‘Made in Qatar’ Films Explore Legends and Family Bonds at Doha Film Festival 2026

- *Eight short films from homegrown filmmakers compete in the ‘Made in Qatar’ Competition*

Doha, Qatar; 23 November 2026: Filmmakers behind the eight short films competing in the ‘Made in Qatar’ Competition at Doha Film Festival (DFF) 2026 shared their creative journeys, personal inspirations, and unique storytelling at a media briefing.

Addressing the media, filmmakers **Tony El Ghazal**, **Sebastian Delascasas**, **Amira Abujbara**, **Horia El Haddad**, **Nadia Al Khater**, **Kholood Al-Ali** and **Yazid Taki** reflected on developing their projects in Qatar and sharing stories rooted in personal experience, family bonds, and cultural identity.

The 'Made in Qatar’ Competition celebrates talent based in Qatar across a range of genres. The competition is judged by a jury comprising Qatari filmmaker Sheikha Al Johara Al Thani, Lebanese actress and filmmaker Yumna Marwan, and Palestinian Belgian filmmaker and producer Naël Khleifi.

Co-directors **Amira Abujbara** and **Horia El Hadad** spoke about bringing ***Abu Fanoos*** to the screen: “It draws on a traditional Qatari folktale that we wanted to use to spark conversations between younger and older generations. If even one young person calls their grandparent after watching the film, we’ve accomplished what we set out to do.”

Kholood Al Ali’s shared about her animated feature ***After the Rain*** “It’s about a child named Maria who is trying to make friends. Although it’s mainly for children, adults can connect with it too. It’s a warm story that comes from drawing on personal experiences and has a lot of heart.”

Ghafleh director **Tony El Ghazal** said: “It’s about battling against time when life feels like it’s running away from us. Although the film was shot in Qatar and set in Lebanon, at its core it is a human story that anyone can relate to.”

In the Silence After director **Sebastian Delascasas** shared on documenting the final year he spent with his mother before she passed, “The core of everything is family, and for me making this film was a necessity while watching my family go through a heavy moment - I wanted to cherish the memories with my mother and hold onto them through this film,” he said.

Yazid Taki commented about his film, ***Kantqtaa*** “I believe the film exists between two worlds—the world of memories I lived with my mother and another world of things I wished had happened or time I wish I had spent with her.”

Nadia Al-Khater, who is also being honoured an Arab Rising Star at the festival, shared about her film ***Light to Ashes***: “The story is drawn from a long Arabic poem and reflects personal emotions tied to my family.”

Key Partners of Doha Film Festival include Katara, Media City Qatar | Film Committee and Visit Qatar. Taking place from 19–27 November 2026, Doha Film Festival brings together filmmakers, audiences and industry voices from the region and beyond to honour original storytelling and important voices in film. For more information, visit www.dohafilm.com.

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