

Press Release

**More than 100 film industry experts including festival directors, producers, sales agents and consultants to attend 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Qumra presented by the Doha Film Institute**

**Doha, Qatar; February 29, 2016:** Qumra, the annual industry event by the Doha Film Institute designed to nurture the development of emerging filmmakers, will welcome more than 100 industry professionals, including international film festival directors, producers, fund managers, script consultants, distributors and other experts during its second edition to be held from March 4 to 9, 2016.

A number of industry leaders who attended the inaugural edition last year have confirmed their participation for the second time alongside many new organisations represented for the first time at the annual gathering dedicated to supporting first- and second-time filmmakers on both a creative and practical level. The delegates come from as far afield as Argentina to Australia, and India to The Netherlands and Egypt to the US.

Fatma Al Remaihi, Chief Executive Officer of the Doha Film Institute, said: “Qumra presents a very important component in nurturing a film industry in Qatar and the Arab world and the participation of international industry experts is integral to this initiative. I would like to thank each of these seasoned professionals for lending their expertise to benefit the participating projects and for being part of the unique creative network that we have cultivated through Qumra.”

She added: “We have seen many productive and tangible outcomes for the projects that were developed in the first edition of Qumra and I am confident that the connections made between emerging filmmakers and industry mentors in the coming week will contribute to the growth of a more robust regional film industry and benefit the participants far into the future.”

The Qumra industry programme is centered around 33 projects from Qatar, the Arab region and the rest of the world at various stages of development. The industry sessions are presented in two strands: tutorials, workshops, consultations and one-on-one meetings for projects still in development; and a series of work-in-progress and ‘picture lock’ screenings and feedback sessions for projects in post production.

Among the leading industry names to attend the event this year are: David Parfitt, Academy Award-winning producer, Chairman of Film London and ex-Chairman of BAFTA; Christophe Leparc, Managing Director, Programmer at Director’s Fortnight Cannes Film Festival and recently appointed Festival Director of Cinemed; Cameron Bailey, Festival Director, Toronto International Film Festival; Carlo Chatrian, Artistic Director of Festival Del film Locarno; Vincenzo Bugno, Project Manager of Berlinale World Cinema Fund & Member of the Berlinale Competition Selection Committee; Matthijs Wouter Knol, Director of the European Film Market at the Berlin International Film Festival; Remi Burah, Senior Executive Vice President, ARTE France Cinéma; Cara Mertes, Director of the Ford Foundation’s JustFilms; Mike Goodridge, CEO of Protagonist Pictures; Alexandre Mallet-Guy, President of Memento Films; Michael J. Werner, Managing Director & Chairman of Fortissimo Films; and first-time representatives from Netflix, AMC / Sundance Channel Global and the Sundance Institute.

Strong representation from programmers and directors of the world's leading film festivals and institutes includes: CPH:DOX Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival; Morelia Film Festival in Mexico & San Sebastian Film Festival, Spain; International Film Festival of Rotterdam, The Netherlands; Busan International Film Festival, South Korea; Latin Arab International Film Festival in Argentina; Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia; Tribeca Film Institute, USA; International Istanbul Film Festival; Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Film Festival; Berlinale Shorts at International Film Festival of Berlin; Sarajevo Film Festival; and the Dubai International Film Festival.

High profile regional and international sales agents and distributors include representatives from Wild Bunch of France; Film Movement of USA; Memento Films, France; Tricon Films, Canada; Urban Distribution International of France; The Match Factory of Germany; Gulf Films of Qatar; MAD Solutions, Egypt; Front Row Filmed Entertainment, UAE; Moving Turtle, Lebanon and MC Distribution, Lebanon.

International film funds and commissions represented at Qumra 2016 include: IDFA Bertha Fund of the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam; the Hubert Bals Fund of the International Film Festival of Rotterdam; Medienboard Berlin Brandenburg; the Robert Bosch Stiftung, Berlin; The Royal Film Commission, Jordan; the Arab Fund for Arts & Culture; Screen Institute Beirut; the Netherlands Film Fund and Gulf funds SANAD Film Fund and ENJAZZ, UAE as well as regional financiers Image Nation and MBC Group.

Qatar-based organisations are represented by Innovation Films and the Al Jazeera Media Training & Development Centre in Qatar along with 120 Qatar-based film, media and entertainment delegates who will also participate in the programme, further building on the event's aim to connect local, regional and international industry for the benefit of emerging talent.

Qumra has three main elements: Masterclasses by the Qumra Masters, which will be led this year by James Schamus (US), Joshua Oppenheimer (US), Naomi Kawase (Japan), Nuri Bilge Ceylan (Turkey) and Aleksandr Sokurov (Russia); industry meetings and screenings. All projects selected by the Doha Film Institute will benefit from the industry meetings with the experts to take their work to the next stage.

The screenings are in two categories: Master Screenings & New Voices in Cinema. The Masters Screenings this year include ***The Look of Silence*** (Denmark, Indonesia, Finland, Norway, UK / Indonesian, Javanese / 2014) by Joshua Oppenheimer, ***Once Upon a Time in Anatolia*** (Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina / Turkish / 2011) by Nuri Bilge Ceylan; ***Russian Ark*** (Russian Federation, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan / Russian / 2002) by Aleksandr Sokurov; ***The Mourning Forest*** (Japan, France / Japanese / 2007) by Naomi Kawase; and ***Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*** (Taiwan, Hong Kong, USA, China / Mandarin / 2001) by Ang Lee.

In the New Voices in Cinema segment, are: ***The Palm Tree*** (Qatar, No Dialogue, 2015) by Jasim Al Rumaihi; ***Mediterranea*** (Italy, France, Germany, Qatar/ Arabic, English, French, Italian; 2015) by Jonas Carpignano; ***Roundabout in my Head*** (Algeria, France, Qatar/Arabic/2015), and ***Waves 98*** by Ely Dagher (Lebanon, Qatar / Arabic / 2015).

All screenings will take place at the Museum of Islamic Art Auditorium and tickets are now on sale at [www.dohafilminstitute.com](http://www.dohafilminstitute.com)

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **About Qumra**

Directors and Producers attached to thirty-three projects in development and post-production are selected to participate in the event. They will include a number of emerging filmmakers from Qatar, as well as recipients of funding from the Institute's Grants Programme. The robust programme will feature industry meetings designed to assist with propelling projects to their next stages of development, including master classes, work-in-progress screenings, bespoke matchmaking sessions and tailored workshops with industry experts. This creative exchange will take place alongside a programme of public screenings curated with input from the Qumra Masters.

The event is organised in three main sections: The Qumra Master Classes are daily sessions; each led by one of the Masters. The participating filmmakers have full access to these sessions, which are also open to accredited industry guests to attend in an observational capacity.

The Qumra Meetings are a series of one-on-one meetings, workshops and tailored mentoring sessions between representatives from the 33 selected projects and seasoned industry experts.

The Qumra Screenings are open to the public and feature projects funded by the Institute through its grants and co-financing initiatives, as well as a series of films chosen by the Qumra Masters accompanied by Q&A sessions.

The Arabic term 'qumra' is popularly said to be the origin of the word 'camera', and to have been used by the scientist, astronomer and mathematician Alhazen (Ibn al-Haytham, 965-c.1040 CE), whose work in optics laid out the principles of the camera obscura.

### **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.

Doha Film Institute

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