

## Doha Film Institute showcases 4 captivating films by young Qatari & GCC filmmakers on July 30 & 31

- *Part of the 'Hekayat Khaleejiya' quarterly screening programme which presents cinematic voices from across the Gulf region*
- *Filmmakers and talents to attend screenings for interactive Q&A with audience*

**Doha, Qatar; July 27, 2015:** The Doha Film Institute is presenting a captivating showcase of four short films by Qatar and GCC filmmakers on July 30 and 31 at the Museum of Islamic Art as part of its quarterly 'Hekayat Khaleejiya' screenings that highlight contemporary cinematic voices from the region.

Underlining the Institute's commitment to supporting emerging filmmakers and promoting cinema appreciation, the screenings will be followed by interactive Q&A sessions with the filmmakers and talents associated with the movies.

Fatma Al Remaihi, CEO of the Doha Film Institute, said: "We are delighted to present this collection of quality films from the Gulf region to Qatari film-goers. Supporting talent from our region is central to everything we do at the Doha Film Institute and connecting filmmakers with audiences is an integral part of that support. Through the Hekayat Khaleejiya series we provide an opportunity to experience these works on the big screen as well as a dynamic forum where audience members can speak with members of the cast and crew about their creative process."

The July screenings under 'Hekayat Khaleejiya' include Qatari director Ali Al Anssari's ***Qarar*** (Qatar, 2014), which received Special Mention at the 'Made in Qatar' Awards at Ajyal Youth Film Festival 2014 for its "consummate technical proficiency in cinematography, direction, acting and special effects." A science fiction short, ***Qarar*** narrates the suspenseful tale of a young married couple trying to survive an epidemic that has turned the population of Doha into zombies. The director and lead actor Mohammed Sharif will attend the Q&A session after the screening.

***Chai Haleeb*** (Kuwait, 2013), directed by Mishal Al Hulail charts the journey of Ahmed who is retracing his missing father Nasser's movements, beginning at the restaurant where he has breakfast every morning. Ahmed soon discovers that his retiree father has been selling residence permits. The search soon leads Ahmed to Nasser's accessory Farouq, and the unlikely duo embarks on a hilarious quest around Kuwait City to find the missing older man. Curiously, an unsolicited cup of milk tea awaits the men at their every destination.

***Koshk*** (United Arab Emirates, 2014) is directed by Abdulla Al Kaabi, noted for his debut short film, *The Philosopher* starring Jean Reno. ***Koshk*** depicts the story of an abandoned mother who faints while carrying wood only to be saved by a traveller who resembles her own son. She invites him to her tent and goes to fetch him some food only to find her kindness repaid with theft. ***Koshk*** is a story of how far a mother would go to comfort her own seclusion. Producer Kambiz Safari will address the audience following the screening.

The fourth film in the showcase is **Bosala** (Saudi Arabia, 2015), directed by Mujtaba Saeed. It is about Noura Al-Ahmad, a graduate student, who is asked by the Saudi Student Cultural Association to live with her husband, Mashaal, during her stay at the University of Berlin. Mashaal, however, raises a controversy while he is there. Mujtaba and the film's screenwriter Ali Saeed will be in attendance to answer questions on the film.

**Qarar**, **Chai Haleeb** and **Bosala** are in Arabic with English subtitles, while **Koshk** is in Farsi with Arabic with English subtitles. The films will be screened from 7pm on July 30 and 31.

Tickets can be purchased in person from the Museum of Islamic Art DFI Ticket Outlet on Thursday from 12pm to 8pm and on Friday from 2pm to 8pm. Regular tickets are priced QAR35; students pay QAR25 on presenting a valid student ID. Tickets can also be purchased online at [www.dohafilminstitute.com](http://www.dohafilminstitute.com). Viewers are advised to the Doha Film Institute Film Ratings Guide for film attendance policy and age regulations.

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**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.

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