

مؤسسة الدوحة للأفلام

Annual Report 2025

Doha Film Institute



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



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

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Message from The Chairperson



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

2025 was a defining year for our region. In a time of uncertainty and upheaval, Qatar stood in solidarity with the Arab world – affirming that culture is not a luxury in difficult moments, but a necessity. Through cinema, we safeguarded space for dialogue, ensured overlooked voices were heard, and upheld the belief that stories carry both conscience and consequence.

For Doha Film Institute, this moment reaffirmed our responsibility. Film can do more than entertain – it can document, question and preserve. We presented works that confronted reality fearlessly, honoured lived experience and helped create collective memory for generations to come.

This year marked 15 years of DFI – a milestone shaped by vision, consistency and an unwavering commitment to creative investment. What began with an ambition to champion authentic Arab storytelling has matured into a globally recognised platform for cinematic excellence.

Doha Film Festival signalled the start of a confident new chapter in Qatar's creative industries with an expanded global outlook, bridging continents and conversations. Qumra continued forging pathways as one of the few regional industry events connecting emerging filmmakers with global cinematic masters and industry experts.

Industry Days by Film Committee Qatar Media City Qatar strengthened the nation's creative infrastructure with initiatives that ensure that filmmakers are supported not only artistically, but practically and sustainably.

Together, the implementation of these programmes represented more than a milestone – it reflected the steady construction of one of the world's most integrated platforms for film development, production and exhibition, positioning Qatar as a committed partner in the advancement of Arab and international cinema.

As we look toward 2026, our focus remains forward-thinking: broadening access, strengthening cultural exchange, and enabling important voices to thrive.

In every challenge, lies an opportunity to reaffirm who we are. For Doha Film Institute, that identity remains clear: to stand beside storytellers, and to ensure their voices are heard and valued on the world stage.

Message from The CEO



Fatma Hassan Alremaihi
Chief Executive Officer, Doha Film Institute

This year, our region endured profound hardship alongside extraordinary resilience. The tragedies unfolding in Gaza, Sudan and across parts of the Arab world deepened our conviction that every story matters – and that cinema can bear witness while preserving dignity.

When *The Voice of Hind Rajab* screened in Doha in the presence of her family and the Red Crescent team who tried to save her, we were reminded that film is testimony, memory and courage made visible.

As Doha Film Institute marked its 15th anniversary, we reflected on a journey shaped by purpose and persistence. With nearly 1,000 projects supported to date, DFI-backed films premiered at Cannes, Berlin, Venice and Sundance. These milestones affirm the growing global presence of Arab cinema at the centre of international cultural conversation.

This year's transition of Ajjal into Doha Film Festival brought our vision into even sharper focus. Building on a powerful legacy, DFF presented 97 films from 62 countries- alongside world premieres, conversations with leading artists and immersive experiences connecting cinema with innovation and popular culture.

Our solidarity programme brought urgent stories from Palestine, Sudan, Libya and Iraq to audiences in Doha, underscoring storytelling as a cultural responsibility. Screenings within the Qatar-Argentina-Chile Year of Culture further deepened international exchange. The launch of DFF Music celebrated the vital interplay between film and sound, with performances by global headliners and emerging regional artists.

With Media City Qatar, Qatar Film Committee Industry Days at DFF, we strengthened Qatar's production ecosystem with strategic global partnerships and the unveiling of one of the world's most competitive production incentives – reinforcing Doha's position as a dynamic filmmaking hub.

Qumra's 11th edition convened over 250 industry experts from 50 countries to mentor 49 projects from 23 nations, including 16 Qatar-based projects, reinforcing our commitment to nurturing talent at every stage of the creative journey.

None of this would be possible without the visionary leadership of our Chairperson, the guidance of our Board, the dedication of our team, and the trust of our partners and filmmakers.

As we move into 2026, our purpose remains clear: to champion authentic voices, deepen cultural dialogue and ensure that cinema continues to illuminate, connect and inspire.

A Year of Growth and Connection

03.

In 2025, Doha Film Institute advanced its mission to champion original voices and strengthen the foundations of a vibrant film culture in Qatar and beyond. Across our programmes, we continued to bring filmmakers and audiences together, expand access to learning, and invest in long-term capacity building, rooted in the belief that storytelling deepens understanding and creates meaningful connection.

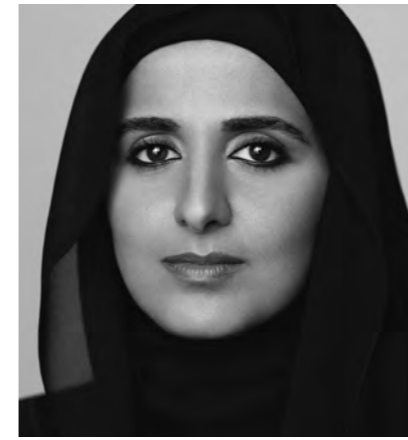
We opened a new chapter for our annual festival, with the first edition held under the Doha Film Festival banner, repositioning it as a more ambitious, internationally oriented platform for cinema and cultural exchange. Across ten days, DFF became a vibrant meeting point for audiences and filmmakers, extending the festival experience beyond screenings to conversation, music, Geekdom, and public experiences across the city.

The year also marked a milestone for DFI's education and training work. With 41 education partners across Qatar and internationally, we deepened collaboration and delivered 57 workshops, our highest annual total so far in both regards. This growth reflects our team's dedication and expanding reach as a provider of filmmaking education, delivering essential skills development that supports emerging talent in Qatar and contributes to the wider creative ecosystem.

None of this work is possible without the continued trust and collaboration of our partners, supporters, artists, educators, and community members. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed their time, expertise, and belief in the power of film. As we look ahead, we remain committed to nurturing talent, growing opportunity, and creating platforms where stories can travel, bringing people closer through cinema.

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

Board of Trustees



**H.E. Sheikha Al-Mayassa
bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani**
Chairperson, Qatar Museums,
Doha Film Institute, Reach Out
to Asia, and Qatar Leadership
Centre, and Co-Chair Fashion
Trust Arabia



**H.E. Sheikh Thani bin Hamad
bin Khalifa Al Thani**
Chairman of the Board
of Directors of the Qatar Fund
for Development (QFFD)



**H.E. Lolwah bint Rashid
bin Mohammed Al Khater**
Minister of Education
and Higher Education



H.E. Mr. Saad Bin Ali Al Kharji
Chairman of Qatar Tourism



H.E. Hassan Abdulla Al Thawadi
Managing Director of the Supreme
Committee for Delivery and Legacy



Mr. Abdulla Al Najjar
Member of the Board of Trustees
of Qatar Museums



Mr. Hamad Omar A. Al-Mannai
Chief Executive Officer
of Media City Qatar

04.

Executive Directors



Abdulla Al Mosallam
Deputy Chief Executive Officer /
Deputy Director of
Doha Film Festival



Hanaa Issa
Chief Strategy & Programmes
Officer / Qumra Deputy Director



Nikolaos Bempis Kolyfas
Chief Operating Officer /
Festival Managing Director



Russell Frame
General Counsel

05.

About DFI

About DFI

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

DFI supports the growth of the local film community through cultivating film appreciation, enhancing industry knowledge and contributing to the development of sustainable creative industries in Qatar.

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

The Institute's platforms include funding and production of local, regional and international films; skills-sharing and mentorship programmes; film screenings; the Ajyal Film Festival; and Qumra, a film industry event. With culture, community, learning and entertainment at its foundation, the Institute is committed to supporting Qatar National Vision 2030 for the development of a knowledge-based economy.

Our Mission—We exist to support authentic voices.

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

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

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

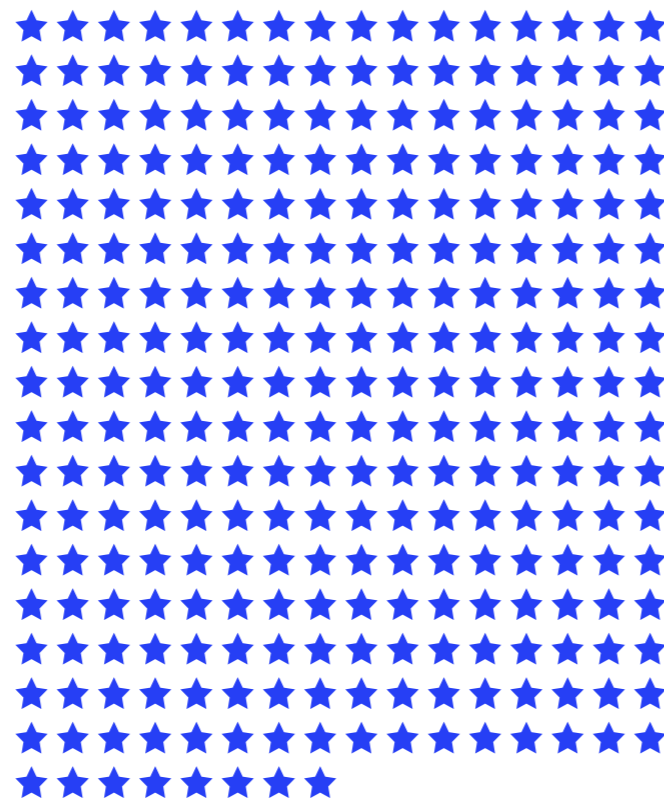
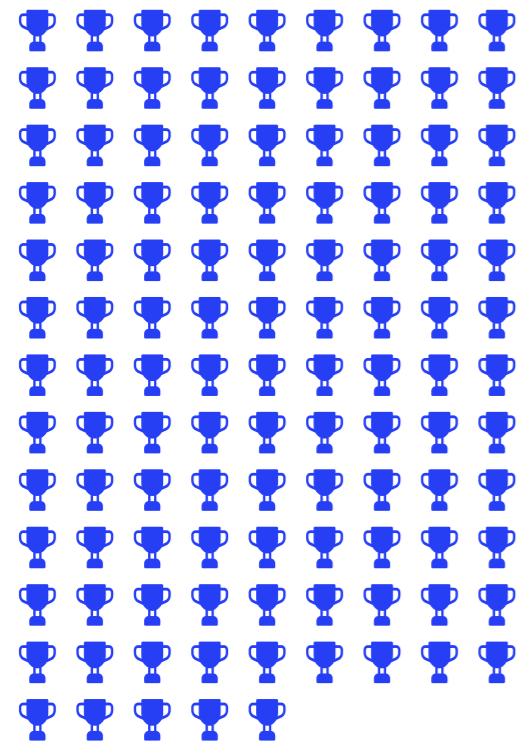
To pave the way to a sustainable film industry in Qatar, spanning all of its relevant elements.

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

06.

2025 in Numbers

Awards



Funding



Training & Development



Qumra



49

Projects from 24 Countries



37

DFI Grant Recipients

9

by Qatari nationals



460+

online meetings



700+

in-person meetings

Community Outreach



52

Events



681

External Collaborations

DOHA FILM FESTIVAL



1,600+ Short Submissions

4 World Premieres

49 MENA Premieres

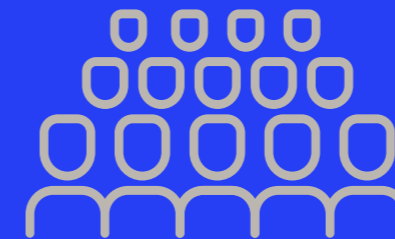
97

Films

24

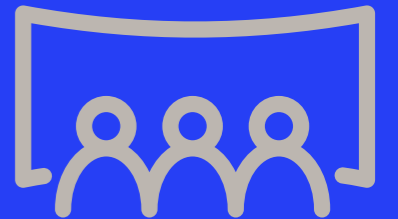
DFI-supported Titles

Geekdom



12,600+

Visitors



2

Screenings



250

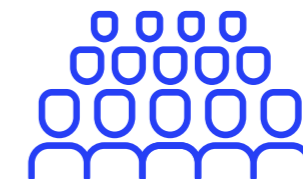
Exhibitors

Year-Round Film Programming



56

Screenings



5,800+

Attendance

15 years of Doha Film Institute



07.

150+ Million viewers

1,000+ filmmakers supported

80+ countries represented

1,800+ festival selections

600+ awards

12 Academy Award® Nominations (including one historic win)

An ever-evolving ecosystem for authentic voices



Doha Film Institute is established to grow a sustainable film industry

2010



DFI announces co-financing for 'The Prophet' screen adaptation.

2012



Grants expand; DFI-supported films reach 1,800+ selections and 600+ awards.

2014



Producers Lab launches; '#DariQatar' premieres as a crowd-sourced portrait of Qatar.

2016



Series Lab launches to support creators in serialised storytelling.

2018



DFI shifts to virtual and hybrid models; Ajjal introduces drive-in cinema.

2020



DFI produces Qatar's first Oscar-qualified documentary short

2022



'Ode to Our Land' premieres; DFI co-organises 'Your Ghosts Are Mine' at Venice.

2024

2011

DFI Grants Programme launches, supporting filmmakers worldwide.



2013

Ajjal Film Festival launches to empower the next generation of audiences.



2015

Qumra launches as DFI's mentorship-led talent incubator and industry programme.



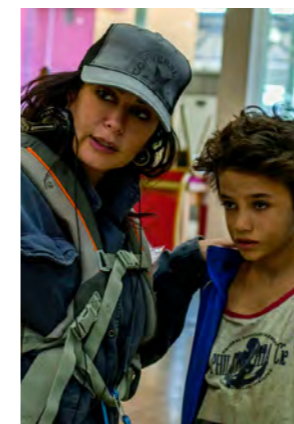
2017

DFI co-financed 'The Salesman' wins the Academy Award.



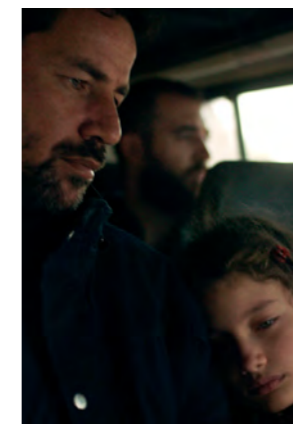
2019

'Capernaum' becomes the highest-grossing Arabic-language film in China.



2021

'The Present' earns an Academy Award nomination.



2023

DFI-backed titles compete for the Palme d'Or at Cannes.



2025

Doha Film Festival debuts, building on Ajjal's foundation and expanding DFI's platform.



Stories, support, and community.

Since our founding in 2010, Doha Film Institute has grown into a year-round platform for filmmakers and audiences, rooted in a clear belief: authentic storytelling deepens understanding and creates meaningful connections. Across 15 years, our role has expanded from building festival experiences to shaping an ecosystem that supports film culture in Qatar, strengthens industry knowledge, and helps filmmakers move from first idea to finished work.

From the beginning, DFI is defined by a dual focus. We invest in the craft and careers of filmmakers, while also nurturing spaces for audiences to discover cinema as a shared cultural experience. This approach guides everything we do, from year-round screenings and public conversations to mentorship-led programmes and funding pathways that meet filmmakers at every stage of development.



Sustained support, global reach

A major milestone arrived in 2011 with the launch of DFI's Grants Programme, now the region's longest-serving film support initiative. To date, it has supported over 1,000 filmmakers from more than 80 countries, helping create a diverse collective of voices and widening access to resources that independent filmmaking often lacks. Over time, the programme expanded to support filmmakers from Qatar, the Arab world, and internationally, reflecting DFI's commitment to cultural exchange and a more balanced global storytelling landscape.

This sustained investment is visible in the global journeys of DFI-supported films. Across the years, supported projects have earned more than 1,800 selections and 600+ awards at major festivals and ceremonies. These outcomes represent more than recognition. They signal that stories shaped in our region, and in conversation with the Global South, continue to travel, connect, and contribute to film culture worldwide.



Qumra and the craft of development

DFI's development work has also evolved in response to industry change, audience habits, and the shifting realities of production. In 2015, we launched Qumra as a mentorship-driven talent incubator designed to support first- and second-time filmmakers through bespoke guidance and curated industry connections. In the years that followed, we expanded training pathways through initiatives such as Producers Lab and Series Lab, reflecting the growing importance of producing craft and long-form storytelling across platforms.

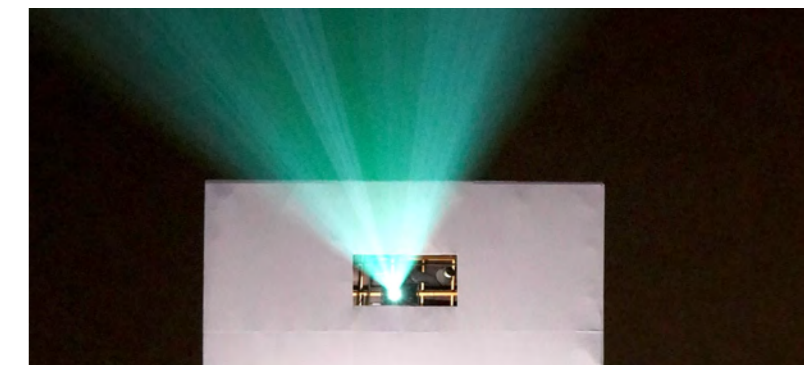


A new chapter

In 2025, this long-term work reached a defining moment with the first edition held under the Doha Film Festival banner. Building on Ajyal's foundation, the festival marked a new chapter in our public-facing platform for cinema and cultural exchange, extending the experience beyond screenings into conversation, music, and city-wide engagement. Alongside the festival's debut, 2025 also reflected continued growth across DFI's year-round work, including record activity in education and training, reinforcing our commitment to long-term capacity building.

Strengthening pathways for important voices

At the heart of these programmes is a consistent commitment to access and opportunity, including for underrepresented voices. DFI's support has helped strengthen women's leadership in filmmaking, with nearly half of DFI-supported projects from the Middle East and North Africa helmed by women. Locally, we continue to build pathways for Qatari and Qatar-based filmmakers through funding, training, and exhibition opportunities that help stories develop, reach audiences, and build lasting careers.



The mission continues...

Fifteen years on, our mission remains unchanged. We exist to support authentic voices, and to create the conditions where those voices can be developed with care, shared with audiences, and carried forward through community.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding opportunity, strengthening collaboration, and ensuring that stories from Qatar, the Arab world, and beyond continue to find their place on screens worldwide.

Training & Development

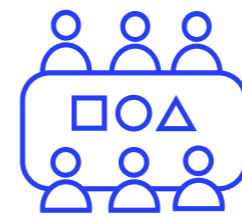


Championing Creative Talent

At Doha Film Institute, we're committed to discovering and nurturing creative talent in Qatar and beyond. Through our training and development programmes, we support aspiring and established filmmakers with opportunities to connect, collaborate and grow in a supportive environment.

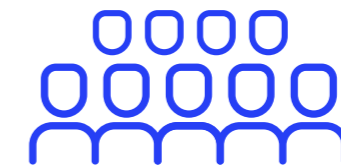
By bringing local talent together with global expertise, we create meaningful exchange between filmmakers and the wider industry, strengthening innovation, professional practice and a shared love of storytelling.

We deliver this through two parallel streams, offering tailored pathways for skills development, constructive feedback and guidance from acclaimed mentors around the world.



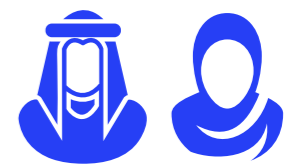
57

Workshops



350+

Participants



38

Qatari Participants



41

Educational Partners



20

Shorts Produced

08.

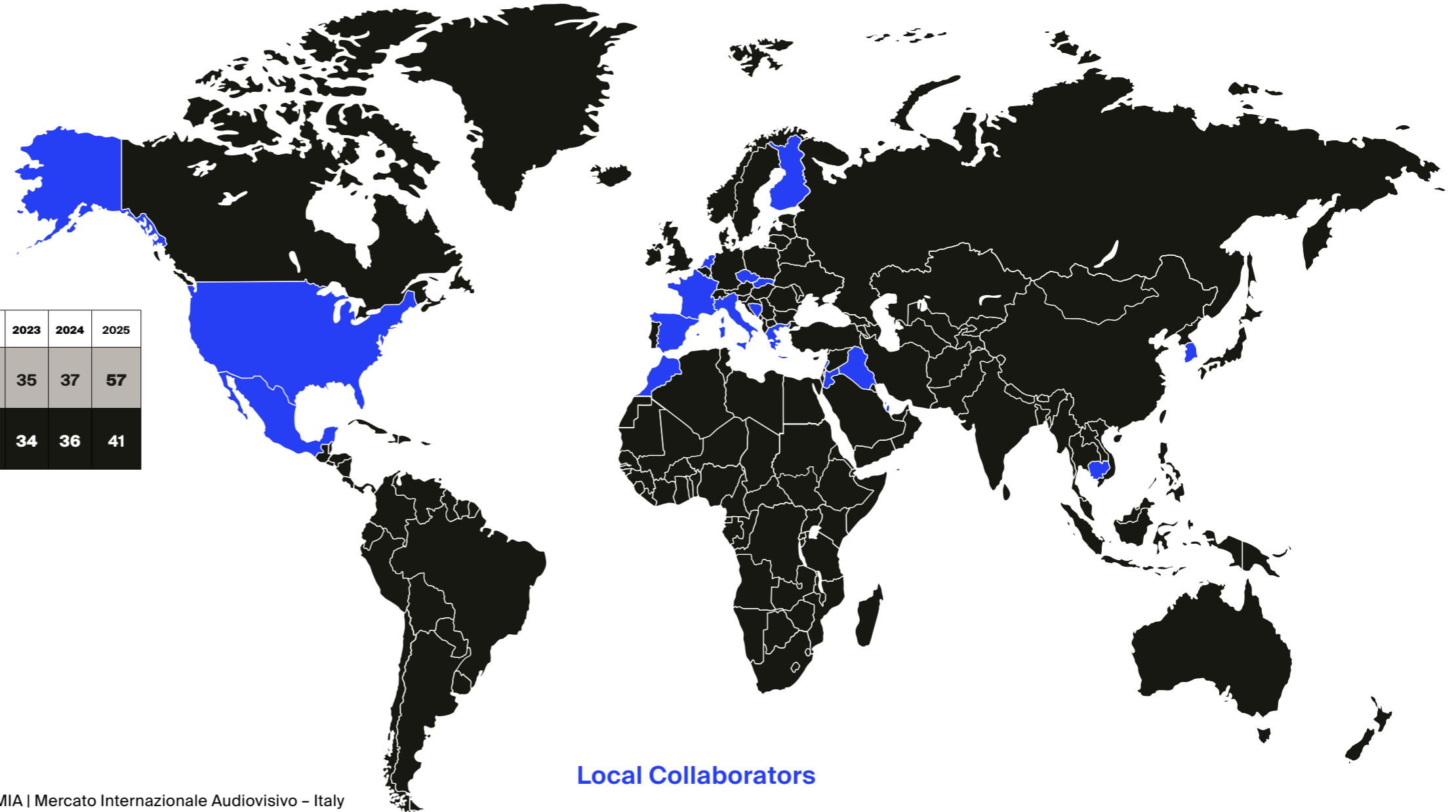
A Record Year for DFI Education

2025 marked a milestone for Doha Film Institute's education and training work. With 41 education partners across Qatar and internationally, we deepened collaboration and delivered 57 workshops, our highest annual total so far in both regards.

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

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
WORKSHOPS	7	12	19	22	31	33	30	38	35	37	57
EDUCATION PARTNERS	8	11	15	15	15	24	24	27	34	36	41

Together with our partners, we're opening more pathways to learning and growth while strengthening DFI's standing as a trusted contributor to filmmaking education worldwide.



International Partners

- Aflamuna – Lebanon
- Atlas Workshops – Morocco
- Baghdad Film Institute – Iraq
- Bophana Center (Documentary Lab) – Cambodia
- Busan Asian Film Academy – South Korea
- Centre Cinématographique Marocain – Morocco
- EAVE (Producers Lab) – Luxembourg
- Film Independent – USA
- First Cut Lab – France
- Giffoni Festival – Italy
- IDFA Academy – The Netherlands
- Jihlava Film Festival – Czech Republic
- La Fémis – France
- Les Gobelins – France
- MIA | Mercato Internazionale Audiovisivo – Italy
- Maskoon Fantastic Lab – Lebanon
- Oxbelly Residency – Greece
- Pedro Costa Lab (Playlab Films) – Spain/Mexico
- Point North – USA
- Point North Institute – USA
- Pop Up Residency – Slovakia
- Raina Films – Finland
- Royal Film Commission of Jordan – Jordan
- Sarajevo Film Festival – Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Series Mania – France
- Short Film Conference – Global
- Sundance Film Institute (Documentary Fund) – USA
- Thessaloniki Film Festival – Greece
- The Gotham (Series Lab) – USA

Local Collaborators

- Al Jazeera Industry Days
- beIN
- Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar
- Education Above All Foundation
- French Embassy in Doha
- Institut Français Qatar
- Katara Studios
- National Museum of Qatar
- Northwestern University in Qatar
- Qatar Foundation
- Qatar National Library
- Qatar University
- Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar

Workshops & Labs

Mentored Skills Development

Our Workshops and Labs sit at the heart of Doha Film Institute's Training & Development Programme, offering aspiring filmmakers focused opportunities to strengthen their skills and refine their craft. These sessions combine theory, demonstrations, and hands-on exercises, providing participants with the comprehensive knowledge needed to excel in every aspect of filmmaking.

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

Toon Boom Certified Training Course: Harmony Foundation for Gaming

3-15 May 2025

A practical course introducing game-related workflows in Toon Boom Harmony, covering interface and tools, character creation, rigging, skinning, animation and pipeline integration in Harmony Premium.

Mentors

Oscar Romero Cerritos – Instructor
Stacey Eberschlag – Mentor

Participants

Abdulrahman Al-Thani (Qatar)
Faisal Alkubaisi (Qatar)
Mostafa Shammkh Abo Qamar (Palestine)
Muayad M. A. Sarsour (Palestine)
N&LS (Qatar)
Reem Mahmoud Alhirthani (Palestine)
Yousef Alghoul (Qatar)

Toon Boom Certified Training Course: Visual Storytelling

17-29 May 2025

An advanced course in storyboards and animatics using Storyboard Pro, including 3D environments and collaboration tools, designed for participants looking to deepen digital storyboarding techniques for production.

Mentors

Kim Bussiahn – Instructional Designer & Visual Storyteller
Stacey Eberschlag – Mentor and Instructor

Participants

Mohammed Al Dosari (Qatar)
Maher Adli Mohammed Salah (Palestine)
Mostafa Shammkh Abo Qamar (Palestine)
Muayad M. A. Sarsour (Palestine)
N&LS (Qatar)
Reem Mahmoud Alhirthani (Palestine)
Sumam Azzam (Iraq)
Ylisha Vinluan (Philippines)
Yousef Alghoul (Qatar)

Watching the Classics with Richard Peña

26 May – 27 October 2025

Cinema of the Global South

A monthly online lecture series inviting filmmakers and cinephiles to deepen their knowledge of film history through close engagement with a world cinema classic each session. Led by Professor Richard Peña (Professor of Film Studies, Columbia University; Director Emeritus, New York Film Festival), the programme places each film in its aesthetic, economic, technological and social/political context—examining directorial approach and the creative choices that shape meaning. This year's series focuses on three regions, China, Africa and India, tracing the roots of each cinema while exploring new directions in the moving image.

Films discussed

- 26 May 2025 – Goddess (1934), Wu Yonggang – China
- 30 June 2025 – Two Stage Sisters (1964), Xie Jin – China
- 28 July 2025 – Suzhou River (2000), Lou Ye – China
- 25 August 2025 – Borom Sarret (1963) and Black Girl (1966), Ousmane Sembene – Senegal
- 29 September 2025 – Yaaba (1989), Idrissa Ouedraogo – Burkina Faso
- 27 October 2025 – Timbuktu (2014), Abderrahmane Sissako – Mali

Toon Boom Certified Training Course: Character Rigging

14–26 June 2025

A foundational rigging course focused on assessing production needs and building standard character rigs using Harmony Premium (nodal systems, deformers, masks and optimised drawing tools).

Mentors

Stacey Eberschlag – Mentor and Instructor
Stephen O'Keeffe – Visionary Artist and Toon Boom Virtuoso

Participants

Ayda Al Mulla (Qatar)
Mohammed Abu Haliqa (Qatar)
Mostafa Shammkh Abo Qamar (Palestine)
Muayad M. A. Sarsour (Palestine)
Nadia Al Majid (Qatar)
N&LS (Qatar)
Yousef Alghoul (Qatar)

First Cut Lab

24 June – 10 October 2025

Our First Cut Lab supported six feature films (fiction/documentary) from Qatar or the MENA region, and one short film from Qatar, at the rough-cut stage. The programme focuses on strengthening the artistic potential of the edit while supporting future festival, sales and circulation pathways.

Producer/director/editor teams screen their full rough cut and receive feedback from international film advisors (including creative producers, festival programmers and sales agents), alongside tailored guidance from an editing consultant through one-to-one sessions and small-group discussions.

Lab mentors

Suzy Gillett – Editorial Advisor
Benjamin Mirguet – Editor Mentor
Sebastian Sepúlveda – Editor Mentor
Qutaiba Barhamji – Editor Mentor

Industry advisors

Features – Bob Moore; Mads K. Mikkelsen; Aranka Matits; Matthew Takata; Selin Murat; Hédi Zardi; Maëlle Guenegues
Shorts – Eddie Bertozzi; Lyse Ishimwe Nsengiyumva; Ben Thompson

Selected films / participants

Chronicles from the Siege – Abdallah Al Khatib (Palestine/Algeria/France) – Feature narrative

Jodari Meno – Jamal Al Khanji (Qatar) – Feature documentary

My Mother & I – Dilpak Majeed (Egypt/Iraq/Qatar) – Feature documentary

The Camera Never Cries – Elsadig Abdelgayoum & Abuzar Adam (Sudan/Qatar/Rwanda/Norway/Germany) – Feature documentary

Yesterday the Eye Didn't Sleep – Rakan Mayasi (Palestine/Lebanon) – Feature narrative

Hidden Journey – Noura Adil (Sudan/Rwanda/Qatar) – Short film

Series Lab

10 July – 15 December 2025

DFI's Series Lab supports screenwriters developing scripted series for all platforms (television, digital and web). Participants develop core materials—pilot/season treatment or script, and a concept presentation—alongside writing and pitching exercises and insight into the global series landscape.

Sessions

Session 1: 10–15 July 2025
Session 2: 11–16 September 2025
Session 3: 9–15 December 2025

Mentors

Ryan O'nan; Joelle Touma; Neerja Narayanan; Paolo Ciccarelli; Gabrielle Capolino; Frédéric Pittoors d'Haveskercke; Marike Muselaers; Ziad Srouji

Selected projects

The Death Well – Zaid BaQaeen (Jordan)

Visions of the After – Ali Hamouch & Toufic El-Khoury (Lebanon)

Tales of the Alhambra – Ahmed Shalaby (Egypt)

Polaroid – Basant Ghonemy (Egypt)

Zahra's Faces – Reem Morsi (Egypt/Canada)

Salem, the Problem Solver – Majd Hijawi (Jordan)

Unforgotten Fathers – Bayan Dahdah (Jordan)

Like a Feather in the Breeze – Sherif Elbendary (Egypt)

Toon Boom Certified Training Course: Digital Animation

17–30 July 2025

An in-person, hands-on course covering the fundamentals of digital animation using Toon Boom Harmony, including an introduction to cutout animation history, core tools and workflows, and the two key techniques supported by Harmony: paperless animation and cutout animation.

Mentor

Stacey Eberschlag – Mentor and Instructor

Participants

Arkin Gabriel Quilacio (Philippines)
Aseel Al-Baker (Qatar)
Mostafa Shammkh Abo Qamar (Palestine)
Muayad M. A. Sarsour (Palestine)
Nadia Al Majid (Qatar)
Naya Costales (Philippines)
Yousef Alghoul (Qatar)



Feature Script Lab

26 July – 17 December 2025

Our Feature Script Lab supports emerging screenwriters and writer-directors to develop and write an original feature-length screenplay through group workshops and one-to-one tutorials, delivered across three online, five-day sessions over six months.

Sessions

Session 1: 26–31 July 2025

Session 2: 20–25 September 2025

Session 3: 11–17 December 2025

Mentors

Raja Amari – Script Consultant / Filmmaker

Ghassan Salhab – Script Consultant / Filmmaker

Selected projects / participants

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

Screenwriting for Beginners Lab (Arabic)

3–7 August 2025

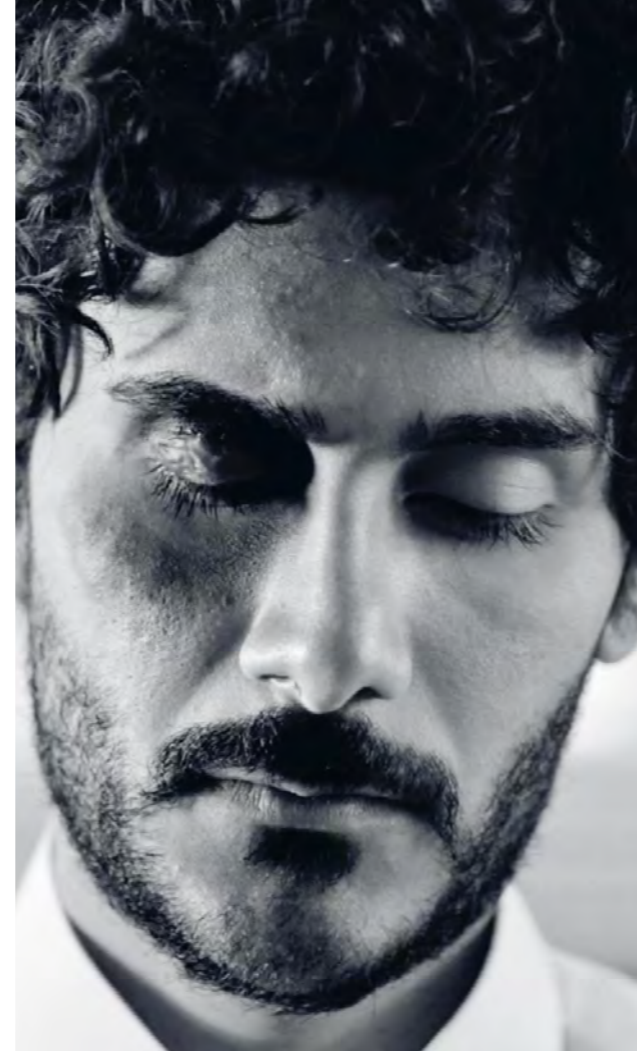
An introductory lab delivered in Arabic for participants taking their first steps into writing for the screen. Through lectures, assignments and group discussion, participants explore screenplay foundations and formatting, including visual grammar and tools such as Celtx and Final Draft. Participants work towards drafting at least one scene, with Qatar-based participants offered pathways for continued consultations and development support.

Mentor

Ayman El Amir

Selected participants

- Abdullellah Alshodokhi (Saudi Arabia)
- Ahmed Mohammed Ali – Meeting at 5PM (Iraq)
- Ali Ahmed Babiker – زرارة (Sudan)
- Anna Eskandar – Kafka in My Bed (Germany/Syria)
- Aseel Ayoub – رُبما النصر خسارة (Jordan)
- Esraa Eid (Egypt)
- Fatima Ahmed – للحياة وجه آخر (Yemen)
- Fatima Al Naemi – Nouria (Qatar)
- George Adel – دياجو (Egypt)
- Hamid Hachelfi (Algeria)
- Marah Kenaneh – مدينتنا (Palestine)
- Mohamed Lafouairas – Aseer Al alam (Morocco)



- Mohammed Kafarna (Palestine)
- Mohanad Diab – حان الآن (Egypt)
- Mosalam Allathiry – Khooyi (Qatar)
- Myssa Al Hinai (Oman)
- Omer Magled (Yemen)
- Reem Saleh Aldosari – ما بعد الاسم (Qatar)
- Saoud Al Kuwari – ظل الغائب (Qatar)
- Shada W A Salhab – مهمة لم تكتمل (Palestine)
- Sherouk Mahmoud – رسالة قديمة (Egypt)
- Tamara Emad – نهر الذكريات المنسية (Iraq)
- Tameem Al Borshid – حياة مثالية (Qatar)
- Wassila Kenai – الخلية ذاكرة أبي (Algeria)
- Weaam Madibo – رنين (Sudan)

Screenwriting for Beginners Lab (English)

28 August – 1 September 2025

A beginner-level lab blending lectures, assignments and discussion to build a foundation in screenwriting. Participants work towards drafting at least one scene, with Qatar-based writers offered continued consultation with the DFI development team.

Mentors

Anthea Devotta

Amna Al-Binali

Selected participants

- Time is a Sword – Adham Garman (Yemen)
- Damascus, Can You Hear Me? – Chérine Yazbeck (Lebanon)
- 1000 Shades of a Black Hijab – Ahmad Hammoud (Lebanon)
- Untitled – Ahmed Abdelsalam (Egypt)
- 35 Days – Zaynab Moukhli (Morocco)
- The Things Waves Do – Ali Zine (Morocco)
- Five Rupees – Bhumika Saraswati (India)
- Naji / Awakening – Mohamed Masoud (Jordan)
- Motho – Flavia Motsisi (South Africa)
- Untitled – Aliaa Adi (The Netherlands)
- Untitled – Nada Tawhid (Egypt)
- Untitled – Ahmed El Hennawy (The Netherlands)
- Khansa's Nouba – Kamir Abbas-Terki (Algeria)
- Untitled – Farah El-Kassis (Lebanon)
- Untitled – Marwah Al-jilani (USA)
- Untitled – Farddina Hussain (India)
- Untitled – Thesia Nurhayati (Indonesia)

Filmmaking Lab with Rithy Panh

September 2025 – September 2026

A year-long lab offering filmmakers the opportunity to work closely with Oscar-nominated documentarian Rithy Panh and engage with his approach to narration. Through work centred on memory, culture and identity, participants explore how personal traditions, community life and oral histories can shape cinematic language—learning how to attend to delicate, fleeting moments and translate them into film with clarity and care.

Lead mentor

Rithy Panh – Documentary Filmmaker

Key dates

Session 1: 8–18 September 2025

Session 2: Mid-January 2026

Session 3: April 2026

Session 4: September 2026

Selected projects / participants

- Child is Father to the Man – Zhengkai Luo & Sol Ye (China) – Feature hybrid documentary
- Holy Feet! – Karim Emara (USA / Egypt) – Short narrative
- Climbing the Mountain – Sabrina Chebbi (France/Algeria) – Feature documentary
- Condemned to Dream – Ashtar Muallem (France/Palestine) – Feature documentary
- Underground – Rafa Renas & Ibrahim Snoopy (Kenya/Sudan) – Short narrative
- 9 Parts of Desire – Ali Al Hajri (Qatar) – Short narrative
- Inside the White Canvas – Amna Al-Binali (Qatar) – Short narrative
- Light to Ashes – Nadia Al Khater (Qatar) – Short narrative

- Disguised Practice – Hamad Al-Fayhani (Qatar) – Short narrative
- In the Bluest Hour – Chiara Brambilla (Italy/Qatar) – Short documentary
- Ghafleh – Tony El Ghazal & Afnan Tag (Lebanon/Qatar) – Short narrative
- Me Are You – Myriam Salloum (Lebanon/Qatar) – Short documentary
- In the Silence After – Sebastian Delascasas (Colombia/Qatar) – Short documentary
- Barjees – Alessandra El Chanti (Lebanon/Qatar) – Short hybrid narrative
- Even Oblivion Remembers – Thissa d'Avila Bensalah (France/Algeria) – Feature documentary
- Lost; Report on Zainab – Aya Abu Falah & Mariam Salim (Iraq / Jordan / UK / Qatar) – Feature documentary
- No Passport in Paradise – Mayar Hamdan & Shaima Al-Tamimi (Palestine / Yemen / Qatar) – Feature documentary
- Everything She Didn't Say – Farah Abada (Algeria) – Feature documentary
- Three Houses – Jeissy Trompiz (Venezuela) – Short documentary
- Let's Play Soldiers – Mariam Al-Dhubhani & Mohammed Al-Jaberi (Yemen/Qatar) – Feature documentary
- Villa 187 – Eiman Mirghani (Sudan/Qatar) – Short documentary



Producers Lab

21–30 October 2025

An intensive programme for local and MENA-based producers to strengthen producing craft in a focused, small-group setting. The lab explores creative, artistic and strategic elements of producing feature-length documentary and fiction films through training exercises, group tutorials, tailored one-to-one meetings and master classes—supporting co-production readiness, professional networks and project development.

Mentors

Jovan Marjanović; Violeta Bava; Dora Bouchoucha; Konstantina Stavrianou; Jana Wehbe; Aranka Matits; Hédi Zardi

Selected projects / participants

- Bayt Rabab – Pedro Hasrouny | Producer: Malu Lins (Lebanon/Brazil)
- Rock, Paper, Sea – Randa Ali & Menna Taher | Producer: Norah Elkhateeb (Egypt)
- My Sister Gaza – Ibrahim Jabaly & Rima Jabaly | Producers: Rita Maria Habib, Mohamed Jabaly (Palestine)
- When Time Dissolves into Silence – Faiçal Benaghrou (Morocco) – Director/Producer
- Ping Pong – Saleh Saadi | Producer: May Jabareen (Palestine)
- Al-Madeeneh 2008 – Yousef Assabahi | Producer: Ala'a Amer (Yemen)
- One Soul in Two Bodies –

- Sahim Omar Kalifa | Producer: Saman Mustafa (Iraq/Kurdistan)
- Chapa 100 – Ique Langa | Producers: Ique Langa, Sousa Domingos (Mozambique)
 - The Flowers of the Dead – Nuno Miranda | Producer: Pedro Soulé (Cabo Verde)

Case studies

- The Brink of Dreams – Nada Riyadh & Ayman El Amir
 Yesterday the Eye Didn't Sleep – Rakan Mayasi

Short Scriptwriting Lab

6–18 December 2025

Designed to support new and emerging screenwriters and writer-directors in developing an original short screenplay with guidance from international mentors. The lab focuses on the fundamentals of dramatic writing—premise, theme, structure, character and story—while encouraging participants to shape a clear authorial voice and a practical understanding of the international short film landscape. Participants are encouraged to develop personal stories that reflect contemporary life across the MENA region and remain feasible for production in Qatar or the wider region. Screenplays developed through the lab may be nominated for production through: Qumra Shorts, Qatari Film Fund, and Production Funding (MENA region).

Selected projects / participants

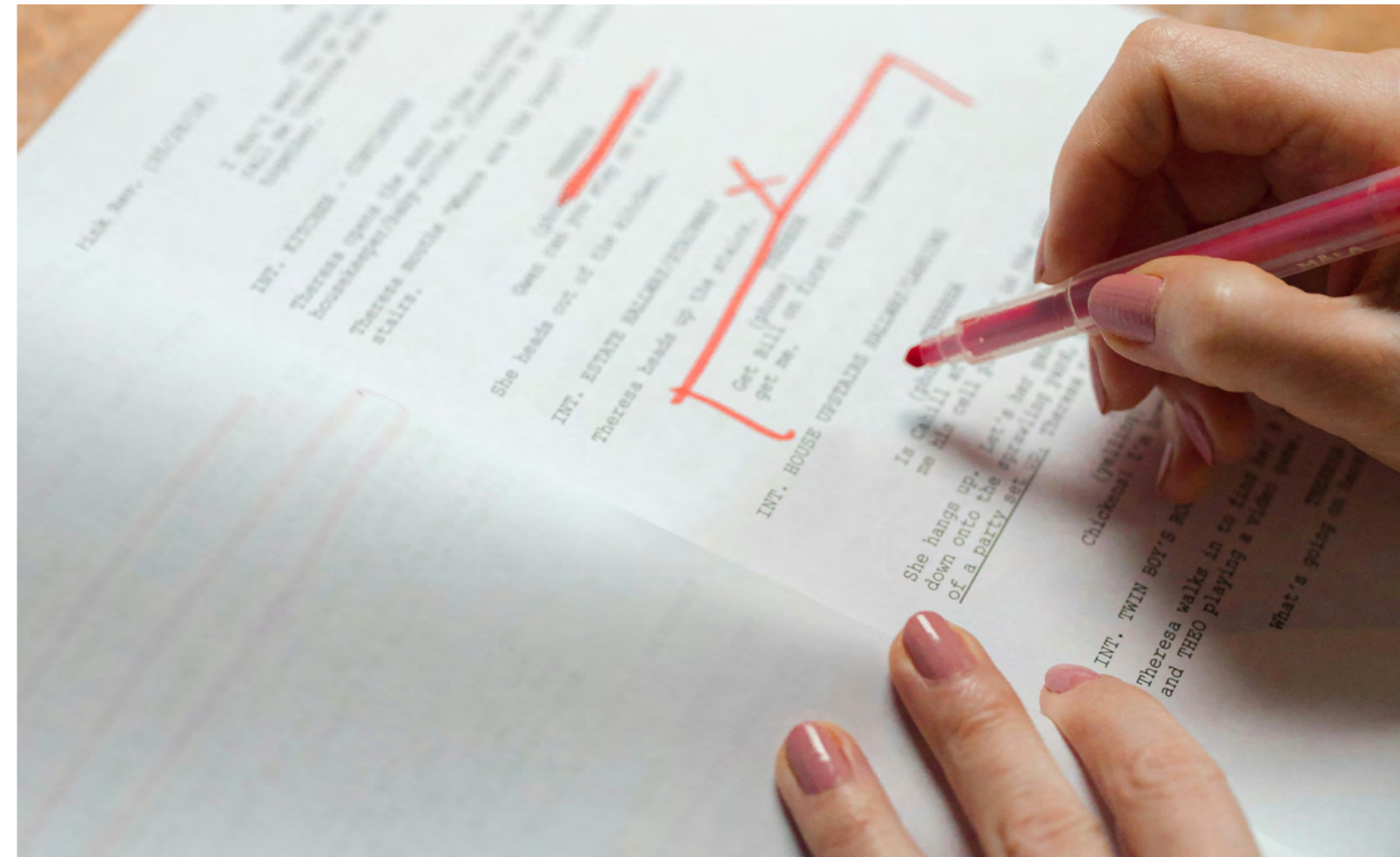
- Maria's Mansion – Nada Alfayez & Raed Alsemari (Saudi Arabia)
- Under the 405 – Meedo Taha (Lebanon)
- Fragments of an Ordinary Day – Zahra Berrada (Morocco)
- Until the Rain Stops – Jihad Hallaq (Palestine/Qatar)
- Akhir El-Saff – Maryam Al-Mohammed (Qatar)
- The Line Between Us – Hind Metwalli (Egypt)
- Bahar – Sogol Rezvani & Fereshteh Parnian (Iran/Qatar)
- The Forgotten Front – Karim Mrabti (Belgium/Morocco/The Netherlands)

Mentors

- Antoine Waked – Script Editor
 Britta Krause – Script Editor
 Celine Roustan – Project Coach

Case studies

- The Gods – Anas Sareen
 I'm Glad You're Dead Now – Tawfeek Barhom
 Ambush – Yassmina Karajah





Internships

A Decade-High for Talent Development Through Internships

Opening Doors for the Next Generation

2025 was a historic year for Doha Film Institute's internship programme. We proudly supported 49 filmmakers, the highest number of interns we've hosted in ten years, with practical, on-the-ground experience in film and television.

By placing learning in real working environments, the programme helps emerging talent turn passion into professional careers. Many of our former interns have since progressed into roles at leading Qatar-based production companies, including Resolution Films, The Edge Picture Company, and The Film House.

A New Vocational Chapter

In 2025, DFI announced a major new step in its long-term education strategy with the launch of specialised vocational training programmes in partnership with two of the world's leading creative schools, La Fémis and Gobelins Paris, developed with the support of Institut Français du Qatar and Qatar Museums.

Designed as hands-on, project-based learning, these programmes expand access to industry-ready education and create alternative pathways for emerging filmmakers, animators and creative professionals, connecting participants with internationally acclaimed faculty and industry practitioners.

Looking ahead to 2026

La Fémis Cinematography Certificate Programme: an intensive four-month programme combining theory, practical exercises, and online and in-person sessions to build a strong foundation in cinematography and the role of the Director of Photography.

Gobelins Paris Animation Certificate Programme: a structured nine-month programme delivered across three modules (workshops in Doha plus online follow-up), guiding participants through core principles of 2D animation and visual storytelling. The programme complements DFI's Toon Boom Certificate to form a fuller learning pathway for animators in the region.



Production

Delivering services that support DFI projects and strengthen Qatar's sector.

In 2025, Doha Film Institute's Production Department continued to strengthen Qatar's film industry by delivering end-to-end production solutions and services. Across the year, the team supported DFI projects while responding to the needs of local filmmakers, businesses, government entities and NGOs.

Working to international standards, DFI Productions delivered high-quality content while embedding education and on-the-job learning opportunities for emerging local talent. Looking ahead to 2026, the department is developing new educational initiatives and capacity-building programmes, aligned with evolving production practices and technologies.



Youth Programmes



Helping young people find their voice

Our Youth Programmes in 2025 continued to open meaningful pathways for young people to connect with cinema as audiences, makers, and future leaders.

Through screenings, workshops, and hands-on training, participants built creative confidence, strengthened critical thinking, and explored storytelling as a tool for self-expression and cultural exchange.

Ajyal Film Club

23 January – 21 June 2025

The Ajyal Film Club offered a six-month programme for young film enthusiasts in Doha, combining curated international screenings with workshops, masterclasses, and guided discussions. The Club welcomed members across three age sections:

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

Programme Highlights

Screenings

Members engaged with a diverse range of world cinema, from animation and coming-of-age stories to documentary and contemporary international features, through titles including 'The Glassworker', 'Dahomey', 'Monsieur Lazhar', and 'Timbuktu'.

Workshops and masterclasses

Sessions centred on how stories are shaped through global citizenship and perspective-building, sensory storytelling, "image theatre", visual language, and craft-focused learning in areas such as VFX and acting.

Youth leadership

Ajyal members took on visible roles across the programme, including moderating Q&As and helping shape a final gathering designed around reflection, community, and shared learning.

10.

Qatar Museums Documentary Filmmaking Workshop

26 January – 26 February 2025

Delivered in a competition format, this workshop introduced high school students (15–18) to the fundamentals of short documentary storytelling using accessible tools and real-world subject matter. Working in school teams, participants developed and produced a 1–3-minute documentary featuring 1–2 museum artefacts, using smartphones and guided sessions that balanced creative development with practical production training.

Programme highlights

- **Skills development:** Film language, documentary structure, and practical production skills delivered through structured sessions, with an emphasis on teamwork and clear storytelling.
- **Creative outcomes:** Each team delivered a completed short documentary within a defined submission window, with winning films selected through a jury process.



Youth Filmmaking Workshop

7 May 2025 – Summer 2026 (ongoing)

This multi-phase workshop supported emerging young filmmakers through a guided process—from development and pre-production in 2025, into production, and onward to post-production continuing into 2026. Participants developed original short films with mentorship and structured milestones designed to build both craft and confidence.

Films developed

- ‘The Stain’ – Yazid Taki
- (Untitled) – Abdullah Imran Qureshi
- ‘The Distance Between Hands’ – Paul Abraham

Game Design Workshop: Create a Board Game Inspired by Mathaf

13 – 26 July 2025

In collaboration with Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, this hands-on workshop invited youth participants (14–17) to explore storytelling beyond the screen—transforming ideas inspired by Mathaf’s architecture, themes, and exhibitions into original board game prototypes. The programme combined concept development, design thinking, prototyping, and presentation skills, culminating in pitch training.

Programme highlights

- **Creative prototyping:** Participants developed complete board game concepts, story, mechanics, design, packaging, and presentation, through ten guided sessions.
- **Professional skills:** The workshop closed with public speaking and pitch training to help participants communicate ideas with clarity and confidence.



Ajyal Moderators Programme – Doha Film Festival

Building on year-round preparation within the Ajyal Film Club, the Ajyal Moderators Programme enabled members to step into public-facing leadership roles during the Doha Film Festival, moderating film discussions and masterclasses with confidence and care.

Training focused on film analysis, critical thinking, public speaking, and discussion facilitation, supporting members to move from structured learning into real-world practice.

This year’s moderators included Mohaq members Joey Naddaf and Yazann Ghandour; Hilal members Sophia Haj Bakri and Mahir Atar; and Bader members Lafan Hasan, Nada El Ali, Mohammed Al-Hitmi, and Sultan Al-Emadi.



The Ajyal Show Podcast

In strategic partnership with Media City Qatar

April – November 2025

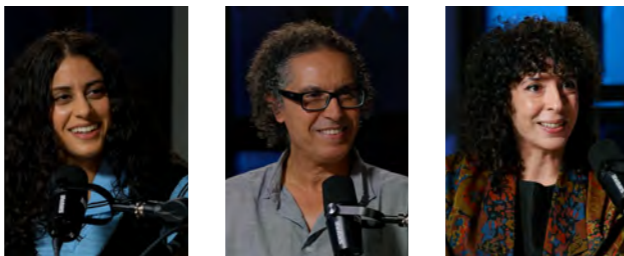
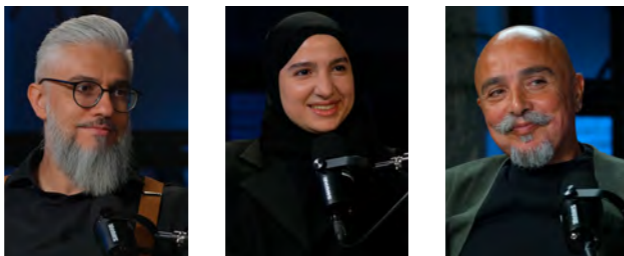
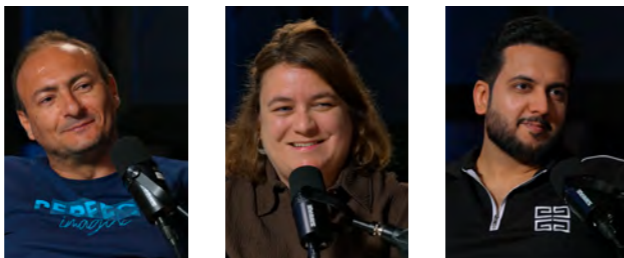
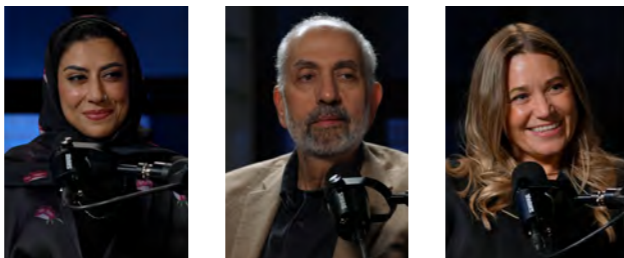
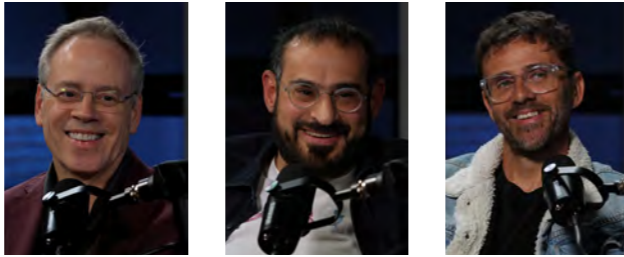
In 2025, The Ajyal Show Podcast continued as a platform for youth-led conversation, spotlighting creative careers, storytelling craft, and the cultural communities shaping Qatar's screen and media landscape.

This season, The Ajyal Show was hosted by Lafan Hasan (@lafanhasan), a Qatar-based content creator, singer, and songwriter whose creative energy and love for storytelling shone through.



Season 2 episodes included

- Episode 1: Reflections on Film with Scott Curtis
- Episode 2: Sound and Story with Falah Hannoun
- Episode 3: From Khamis Mushait to the Big Screen with Jaylan Al-Shehri
- Episode 4: The Leader's Lens: Filmmaking with Joji Al Zaid
- Episode 5: Reclaiming the Narrative with Ibrahim N. Abusharif
- Episode 6: Building Film Sets with Lauren McCarthy
- Episode 7: Lighting on Set with Joseph Riachi
- Episode 8: The Producer's Role with Poppy Clinton
- Episode 9: Visual Effects with Mohammad Zohaib
- Episode 10: Game Development with Fadi Soufi
- Episode 11: Teaching Through Film with Fatima Dauleh
- Episode 12: Authenticity On Set with George Chalouhi
- Episode 13: A Filmmaker's Journey with Nadia Al-Khater
- Episode 14: Documentary Essentials with Chaker Ayadi
- Episode 15: Discipline in Practice with Sarah Kaskas
- Episode 16: Qatar's Pop Culture Community with Abdulla Al-Mosallam



Qumra

4 – 9 April 2025
12 – 14 April 2025 (online)

A Record-Breaking Year

Doha Film Institute presented the 11th edition of Qumra, our flagship talent incubator that advances Arab and international cinema through mentorship-led development and curated industry connections. Across an in-person programme in Doha and an online extension, Qumra brought together filmmakers, mentors and decision-makers to support projects at every stage of the journey, from script to screen.

This year's edition continued to serve as a defining platform for filmmakers to hone their skills, bringing to the world stories that matter to promote a deeper understanding of humanity and our shared values.

As an essential 'Space for New Voices in Cinema', Qumra 2025 welcomed over 250 industry experts from 50 countries, the highest participation to date. Together, they supported 49 projects from 24 countries, including 18 by Qatari and Qatar-based directors, reflecting Qatar's growing film ecosystem and the strength of our year-round development pathways.



49 Projects in Total from 24 Countries
— 37 were DFI Grant Recipients
— 3 were supported by the Qatari Film Fund



18
Projects by local filmmakers



9

by Qatari nationals



1,160+
Total meetings scheduled

700+
In-person meetings



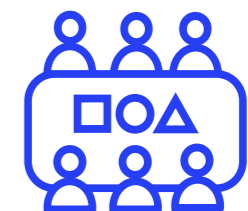
460+
Online meetings



450+
people joined six
Qumra screenings



850+
people took part in five
Qumra Master Classes



11.

Meet the Masters

Learning from cinema's leading voices

Qumra's Masters are cinematic pioneers whose work shapes the language of cinema. In 2025, five internationally recognised luminaries shared practical guidance and hard-won perspective with filmmakers, industry delegates and audiences, reinforcing Qumra's role as a place where emerging storytellers learn directly from masters of craft.

Lav Diaz

Acclaimed slow cinema pioneer and Filipino filmmaker, renowned for his profound explorations of the human condition.



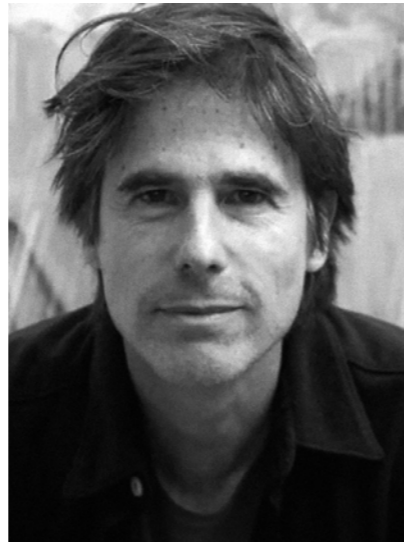
Darius Khondji

Renowned Iranian-French legendary cinematographer.



Walter Salles

Oscar®-winning director and one of filmmaking's most compelling storytellers from Brazil.



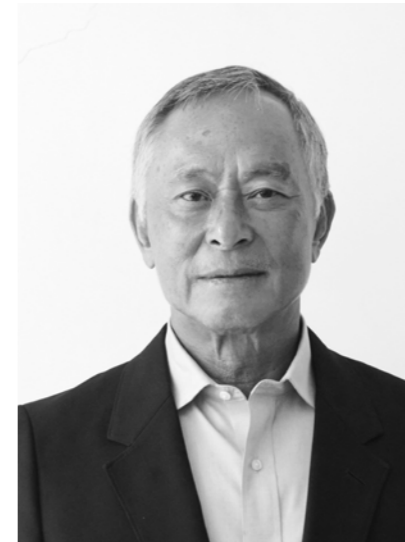
Anna Terrazas

Celebrated costume designer from Mexico, one of the most dynamic in her generation.



Johnnie To

Genre-defying Hong Kong filmmaker and master of gripping narratives.



"The fact that some of the biggest distributors and programmers are present here is something great... especially for young filmmakers."



"The institute is fantastic for filmmakers. I wish we had this in other countries."



"What DFI does is so important. It allows emerging filmmakers to talk about important themes."



"I cannot say more beautiful things about the hospitality of everybody here, and I truly appreciate all the work that the entire team is doing to help develop emerging filmmakers."



"These kinds of events are a very good place to have communication and exchanges."

Qumra Projects

Nurturing Diverse Narratives

Qumra 2025 brought forward a diverse selection of projects from across the Arab world and the Global South, with strong representation from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Supported by Doha Film Institute’s funding and training programmes, the selected teams participated in masterclasses, feedback sessions, roundtables, pitch sessions, and bespoke mentorship, designed to help each project move forward with clarity and confidence.



Reflections on their Journey



49 selected projects from **24** countries



27

Features
(15 Narrative / 12 Documentary)

10

series projects

12

shorts



37

Grant recipients

3

supported through the
Qatari Film Fund



21

projects by alumni
of DFI training
and development
programmes



18

projects by local
filmmakers, including

9

by Qatari filmmakers



“Qumra provides us with valuable relationships for our current and future films. It makes you feel like you are part of a community and has surpassed expectations.”
– **Pablo Perez Lombardini, The Reserve**



“Doha Film Institute helps create buzz and knowledge around our films. I’m very grateful to be here—this beautiful organisation and the quality of people we meet here are impressive.”
– **Helene Harder, Fatna**



“Without an audience, there’s no film. Qumra is helping us get our audience by working to gather distributors, sales agents, and broadcasters, which enables us to reach our audience internationally.”
– **Hamed Zolfaghari, Once Upon a Time in Shiraz**



“I just wanted to write to thank you so much for such a wonderful Qumra, it was truly the best one yet, it was a great experience – inspiring Master Classes, and industry meetings, and all organised brilliantly.”
– **Poppy Clinton, Abu Fanoos / The Pearl**



“A huge thank you for these moments shared together. An enchanted interlude far from the hustle and bustle of the world. Qumra was a privilege thanks to the care and organisation of a whole team.”
– **Safia Kessas, In the Name of Safia**



“I truly hope we meet again in future opportunities, and that more initiatives like this continue to grow in support of filmmakers. There are still many promising voices in cinema that have yet to be heard.”
– **Ahmed Abd, The Sixth Story**

Qumra Industry

The Power of Collaboration

Qumra's impact is built on our dedicated and supportive industry community. In 2025, delegates joined from across the full film and series ecosystem, including festival and market representatives, programmers, consultants, fund managers, sales and acquisitions leaders, distributors, broadcasters and VoD platforms. Many of whom return year after year to empower emerging voices and build long-term relationships with filmmakers.

Mentorship was delivered through matchmaking meetings, one-on-one tutorials, work-in-progress feedback sessions, pitching, and roundtables, supporting projects with both creative development and business strategy, from financing and co-production through to positioning, festival pathways, and distribution planning.

Mentors and Consultants

Expert Perspectives

Project mentors included Elia Suleiman, Rithy Panh, Annemarie Jacir, Ghassan Salhab, Kamal Aljafari, Tala Hadid, and Talal Derki, alongside an international cohort of feature, series, and shorts consultants.

Industry Presence

A Global Gathering

- **Festival representatives** from 40+ events, including Cannes, Sundance, Venice, Tribeca, Rotterdam (IFFR), Locarno and more
- **Sales and distribution** firms, including mk2, Memento International, Mediawan, Luxbox, Films Boutique, and regional leaders
- **Funds and institutes**, including CNC, Eurimages, Sundance Institute, Film Independent and others
- **Streamers and broadcasters**, including Arte France, HBO Max, MBC, Mubi, OSN, TOD, Shahid, TRT, Al Jazeera Media Network and more

Qumra Industry Quotes



“Beyond giving feedback on the projects and supporting the producers and directors I met, I also learned a lot myself. It gave me hope and real optimism for the future, especially seeing the amazing platform that Qumra provides and the inspiring work DFI is doing.”

– **Jiries Copti, Fresco Films Company**



“This event is, for me, an unmissable opportunity to discover the best projects in the region, identify those to follow, and support emerging talents. The organisation of Qumra, along with the intimate and welcoming atmosphere you have created, was truly conducive to meaningful meetings and constructive exchanges. During this edition, I also had the opportunity to share my experiences with young filmmakers eager for feedback and recognition while offering them advice for their projects.”

– **Lamia Chraïbi, La Prod**



“In the global map of meetings and forums dedicated to cinema, Qumra stands out year after year for its rare and courageous programming, highly stimulating professional meetings, and screenings and masterclasses that can only be seen in Doha. Through your work, your openness to new cinematographic writing, and the quality of your guests, you are the vibrant heart of cinema in our region and around the world.”

– **Reda Benjelloun, TV 2M**



“This was my first Qumra, and I must say I was impressed with the quality and diversity of the ideas, as well as how thoughtfully they were presented. The range of industry attendees was also impressive, and hearing their feedback on the regional projects added a valuable perspective.”

– **Mariam Naoum, Sard Writers' Room**



“The work I do with you and the project teams is the one that gives me the greatest sense of openness and enriches me the most among all the roles I have in my professional life. Perhaps it's because working in the region means questioning oneself more and embracing many different points of view, or because it allows us to step out of the routine and repetitiveness of Western/European markets. Maybe it's because you make us feel part of a family, beyond simply being professionals sharing competencies and expertise.”

– **Paolo Ciccarelli, MIA|Mercato Internazionale Audiovisivo**



“From the bottom of my heart, this entire year was such a fantastic experience. The projects were the strongest ever, and the creators were wonderful to work with. I feel very lucky to have been a part of their growth.”

– **Ryan O'Nan, TV Writer and Actor**



Qumra Programme

A Holistic Approach

Qumra 2025 ran in two parts (4–9 April in person and 12–14 April online) with mentorship delivered through tutorials and consultations for projects in development, and work-in-progress screenings and feedback sessions for projects in post-production. This structure supported the full lifecycle of filmmaking while also creating pathways to VoD and online platforms as part of the project strategy and audience growth.

Two-track mentorship model

- **Projects in development:** tutorials, consultations, and one-to-one meetings focused on storytelling, directing, editing, cinematography and sound, alongside tailored business guidance on financing, co-production, marketing, positioning, festival strategy, distribution, pitching and matchmaking.
- **Projects in post-production:** specialist sessions across editing, sound, sales, VoD, distribution, marketing/packaging and festival strategy, plus closed work-in-progress screenings.

Working Breakfasts

Moderated discussions and feedback sessions with labs, festivals, financiers, distributors, sales and VoD platforms.

Industry screenings and feedback

- **20-minute extracts** from feature projects in final post-production stages were shown in closed rough-cut screenings to festival programmers, broadcasters, sales agents, distributors, funds and VoD platforms.
- **Shorts Feedback Panels** provided immediate, personalised input on **six shorts** in post-production.

Structured in-person schedule

- **4–7 April:** Individual tutorials; feature post-production feedback panels for festival representatives.
- **7–9 April:** Match Made meetings with producers, markets and funds; feedback panels with sales agents and distributors.

Qumra Online extension

12–14 April programme with access through 7–15 April

Industry screenings via **Festival Scope**, online series pitch, roundtables, shorts feedback panels, online tutorials and Match Made meetings.



Engaging the Community

The Qumra Pass Experience

The public could access the full Qumra experience with a Qumra Pass, which included Master Classes led by internationally renowned filmmakers and Qumra Screenings.



Qumra Screenings

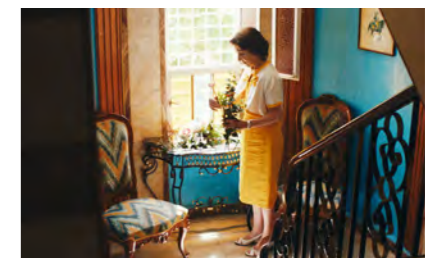
This year, Qumra was honoured to share six remarkable feature-length films from the region and beyond. Each film was supported by Doha Film Institute, underscoring the Institute's commitment to promoting important creative voices from around the world.



East of Noon
Hala Alkoussy



Demba
Mamadou Dia



Moondove
Karim Kassem



Rising Up at Night
Nelson Makengo



MA - Cry of Silence
The Maw Naing



Red Path
Lotfi Achour

Connecting with the World

Our integrated communications and marketing strategies captured the attention of the international film community on a scale never seen before.

Communications

The 2025 edition of Qumra captured attention at scale, delivering strong communications performance that supported global awareness of the programme and its filmmakers.

Total reach: **87,519,045**

Total circulation: **6,190,000**

478 pieces of coverage

Ad. value (QAR): **6,116,419**

Perceived value (QAR): **19,459,001**

Marketing

The Qumra Marketing campaign targeted audiences in Qatar, GCC, MENA, and Europe, utilising social media channels, video platforms, and online display ads. The campaign achieved the highest video views for Qumra to date.

9.9 Million Total Impressions

5.7 Million Total Reach

1.7 Million Video Views

143,188 Link Clicks



A Defining Year for Qumra

Qumra 2025 saw the highest participation of industry experts to date and record-breaking social media engagement, reaffirming its position as a unique incubator for cinema. Grounded in mentorship and meaningful industry access, the programme continues to champion emerging voices, supporting their projects as they move towards completion and global visibility.

Doha Film Festival



20 – 28 November 2025

2025 marked the first festival held under the “Doha Film Festival” banner, repositioning it as a more ambitious, internationally oriented event. DFF became a vibrant meeting point for cinema lovers and a platform for powerful stories through film, conversation, music, Geekdom, and public experiences.

DFF 2025 transformed iconic locations across Doha, including Katara Cultural Village, Msheireb Downtown Doha, Lusail, and the Museum of Islamic Art, into hubs of cultural exchange, bringing filmmakers, storytellers, and audiences together to reaffirm art’s power to inspire, unite, and deepen shared understanding.

Beyond the screenings, the festival expanded its scope with DFF Music, Industry Days, and the return of Geekdom, creating a dynamic platform for dialogue, creativity, and community engagement.

Through this new framework, DFI is building a sustainable, internationally recognised cultural asset that strengthens Qatar’s soft power, creative economy, tourism and cultural infrastructure, signalling a long-term commitment to Doha as a global festival destination.

97 Films. 62 Countries. One Festival.

The Doha Film Festival programme brought together bold new voices and acclaimed filmmakers from around the world.

A curated selection of features and shorts sparked dialogue, broadened perspectives and connected audiences through cinema.

97

Films

33

Features

64

Shorts

24

DFI-supported titles

48

films by women filmmakers

62

countries

1,600+

short submissions

4

world premieres

49

MENA premieres

\$300,000+

in prizes

12.

A Curated Programme of Compelling Cinema

DFF's programme combined competition titles and special strands, championing new talent and distinctive storytelling. Across four official competitions, DFF celebrated excellence through \$300,000+ in awards and recognition by international experts, young jurors and audiences.

Beyond the competitions, out-of-competition programming expanded access and formats from Gala Screenings and open-air experiences (Cinema Under the Stars / Cinema by the Sea) to Inclusive Screenings, Bariq & Cine-Concert, Year of Culture (Argentina & Chile) shorts, and youth and school programmes.

- **International Feature Film Competition**
- **International Short Film Competition**
- **Ajyal Film Competition**
- **Made in Qatar**

A Powerfully Affecting Opening Night

The Voice of Hind Rajab

Doha Film Festival 2025 opened with a powerful cinematic statement screening 'The Voice of Hind Rajab' by Kaouther Ben Hania. The film set a poignant tone for the festival, resonating deeply with the event's commitment to amplifying silenced voices.

Distinguished guests, including cast members and representatives from the Palestine Red Crescent Society, joined to mark a powerfully meaningful start to this new chapter for the festival.

The evening welcomed dignitaries and creative leaders, including H.E. Sheikha Al-Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, who presented the Creative Excellence Award to Jamal Soliman and Golshifteh Farahani for their outstanding artistic contributions.



Industry Programme

Ideas, Collaboration, Impact

DFF's industry programme brought together film professionals, educators, students, emerging talent and cultural leaders to explore the future of filmmaking, locally, regionally and globally.

- **Industry Days**, presented by the Film Committee at Media City Qatar in collaboration with Doha Film Institute, created space for discussion on innovation in storytelling and Qatar's growth as a regional hub championing new voices from the region and the Global South.

- **Made in Qatar Shabab** reinforced DFI's commitment to nurturing emerging local talent, combining short film screenings with hands-on masterclasses and open conversations on craft and pathways for development.
- **The Film Education Summit** convened film schools, labs, producers and cultural institutions from the Arab world and the Global South to rethink film education and develop practical learning models for emerging filmmakers, prioritising exchange, vocational collaborations and long-term learning pathways.

The industry programme also spotlighted regional partnerships through The StoryLab Pitch, organised with Filmlab Palestine, offering projects international exposure and reinforcing the value of investing in youth cinema across the Arab region.

DFF Talks

Ideas, Art and Resistance

DFF Talks brought audiences face-to-face with filmmakers, artists, cultural leaders and activists shaping our world. Across talks and film panels, conversations explored themes including resistance, film heritage, self-expression and reframing perception. Creating a space for thoughtful public dialogue as part of the festival experience.

- **Voices of Resistance:** A panel on activism and journalism featuring Ahmed Shihab-Eldin.
- **The Stories We Tell Ourselves:** A conversation with comedians and creators Ramy Youssef and Mo Amer.
- **Identity in Song:** Exploring music as self-expression with artists like Yasiin Bey and Nemahsis.



DFF Music

The Sound of the Festival

DFF introduced a new music programme designed to connect film, music, and cultural exchange, bringing emerging and established artists together in Doha. Across three strands: Roots, Headliners and Scoring, the programme deepened appreciation for sound as a storytelling force and cultural bridge.

- **Roots** spotlighted emerging voices from the region and beyond, inviting audiences to explore the soundscapes shaping today's cultural heartbeat.
- **Headliners** featured acclaimed regional and international artists whose live performances transcend borders.
- **Scoring** explored the intersection of film and music, highlighting how composition transforms cinema through live performance.



Ajyal at DFF

407 Jurors

The Ajyal spirit remained at the heart of the festival, empowering youth through two distinct experiences: the Ajyal Jury and the Ajyal Film Club.

- **Ajyal Jury (Ages 16–25):** 181 jurors watched, discussed, and voted on international films, engaging in masterclasses and talks that explored cinema as a medium for social change.
- **Ajyal Film Club (Ages 8–15):** Comprising the **Mohaq** (8–11) and **Hilal** (12–15) groups, 226 younger jurors embarked on a guided journey through curated screenings and creative conversations.

This unique platform allowed youth to connect with peers and filmmakers from around the world, fostering empathy and independent thinking.

Honouring the Winners

DFF recognised achievement across its competition programmes at the Closing Ceremony, through juried awards as well as audience-driven recognition.

Award categories across competitions reflected the festival's commitment to artistic excellence, impactful storytelling and talent development, both locally and internationally.

International Feature Film Competition

- **Special Mention:** 'The Reserve' – Pablo Pérez Lombardini
- **Best Performance Award:** Majd Eid and Nader Abd Alhay ('Once Upon a Time in Gaza')
- **Best Artistic Achievement:** Kamal Aljafari ('With Hasan in Gaza') and Chie Hayakawa ('Renoir')
- **Best Documentary:** 'My Father and Qaddafi' – Jihan
- **Best Narrative:** 'Sleepless City' – Guillermo Galoe

Closing Ceremony

The festival concludes, but the stories continue ...

DFF announced the winners of its competition programmes at the Closing Ceremony following a week of screenings, conversations and public events. The ceremony welcomed senior leaders and partners, and was hosted by Sudanese filmmaker and presenter Amjad Al Noor and Syrian-American comedian Nasser Al-Rayas. Filmmakers and cultural figures in attendance included Saleh Bakri, Kamal Aljafari, Misan Harriman, Elia Suleiman, Brigitte Lacombe, Rithy Panh and Dhafer L'Abidine, among others.

International Short Film Competition

- **Special Mention:** 'L'Mina' – Randa Maaroufi
- **Special Mention for Performance:** Ammar Ahmed ('Zizou')
- **Best Performance:** Milica Janevski ('Upon Sunrise')
- **Best Director:** Aria Sánchez and Marina Meira ('Primary Education')
- **Best Film:** 'Samba Infinito' – Leonardo Martinelli

Made in Qatar

- **Special Mention:** 'Project Aisha' – Fahad Al-Nahdi
- **Abdulaziz Jassim Award for Performance:** Rashid Al Sheeb ('Fahad the Furious')
- **Best Director:** Eiman Mirghani ('Villa 187')
- **Best Film:** 'Fahad the Furious' – Justin Kramer

Ajyal Film Competition

- **Best Feature:** 'The Voice of Hind Rajab' – Kaouther Ben Hania
- **Best Short:** 'Sulaimani' – Vinnie Ann Bose

Audience Award

- **Audience Award:** 'Cotton Queen' – Suzannah Mirghani

The StoryLab Pitch

- **Award winner:** 'Whispers from the Other Side' (Egypt)



Communications and Marketing

How We Connected with New Audiences

The DFF 2025 campaign successfully introduced the festival's new identity, achieving widespread visibility across the GCC and beyond.

Reached **10M+ people** across the GCC, delivering **163M+ impressions, 87M+ views** and **1M+ clicks**

Key Highlights

- **1M+ clicks;** Qatar + KSA delivered **96% of total clicks**
- Meta + TikTok: **73M+ views**
- Creator content: **592K+ views** from 11 posts
- Instagram Reels led discovery: **344K views | 248K reach**
- **13.5M+ video views** indicate programmatic ads played a major role in awareness and interest, supporting ticket sales

Visibility Across the City

The campaign delivered strong visibility in Qatar through a mix of digital OOH, malls, transit, and cinema across Msheireb, West Bay, Al Waab, and the Pearl; malls including MOQ, Vendôme, Villaggio, and others; and bus, tram, metro, and cinema ads (Novo & VOX).



The Reviews Are In...



“Festivals today are more important than ever... I hope the Doha Film Festival becomes a pivotal platform for supporting cinema in the Gulf.”

– **Jassim Al Nabhan, Actor**



“It’s not just a festival, it’s a vision and it genuinely shines as a reference point. We really hope this is only the beginning.”

– **Federica Paniccia, Producer**



“This genuinely felt like a centre that we Arabs and Arabs of the diaspora have been starving for... It felt like it was ours, and that was powerful and empowering.”

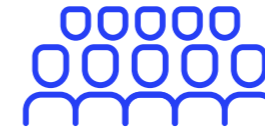
– **Faris Alrjoob, Director**



Geekdom

Creators, Community, Culture

18 – 22 November 2025 | Geekdom Building, Lusail Boulevard



12,600+

Visitors



65+

(28 artists | 30 sellers)
Exhibitors

Geekdom returned as Qatar's largest pop-culture celebration, drawing over 12,600 visitors to Lusail Boulevard for five days of immersive creativity. The 2025 edition served as a vital community hub, bringing together gamers, cosplayers, artists, and storytellers to celebrate fandom in all its forms.

The Core

At the heart of the event was "The Core" a dedicated zone for competitive and casual gaming. The Gamers District hosted epic esports tournaments with a total prize pool of over 85,000 QAR, attracting top regional talent.

Beyond the screens, visitors engaged with the Board Game Arena and tested their wits in the Exit Code 71 escape room, offering physical challenges alongside digital ones.

Community & Commerce

The event also championed the local creative economy through the Artist Alley, where 28 independent artists and 30 vendors showcased unique illustrations, merchandise, and crafts, directly connecting creators with their audience.

The Pulse

The live entertainment programme was anchored by The Pulse stage, featuring talks, performances, screenings, and special appearances from leading creative figures across gaming, animation, music, cosplay, and pop culture. Highlights included:

- **Cosplay Competitions:** A vibrant showcase of craftsmanship where fans competed for over 20,000 QAR in prizes.
- **Guest Appearances:** International and regional guests connected with fans through conversations, meet-and-greets, and creative showcases. Guests included Japanese composer Akira Yamaoka of 'Silent Hill', voice actor Kazuki Yao of 'One Piece', digital creator Abir El Saghir, animator and art director Mehdi Aouchichaoui, whose work spans titles including 'One Piece', 'Dragon Ball' and 'My Hero Academia', artist David Angelo Roman, known for his work on 'Rick and Morty' and projects including 'Star Wars' and 'The Walking Dead', board game designer Steven Medway, creator of 'Blood on the Clocktower', and cosplayer and influencer Zyad Emad.
- **A special concert collaboration:** with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, blending iconic scores from anime and video games with live symphonic performance.



13.

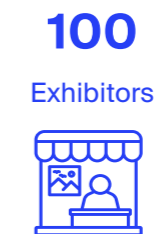
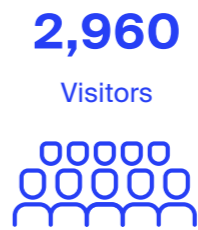
Geekend

A record year at the heart of Qatar's pop-culture community

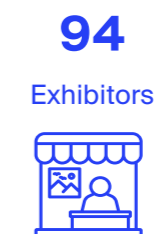
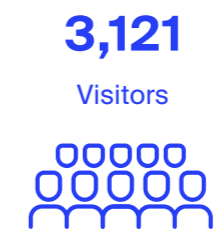
In 2025, Geekend continued to grow as Doha Film Institute's pop-culture platform, bringing artists, gamers, creators and fans together in a space shaped by imagination, craft and community. Hosted at the Geekdom Building on Lusail Boulevard, Geekend returned with two vibrant editions that combined a thriving marketplace with interactive experiences and a lively stage programme.

2025 marked a record-breaking year for Geekend, with an average attendance of over 3,000 visitors per edition and an average of 95+ exhibitors, highlighting Geekend's ever-growing presence and its integral role at the very heart of Qatar's pop-culture community.

Geekend February
6 – 8 February



Geekend May
22 – 24 May



14.



The home of creators, gamers and fans.

Across both editions, Geekend offered a dynamic mix of activity designed to support creative micro-businesses, spotlight local talent, and keep Qatar's pop-culture community connected throughout the year.

Highlights included:

- **Geekend Market:** a curated showcase for artists, vendors and independent creators.
- **Interactive experiences:** including immersive activations and gaming zones that invite participation and friendly competition.
- **Stage programme and live moments:** a shared space for performance, community-led programming and celebration.

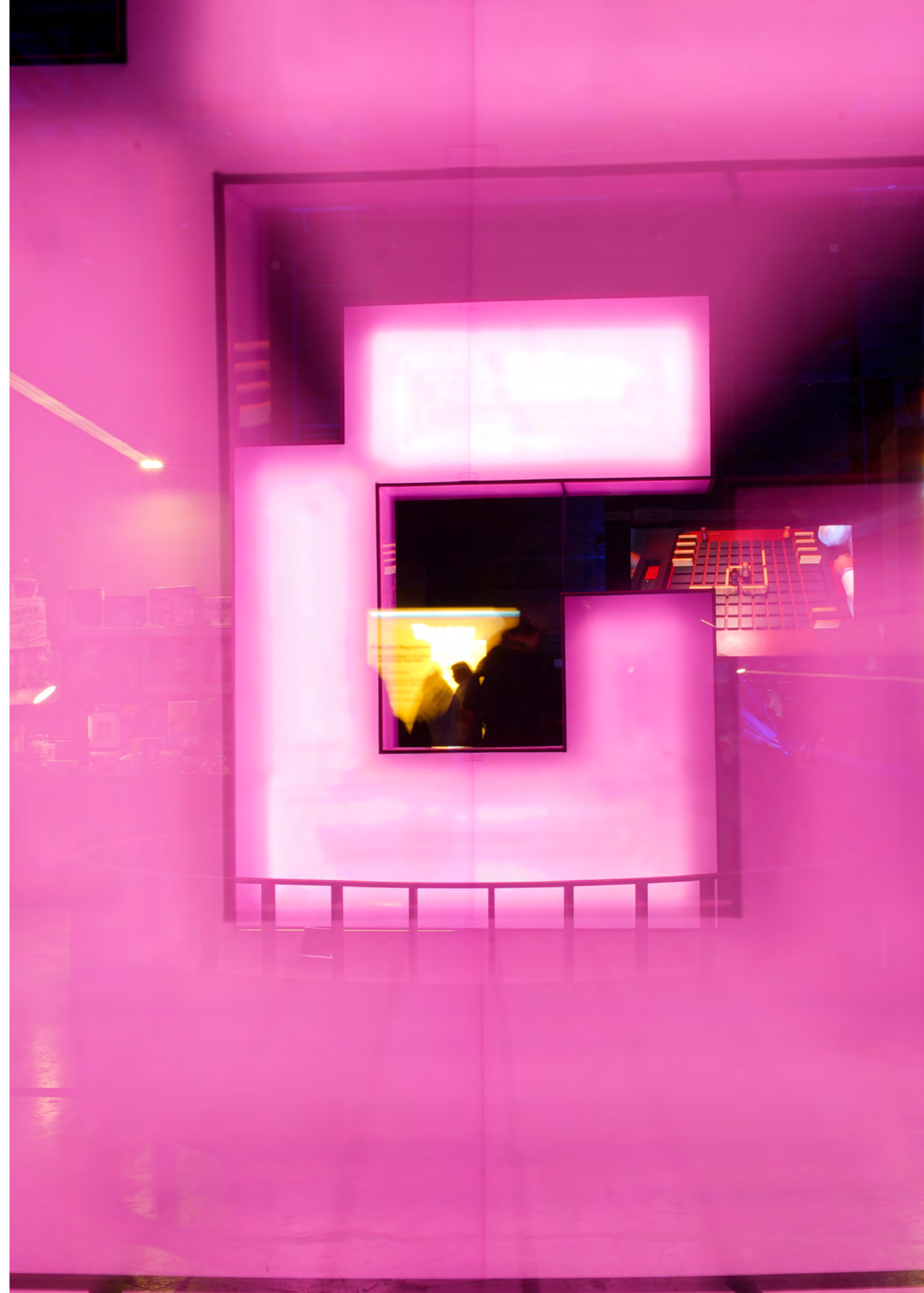


A platform for participation and collaboration

Geekend's growth in 2025 reflects more than rising numbers. It points to a community that's growing in confidence, visibility and connection. Across both editions, Geekend offered creators a platform to share their work, test ideas and build momentum, while giving audiences a welcoming space to discover, participate and be inspired.



With strong exhibitor engagement and record attendance, Geekend continues to strengthen its role as a vital meeting point for Qatar's cultural and creative industries. A place where creativity is shared, collaborations begin, and community is built.



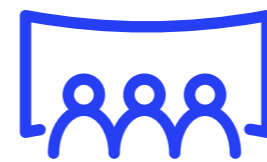
Film Programming



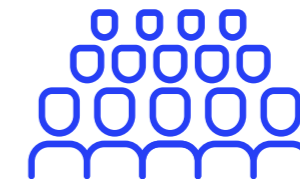
Year-Round Stories on Screen

At Doha Film Institute, we continue to curate year-round screenings that bring exceptional storytelling to audiences across Qatar. From bold contemporary releases and cultural exchange programmes to community outdoor cinema and local showcases, our film calendar in 2025 created welcoming spaces to discover new perspectives, connect through shared experiences, and celebrate the craft of cinema.

In 2025, our non-festival programming reached audiences through partnerships and venues across Doha, strengthening access to independent cinema and ensuring film remains part of the city's cultural offerings throughout the year.



56
Screenings



5,800+
Attendance

15.

The Best of Independent Cinema with DFI at VOX

In 2025, DFI continued its partnership with VOX Cinemas Qatar, bringing acclaimed independent films to multiplex audiences—championing bold voices and original storytelling on commercial screens.

- **30 January 2025** – Hounds (Les Meutes) (Morocco), Kamal Lazraq – VOX Cinemas
- **1 May 2025** – Songs of Adam (Arab World) – VOX Cinemas
- **26–28 June 2025** – Thank You for Banking with Us (Palestine), Laila Abbas – VOX Cinemas

Made in Qatar

Our Made in Qatar showcases remained a cornerstone of our year-round programme, creating a platform for Qatari and Qatar-based filmmakers to share their work with wider audiences and increasing the visibility of local storytelling across venues.

VOX Cinemas, Doha Oasis Mall | February 2025

A two-night showcase spotlighting a range of local voices across genre and form.

Qatar Museums Gallery – Al Riwaq | 25 December 2025

A National Day-aligned programme celebrating local stories, heritage, crafts, and community—featuring titles including:

- Al Muqana3 (2012) – Tarek Abu-Esber
- Treasures of the Past (2017) – Rawan Al Nassiri & Nada Bedair
- Kashta (2016) – A.J. Al Thani
- Khurshid (2017)



DFI Cinema at the Museum of Islamic Art

The Museum of Islamic Art Auditorium continued to host DFI's curated cinema series, presenting award-winning titles, filmmaker-focused spotlights, and programmes that deepen cultural exchange through film.

Social Scenes: Contemporary Argentine & Chilean Cinema

Museum of Islamic Art Auditorium | May 2025

Presented as part of the Qatar–Argentina and Chile 2025 Year of Culture, this programme brought South American voices into conversation with audiences in Doha through films shaped by memory, justice, identity, and social change.

- **5 May** – 1976 – Manuela Martelli
- **6 May** – The Eternal Memory – Maite Alberdi
- **8 May** – Puán – María Alché & Benjamín Naishtat
- **9 May** – Joel – Carlos Sorin
- **10 May** – The Dog Who Wouldn't Be Quiet – Ana Katz

Contemporary Releases and Global Cinema

A year-round sequence of contemporary films and standout festival titles, including:

- **15–17 June 2025** – The Mother of All Lies (Asmae El Moudir), The Lebanese Rocket Society (Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige), Chasing the Dazzling Light (Yaser Kassab)
- **19 July 2025** – Regretfully at Dawn – Sivaroj Kongsakul

'Your Ghosts Are Mine' Screenings

July–August 2025 | Museum of Islamic Art Auditorium

A curated selection connected to the exhibition Your Ghosts Are Mine: Expanded Cinemas, Amplified Voices, highlighting artists and filmmakers exploring community life, memory, and transnational experience.

- **2 July** – Faya Dayi – Jessica Beshir
- **3 July** – The Dam – Ali Cherri
- **4 July** – Monisme – Riar Rizaldi
- **6 August** – Freedom Fields – Naziha Arebi
- **7 August** – Disappearance – Ali Asgari
- **8 August** – Banel & Adama – Ramata-Toulaye Sy
- **9 August** – Short Film Programme

Decades of Arab–Latin Cinema

22–27 September 2025 |

Museum of Islamic Art Auditorium

A programme exploring Arab–Latin American encounters on screen—tracing shared histories of migration, resilience, and cultural exchange, and reaffirming cinema's role as a bridge between communities.

Cinema Under the Stars

DFI's open-air screenings continued to activate public spaces, welcoming families and communities to experience cinema together under the night sky at MIA Park, West Bay Beach, and partner locations across the city.

Spring screenings (in partnership with QIFF)

Qanat Quartier, The Pearl-Qatar | March 2025

- Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs
- Ponyo

Autumn return

MIA Park | 3–5 October 2025

- Happy Feet
- Rio
- Lily Topples the World

DFI's Shared Table Screening Series

MIA Park & West Bay Beach | 6–8 November 2025

Presented alongside the exhibition A Seat at the Table: Food & Feasting in the Islamic World, celebrating imagination and hope through:

- Spirited Away
- The Breadwinner
- Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory

Beneath the Latin Moon

MIA Park & West Bay Beach | 13–15 November 2025

Part of the Qatar–Argentina and Chile Year of Culture, with family-friendly animated films:

- The Unbeatables (Metegol)
- Turu, the Wacky Hen
- Boy and the World

Funding & Grants

Support to take authentic stories further

Funding

Backing talent from Qatar and beyond

At Doha Film Institute, we support compelling creative projects led by diverse voices. By helping filmmakers bring their unique stories to the screen, we contribute to a more balanced and inclusive global cinematic landscape.

Through our Grants Programme, Qatari Film Fund, and co-financing opportunities, we provide essential resources for emerging and established filmmakers. Our focus is to nurture original ideas so they can be fully realised as meaningful films that connect with viewers worldwide.



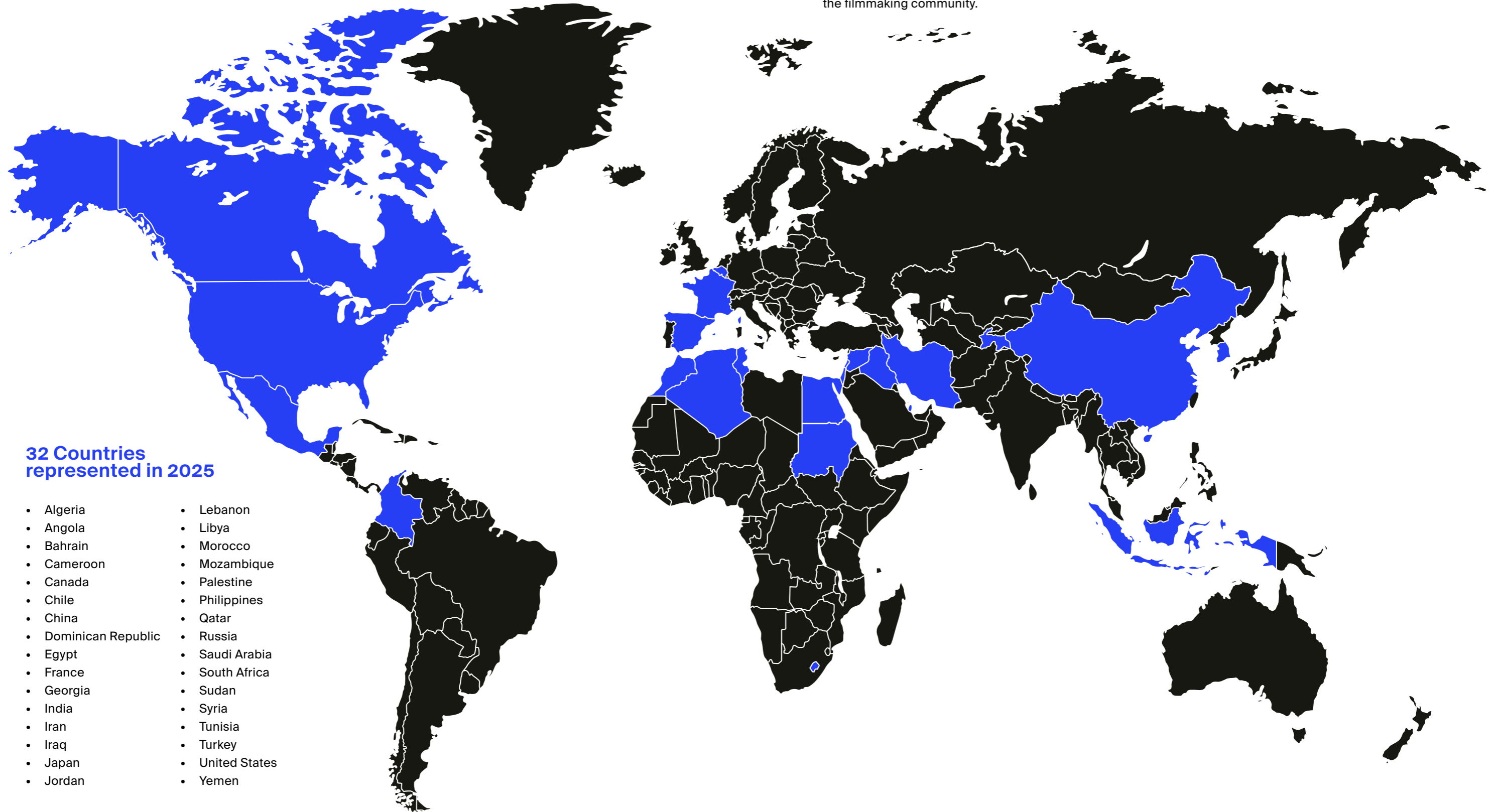
Grants

Resources and support to help promising projects progress

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

DFI creates opportunities for grantees to connect, reflect, and grow through programmes and events such as Qumra and DFF. We help ensure these experiences become a springboard to international festivals, reaching audiences around the world.

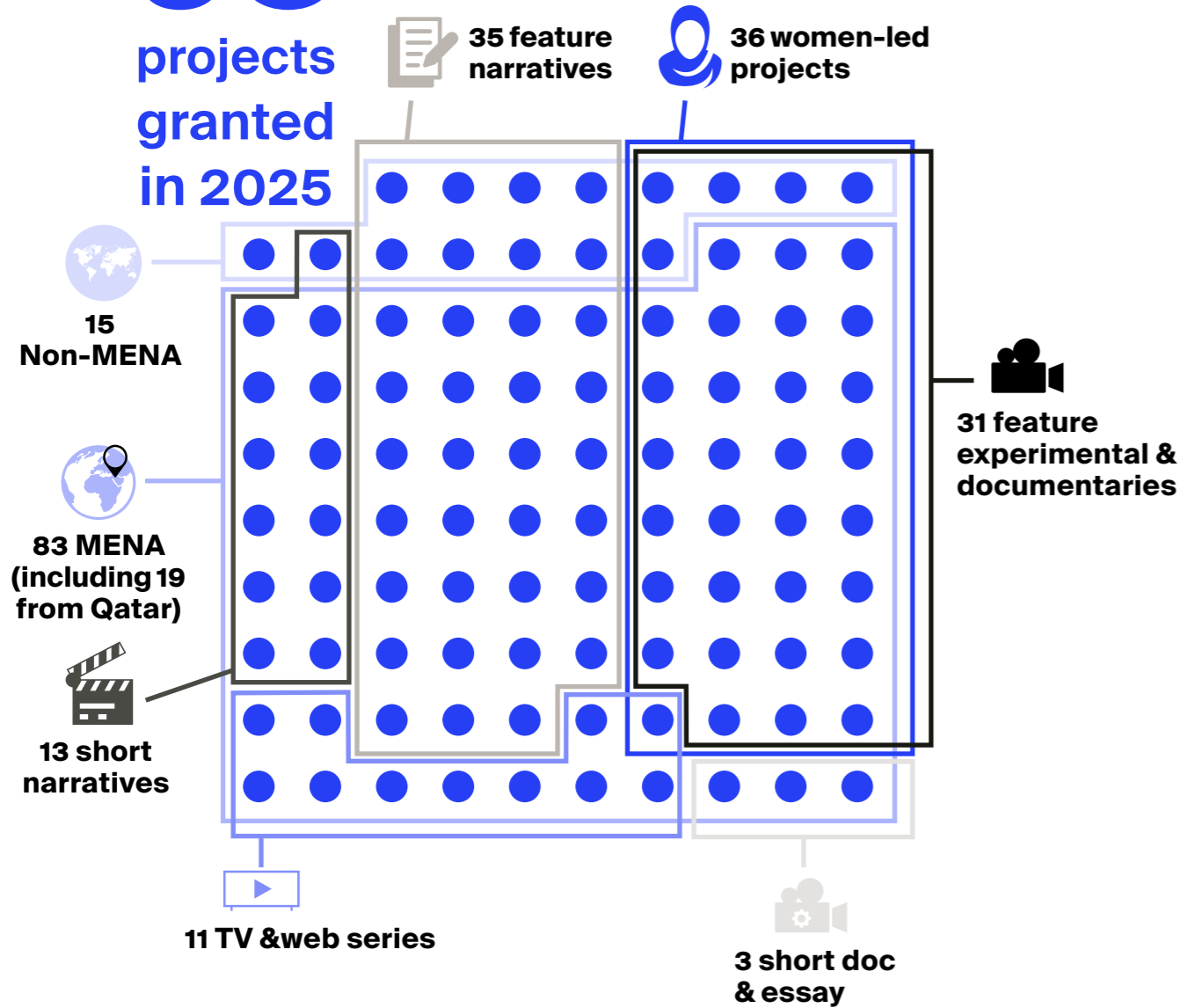
As industry trends evolve and audiences engage with new technologies, DFI also extends funding to television and web series projects.



32 Countries represented in 2025

- Algeria
- Angola
- Bahrain
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Dominican Republic
- Egypt
- France
- Georgia
- India
- Iran
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Libya
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Palestine
- Philippines
- Qatar
- Russia
- Saudi Arabia
- South Africa
- Sudan
- Syria
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- United States
- Yemen

98 projects granted in 2025



Stages of Development



24

in development



36

in production



38

post-production

DFI-Supported Films Earn International Acclaim

Across 2025, DFI-supported films continued to make their mark on the global festival circuit, earning over 110 prestigious awards. Each honour speaks to the

craft, ambition and distinct voices of filmmakers nurtured through DFI. Stories that connect with audiences far beyond our region.

	Awards	Selections
Academy Awards®	-	8 submissions
Cannes Film Festival	5	8
Berlin Film Festival	3	8
Toronto International Film Festival	-	8
Sundance Film Festival	1	4
Sarajevo Film Festival	-	5
Venice International Film Festival	8	7
International Film Festival Rotterdam	-	4
Total Selections (All Festivals)		279+
Total Awards (All Festivals)		113+

Investing in Qatari Talent



8

QFF Films In Development



5

QFF Films Completed

Through the Qatari Film Fund (QFF), Doha Film Institute champions Qatari filmmakers with the resources, guidance and production support needed to develop skills and realise ambitious projects. With annual support for up to eight short films and development and production backing for up to four feature films, QFF creates steady pathways for local stories to move forward.

In 2025, QFF saw 5 films completed and 8 films in development, reflecting a growing pipeline of work shaped by distinct voices from our nation. Since 2015, the Fund has played a key role in building a confident, connected filmmaking community with increasing visibility on the global stage.

Community Outreach

Connecting Communities Through Film



52

Events



681

External Collaborations

Building Partnerships, Expanding Reach

Community and organisational outreach

Throughout the year, DFI maintained an active presence through 52 events, including invitations to attend and participate in community gatherings, talks, panels, graduations, and gala dinners; participation in exhibitions and career fairs; and hosting screenings, workshops, and activities within partner spaces and communities.

Filmmaking community outreach

Alongside public engagement, we continued to strengthen relationships across the filmmaking ecosystem, connecting with practitioners, production houses, and sector partners to support awareness of DFI opportunities and build pathways into training, development, and participation across the Institute's programmes.

A Community-First Approach

In 2025, 681 external collaborations reflected the breadth of relationships we sustained and developed, spanning schools and universities across Qatar, local institutions and ministries, cultural and educational partners, media organisations, cafés and businesses, and regional education connections that supported elements such as international jurors and cross-border collaboration.

These relationships helped us extend the visibility and accessibility of DFI's programmes, supporting stronger participation, wider outreach, and deeper community connection throughout the year.

Engaging Education Communities

A key focus in 2025 was sustained engagement with Qatar's education sector. Through year-round communication and coordination with public and private schools and universities, we helped expand access to film learning opportunities, supporting students and educators in connecting with cinema through workshops, screenings, and participatory activities.

In 2025, Doha Film Institute continued to strengthen connections across Qatar's cultural and education communities, ensuring more people could engage with our programmes, discover cinema, and participate in the wider filmmaking ecosystem.

Building on established relationships and opening new ones, we expanded our reach through active presence, meaningful partnerships, and community-first engagement.

Our approach remained inclusive and responsive, meeting communities where they are, supporting access to film, and helping create welcoming entry points for young people, educators, industry partners, and the public to connect with DFI throughout the year.

2025 Outreach Highlights

We collaborated and engaged with:

- 250+ public schools and 300+ private schools
- 15+ universities
- 30+ local businesses
- 27+ organisations
- 15 production houses



17.

**Thank
You to Our
Partners**

Thank You for Helping Us Grow

As we look back on 2025, Doha Film Institute extends our sincere thanks to our partners, sponsors and supporters. Your commitment played an essential role in bringing our Doha Film Festival to life, strengthening a space where filmmakers and audiences can come together to discover new perspectives, share ideas and celebrate cinema.

Through your support, we were able to create meaningful opportunities for learning, connection and cultural exchange, helping stories travel further and ensuring that creativity continues to thrive in Qatar and beyond.

We're proud to continue this journey with you, united by a shared belief in the power of film to connect communities, spark conversation and inspire the future.

Thank you for being a vital part of Doha Film Institute's work in 2025.



