



Celebrities and Stars to Bring Glamour and Excitement to Third Annual Doha Tribeca Film Festival

*Famous Actors, Filmmakers and Musical Talent Will Shine at Star-studded Events
at Katara Cultural Village, October 25-29*

Doha: October 23, 2011: World-renowned actors Antonio Banderas, Freida Pinto, Michelle Yeoh, Omar Sharif and internationally-acclaimed directors, Jean-Jacques Annaud, Luc Besson, Morgan Spurlock and Pawel Pawlikowski will join a host of other A-list celebrities at this week's Doha Tribeca Film Festival (DTFF).

Celebrities and big-screen stars from the Arab World will attend the five-day event including Egyptian film icons Mahmoud Abdel Aziz and Yosra, Egyptian actors Nabila Obaid, Khaled El Nabawy, Ghada Adel and Magdy El Hawary, and influential director Khaled Youssef. Tunisian actress Dorra Zarrouk is also set to attend along with Lebanese stars Carmen Lebbos and Nadine Labaki. Beloved Syrian actor Jamal Suleiman will also be in attendance as well as Kuwaiti stars Hayat Al Fahad, Mohammed Al Bushahri and Dawood Hussain.

Banderas and Pinto will be among the international stars delighting crowds as they walk down the red carpet at the Katara Open Air Theatre (KOAT) and take part in opening night festivities on October 25, ahead of the world premiere of Arabian epic *Black Gold*, accompanied by co-stars Mark Strong, Tahar Rahim and Riz Ahmed, as well as a host of other local and international celebrities.

Black Swan star Vincent Cassel will attend while *Harry Potter* actor David Thewlis will join internationally-recognized actors Robin Wright, Rob Lowe and James Cromwell in Doha for the five-day Festival.

Other luminaries in attendance will include: four-time Academy Award-winning visual effects artist, Joe Letteri; Master cinematographer Christopher Doyle; acclaimed documentary filmmaker Nick Broomfield; legendary film composer James Horner; Award-winning directors Eric Khoo, Najwa Najjar and Cherien Dabis; internationally-renowned photographer Brigitte Lacombe; leading fashion designers Manish Malhotra and Stephane Rolland; Tunisian film producer Tarak Ben Ammar; CEO of Miramax Films Michael Lang; esteemed musician,

producer and composer Nitin Sawhney; and Syrian filmmaking auteur Mohammed Malas, who will serve as the Narrative Jury President for DTFF's Arab Film Competition.

Set to entertain Doha audiences with spectacular musical performances will be some of the world's best loved recording artists including three-time Grammy-nominated singer Leona Lewis, Grammy Award-winning African Diva Angelique Kidjo and local Qatari sensation Fahad Al Kubaisi, who sings the title track for *Black Gold*. Coinciding with Diwali celebrations, the Festival will also see the recent winners of India's Got Talent, Suresh and Vernon Group, perform their dynamic mix of spectacular choreography and electrifying stunts for audiences.

The third annual DTFF (October 25-29) will see more than 50 films from 35 countries screen before an expected audience intake of more than 50,000 people, showcasing nine world premieres, four international premieres and 26 Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) premieres.

In addition to indoor and outdoor film screenings, the Festival will host a broad range of activities for attendees, including: the Doha-Giffoni Experience for young aspirant film jurors; the publicly accessible, interactive 'Doha Talks' series; an evolved Brigitte Lacombe multimedia exhibit; the 'Doha Projects' mentoring program for DFI grantees; educational workshops, masterclasses and exhibits; and the Festival's highlight Family Day program, which will provide a specially curated family-friendly film slate including a special screening of Steven Spielberg's and Peter Jackson's highly anticipated 3D animated film *The Adventures of Tintin*, as well as arts & crafts, performances workshops, games, stage performers and more.

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Notes to Editor

About Doha Film Institute (DFI):

The Doha Film Institute (DFI) is an independent cultural organisation established in 2010 to incorporate Qatar's film initiatives under one banner.

Located at Qatar's new cultural hub, Katara, DFI's many initiatives include film and television funding for MENA and international films, year-round education programs, film screenings, and the annual Doha Tribeca Film Festival (DTFF).

In addition, DFI has established a number of strategic cultural partnerships with leading local and international organisations including Katara Cultural Village Foundation, Tribeca Enterprises, World Cinema Foundation, Maisha Film Labs and Giffoni Film Festival.

DFI was founded by H.E Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani. Along with Her Excellency, DFI leadership comprises DFI Board Vice-Chair and Festival Board Chair, H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Fahad Al-Thani; DFI Board Member and Festival Board Vice-Chair, H.E. Dr. Hassan Al-Nimah; DFI Board Member, Mr. Mansoor Ibrahim Al-Mahmoud; Festival Board Member, H.E. Sheikh Jabor Bin Yousuf Al Thani; and DFI Executive Director, Amanda Palmer.

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