikha Rawda Al Thani Shereen El Buy Shivanghi Singh Shorooq Shaheen Shouq Shaheen Sina Hosseinipour Stanley Mathews Sudeep Menon Suhail Yehia Sumayya Shaikh Tais Angelova Taniya Tleubayeva Tausif Abdulla Chawdhury Tereza Soldatova Thalles Laranjo Thannia Sulaik Thasnim Nashim Theunis Knoetze Toka Hanafi Uhain Poignon Vandana Rajeevan Varun Sudhakaran Victoria Allan Waheed Khan Walaa Abdelkarim Wesam Said Yahia ElBakri Yaman AlMaradni Yanis Cherif Yara Amr Yaser Abdul Ghaffar | Yasmine Mohamad Yasser Mustafa Yassine Ouahrani Yazan Shorbaji Yousef AlSaid Yulie Sofou Yusuf Kudsi Koc Zahra Al-Anssari Zaid Naveed Zaina Alhajomar Zainab ElKhouly Zainab Pagayawan Zain Dean Alshamery Zena Chamoun Ziad Haddad | | | |
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AWFULLY
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OVERNIGHT
• BOWLS •

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