

Press Release:

Qatari Filmmakers in Cannes Share Stories from Qatar and Learn About the Business of Film

Cannes, France: Tuesday May 19, 2015: Five emerging filmmakers from Qatar are currently in Cannes attending the 68th edition of the prestigious festival where they are participating in a series of workshops and meetings arranged by the Doha Film Institute to support them in furthering their filmmaking careers.

Ali Al Ansari, Mohamed Al Mahmeed, Yousef Al Modhadi, Amal Al Muftah and Maryam Al Sahli are on the seventh day of their programme at the world's most prominent gathering of international film industry and have so far participated in workshops, script development advisory sessions and one-on-one meetings, along with attending screenings of the latest discoveries in quality cinema from all over the world.

In discussing the development sessions attended by the group Ali Al-Ansari said: "I feel I've gained a lot throughout the meetings that the Doha Film Institute has arranged for us. We have met producers, distributors, people from all areas of the film industry. I've learned a lot of things about the film market, things like selling and distributing and also about producing. We have met with script advisors and supervisors who we pitched to. They gave us good, productive feedback on our scripts, how to deal and work with our characters and then how to actually start recruiting crew and producers to our script - the whole process from A to B."

Yousef Al-Moadhadi, director of the short film '10%' which won the Made in Qatar award at the Ajyal Youth Film Festival in December 2014, said: "Being in the middle of one of the biggest film festivals in the world is a huge experience for me. It's a big business hub and has given me a good understanding of the scale of the business end of this industry which generates millions of dollars. I have learned a lot about how to look at not just the creative parts of making a film, but also the other end of sales and distribution and how to find an audience for your work."

Mohammed Al Mahmeed discussed the importance of sharing stories from Qatar with the world in international forums such as Cannes. He said: "Qatar is very undiscovered, there are so many stories and things that people don't know about our culture. It is our job as Qataris and as filmmakers to show the world what we have to offer in terms of good, honest stories from Qatar."

As part of Qatar's presence in Cannes, the Doha Film Institute is presenting a special Made in Qatar showcase of short films at the Cannes' Short Film Corner, a section of the festival dedicated to showcasing films from more than 90 countries to thousands of accredited industry guests, festival selectors and short film industry specialists.

In addition to the five filmmakers supported by the Institute, two young filmmakers from Northwestern University in Qatar, Menna Kamel and Jaser Ibrahim Alagha are also attending the Festival where their films are screening in the Short Film Corner.



Five films supported by the Doha Film Institute's grants programme are making their world premiere in several prestigious sections of the festival including the Official Short Film Competition, the Critics' Week sidebar, Un Certain Regard and the Directors' Fortnight.

-ENDS-

About Doha Film Institute:

Doha Film Institute is an independent, not-for-profit cultural organisation. It 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. The Institute's platforms include funding and production of local, regional and international films; skills-sharing and mentorship programmes; film screenings; the Ajyal Youth Film Festival; and Qumra. With culture, community, learning and entertainment at its foundation, the Institute is committed to supporting Qatar's 2030 vision for the development of a knowledge-based economy.

Twitter: @DohaFilm; Instagram: @DohaFilm; Facebook: www.facebook.com/DohaFilmInstitute

Press Enquiries:

Menna Gomaa
Communications Associate
+974/55073325
mgomaa@dohafilminstitute.com

MENA Press Enquiries:

Kelly Home / Nivine William
ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller
+9714 4507 600
kelly.home@bm.com / nivine.william@bm.com