
7—13

Ajyal Film Festival

Nov

2021



**Press
Play**

Film Guide

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WHAT'S
GOING ON
QATAR

How to Use this Guide

All films at Ajyal are selected and recommended according to age-appropriateness.

G General Audience. Suitable for audiences ages 4 and up.

PG Parental guidance is advised.
Some material may be inappropriate for young children.

PG-13 Parental guidance is advised for viewers under the age of 13.
Individuals under the age of 13 are not admitted into cinemas unless accompanied by an individual over the age of 18.

PG-15 Parental guidance is advised for viewers under the age of 15. Individuals under the age of 15 are not admitted into cinemas unless accompanied by an individual over the age of 18.

15+ Mature subject matter. May not be suitable for minors. Individuals under the age of 15 are not admitted into cinemas.

18+ Mature subject matter. Not suitable for minors. Individuals under the age of 18 are not admitted into cinemas.

Festival Venues

To make it easier for you, we have given each venue a short code which you can match up with any of the screenings and events in this guide. Event and screening locations are identified as follows:

Katara Opera House: K16-OH
Katara Drama Theatre: K16-DT
Sikkat Wadi Msheireb: SWM
Company House - Msheireb Museums: CHMM
VOX Cinemas, Doha Festival City, Theatre: VOX
Lusail, Drive-In Cinema: LUS-DIC
Virtual events at ajyalfilm.com: Online

Subtitles and Interpretation

Unless otherwise noted, all films are shown in their original language, with Arabic and English subtitles as necessary. Interpreters will be on-site for all panels and Q&A sessions.

Free Screenings and Events

Free screenings and events require a ticket for access, which can be reserved online at ajyalfilm.com.

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Ajyal 2021

Are you ready to press play?



Welcome to another incredible Ajyal Film Festival, Qatar's unmissable annual celebration of film, music, art and pop culture. It seems like the world has almost been on pause for the last while, but we hope you are ready to once again rediscover your sense of play! This year's festival is bursting back to life with venues and experiences all over Doha for you to enjoy.

Katara Cultural Village plays host to our highly anticipated opening night screening from two-time Academy award-winner and collaborator with Doha Film Institute, Asghar Farhadi. As well as our compelling Made in Qatar programme, along with select features and short programmes.

In partnership with the Translation and Interpreting Institute of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, we are delighted to bring our popular inclusive experience back to the silver screen at Katara with a DFI supported film, Qualid Mouaness' critically acclaimed '1982'.

Msheireb is home to Ajyal's Creativity Hub this year. Geekdom will be there with all your favourite events, such as electrifying video game tournaments, sing-along screenings, talented artists, and much more! The historical setting of Msheireb Museums' Company

House will stage Ajyal Tunes' incredible programme of live music this November, glistening with Qatar-based talent and a few special international guests too.

Drawing inspiration from the Al-Kurd family living in the embattled Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood, this year's exhibit 'We Will Not Leave' derives its name from their defiant and now iconic graffiti. Qatar's creative community has come together in a spirit of solidarity, support and kinship to present a multimedia experience in support of Palestine at Sikkat Wadi Msheireb.

Always a crowd-favourite, the Ajyal Drive-in Cinema experience returns to Lusail. We've got something for everyone on this year's programme—from classic family favourites during the day, to lock your car doors horror at our terrifying midnight screenings! Ajyal also returns to VOX Cinemas, Doha Festival City, with an exciting selection of internationally award-winning features and compelling short programmes for you to enjoy.

Ajyal 2021 is back better than ever with an amazing selection of activities for all ages. To help you plan your festival, you will find more information on all our screenings and events throughout this guide. We invite you now to join us throughout Doha this November and press play on a truly remarkable experience...

Ajyal Competition

The stars of our festival have always been our young Ajyal Jury. From ages 8 to 25, they form the juries of the Ajyal Competition and select the festival's ultimate award winners.

By providing young people access to acclaimed international cinema and renowned filmmakers, Ajyal helps them develop their understanding of the world around them and grow into confident and mindful global citizens.

The Ajyal Competition inspires creative thinking, cooperation and self-expression—leading to friendships that will last a lifetime.

Ajyal Jury

Our Ajyal Competition Jury is divided by age group into three distinct sections. Let's meet our three juries now:



Mohaq

Mohaq means 'New Moon' in Arabic, and these are Ajyal's youngest jurors, aged 8 to 12. They will get to watch one programme of inspiring short films as well as four captivating feature-length films.



Hilal

Ajyal's jurors aged 13 to 17 make up the Hilal jury, which means 'Crescent Moon' in Arabic. Four compelling feature films and one programme of fascinating shorts make up this jury's film selection.



Bader

The most mature of Ajyal's juries, Bader—Arabic for 'Full Moon'—jurors are aged 18 to 25 and will select their favourite films from five thought-provoking features and two programmes of engaging short films.

Awards



Each of the three Ajyal Juries awards a Best Film prize to their favourite short and feature-length films, for a total of six awards. The directors of the winning films are granted funding toward their next film, so jurors are empowered to support and promote future content that is relevant and meaningful to them.

Our youngest audiences will vote for their favourite film in our 'World of Colour' short film programme (see page 16). A jury of regional industry professionals will decide the Best Film in the 'Made in Qatar' presented by Ooredoo section (see page 8). While the general public will determine our Ajyal Audience Award, so be sure to keep an eye out for your chance to vote!

Ajyal at Katara

Katara Cultural Village plays host to our acclaimed opening night screening, compelling Made in Qatar programme, and select features and shorts this year.

A Hero PG-13



Rahim finds himself in jail for incurring a business debt he is unable to repay. While on a two-day leave, his girlfriend offers him a gilded opportunity to secure his freedom, albeit at a dubiously immoral price. Unable to balance the weight of his newly ill-gotten gold coins with his conscience, Rahim does the ethical thing and attempts to find their rightful owner by putting up posters around town. But no good deed goes unpunished, and he soon finds himself caught up in a quagmire of increasingly complex moral dilemmas—all stemming from a single, seemingly inconsequential falsehood.

Thrust into the limelight as social media's latest celebrity, Rahim quickly finds expectations and responsibilities building around him, higher than the walls of his medium-security jail ever were. Confronted at every turn, our hero's journey is certainly not the archetypal, obvious circle. While it may appear a simple story on the surface, the twists of fate unfold to create a rich tapestry of human (mis)behaviour and deep philosophical quandaries. A truly riveting tale of morality in the age of social media from two-time Academy award-winner and collaborator with Doha Film Institute, Asghar Farhadi.

Winner of a Grand Prix Award at
Cannes Film Festival 2021
MENA Premiere

Director: **Asghar Farhadi**
Iran, France / Farsi / 2021 / 127 mins

Sun 7 Nov / 8.00 PM / K16-OH (by invitation only)
Sun 7 Nov / 8.00 PM / K16-DT / QR 50



Border



And Then They Burn the Sea

Made in Qatar Programme PG-15

Presented by Ooredoo

Tue 9 Nov / 7.30 PM / K16-DT / QR 35
 Tue 9 Nov / 8.30 PM / K16-OH / QR 35
 Thu 11 Nov / 8.30 PM / VOX /
 QR 40 & 50

The Ajyal Film Festival is delighted to showcase and celebrate the thriving filmmaking scene in Qatar. The programme presented this year features some internationally shown and award-winning short documentaries and narratives.

Border

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
 In an abstrusely dystopian future, a man wishes to return to his family. But navigating the complex system becomes a near-impossible journey.
 Director: **Khalifa Al Thani**
 Qatar / English, Arabic / 2021 / 12 mins

Fever Dream

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
 A documentary about a reality that is stranger than fiction. Sick with the coronavirus, a couple films themselves in quarantine—a five-star hotel with a sea view and sealed windows.
 Director: **Ania Hendryx Wójtowicz**
 Qatar, Poland, USA / English / 2021 / 8 mins

There Were People

Filmed in the aftermath of the tragic explosion that rocked the city of Beirut last August, 'There Were People' documents the stories of Lebanese people as they endure daily hardships.
 Director: **Mohamed Al Hamadi**
 Qatar, Lebanon / Arabic / 2021 / 10 mins

Don't Get Too Comfortable

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
 Shaima Al-Tamimi shares an introspective letter to her deceased grandfather, reflecting on her ancestral migrational journey and its implications over three generations.
 Director: **Shaima Al-Tamimi**
 Yemen, USA, Netherlands, Qatar, UAE / English, Swahili, Arabic / 2021 / 9 mins

A Lens Under Water

An eye-opening and colourful dive into the teeming coastal waters of Qatar with underwater photographer Faisal Jarkas.
 Director: **Fatma Zahra Abderrahim**
 Qatar / Arabic / 2021 / 17 mins

Virtual Voice

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
 A digital-savvy and satirical review of our online times. Meet Suzi doll, an ego-warrior marching to the algorithms of social media—another vacuous virtual voice, echoing injustices.
 Director: **Suzannah Mirghani**
 Sudan, Qatar / English / 2021 / 7 mins

Atlal (Remnants)

A wistful Palestinian man embarks on a trip down memory lane to the pivotal locations of his life in Qatar—all of which now lay abandoned.
 Directors: **Balkees Al-Jaafari, Tony El Ghazal**
 Qatar / Arabic / 2021 / 11 mins

And Then They Burn the Sea

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
 Filmmaker Majid Al-Remaihi ruminates on the experience of witnessing his mother's gradual and terminal memory loss over the course of many years.
 Director: **Majid Al-Remaihi**
 Qatar / Arabic / 2021 / 13 mins

When Beirut was Beirut

If these buildings could talk, what would they say? In this animated documentary, three of Beirut's monumental buildings come to life and share their stories of Beirut's unsettling history.
 Director: **Alessandra El Chanti**
 Qatar, Lebanon / Arabic / 2021 / 12 mins

Olayan

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
 A Bedouin boy named Hamad forms a bond with a newborn camel, who he calls Olayan. When Olayan is later sold to market, young Hamad embarks on a mission to rescue his friend.
 Director: **Khalifa Al-Marri**
 Qatar / Arabic / 2021 / 18 mins



Nobody Has to Know 18+

MENA premiere

Mon 8 Nov / 8.30 PM / K16-DT / QR 35

Working as a farmhand on a remote and weather-beaten Scottish island, middle-aged Phil is an outsider who speaks his mind. After a sudden stroke, Phil wakes up with no memories of his past, a case of apparent amnesia due to his ordeal. A demure but enterprising girl named Millie soon comes to his rescue. The daughter of Phil's boss, she is on-hand to nurse him back to health, soon revealing a clandestine secret—the pair were more than mere acquaintances.

Director: **Bouli Lanners**

Belgium, UK, France / English, French / 2021 / 99 mins



Costa Brava, Lebanon 18+

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
Middle East Premiere

Wed 10 Nov / 7.00 PM / K16-OH / QR 35

In 'Costa Brava, Lebanon', the free-spirited Badri family escape the overwhelming pollution and social unrest of Beirut by seeking refuge in a utopic mountain home they built for themselves. Unexpectedly, an illegal garbage landfill begins construction right next door, and with it comes the very trash and corruption they were seeking to escape. As the landfill rises, so do family tensions. The Badris are left with a choice—stay off the grid or leave their idyllic home and face the reality they fled, hoping to stay true to their ideals.

Winner of a NETPAC Award at Toronto International Film Festival 2021

Director: **Mounia Akl**

Lebanon, France, Spain, Sweden, Denmark, Norway,
Qatar / Arabic / 2021 / 107 mins

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Orca PG-13

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
Home Premiere

Wed 10 Nov / 8.00 PM / K16-DT / QR 35

Elham, a divorced Iranian woman, survives a horrific beating at the hands of her husband. Haunted by the traumatic experience and seeking to rediscover herself, she finds solace and salvation in the open expanse of water. Courageous, determined and encouraged by her father, Elham soon makes her mark as a formidable endurance swimmer. In the fight of her life, Elham faces political, ideological, and personal obstacles in search of her ultimate goal—the Guinness world record for swimming the longest distance with her hands bound.

Director: **Sahar Mossayebi**
Qatar, Iran / Farsi / 2021 / 108 mins



Land of Dreams 18+

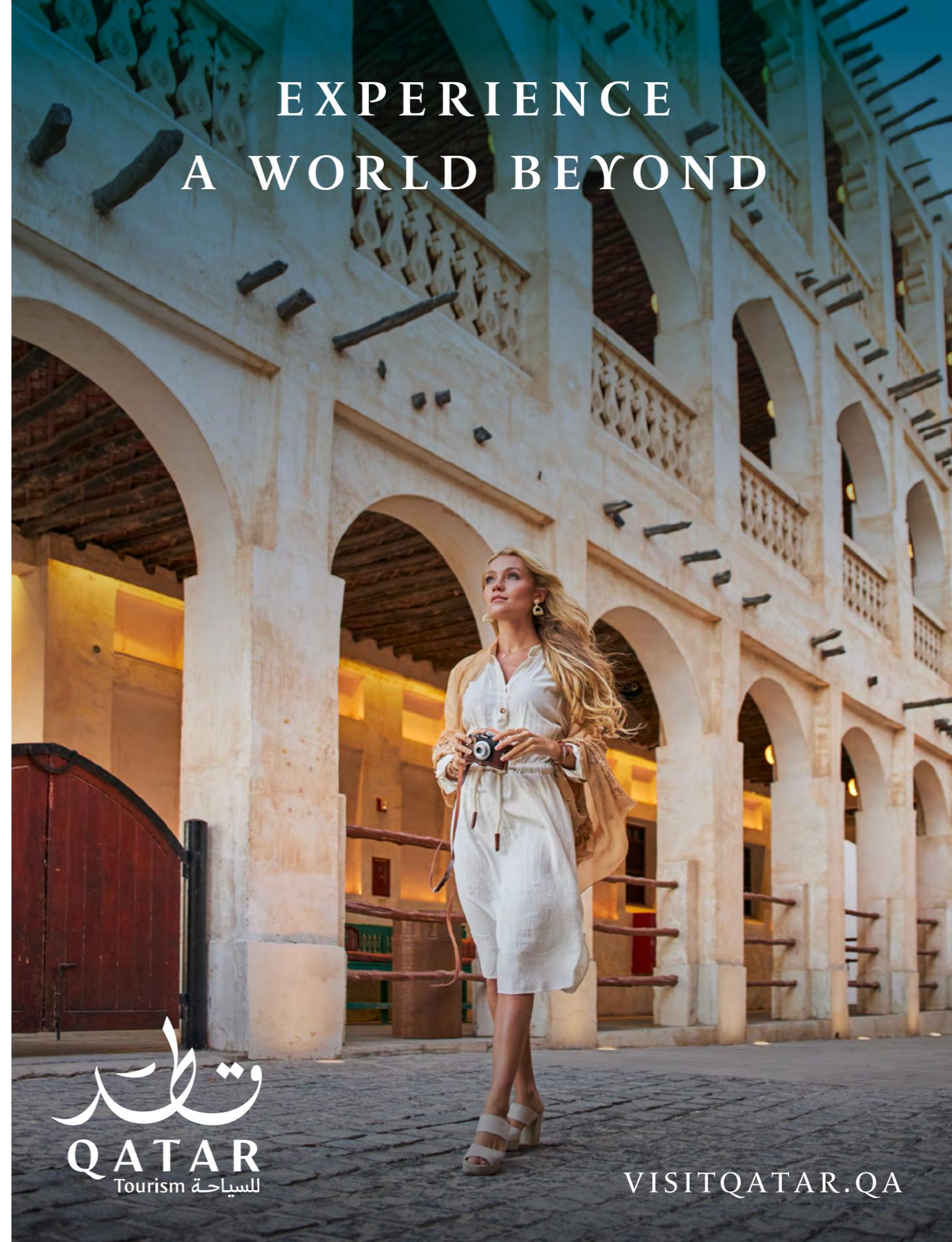
Doha Film Institute Supported Film
MENA premiere

Thu 11 Nov / 8.30 PM / K16-DT / QR 35

'Land of Dreams' takes place in the near future in a small town in America. Simin is an Iranian immigrant who works for US Census Bureau, which has begun a programme to record citizens' dreams. Unaware of the American government's plot, Simin's personal obsession is to try to capture her interviewees' dreams by photographing and later impersonating them in Farsi on social media. Playful and poignant, 'Land of Dreams' acknowledges in a surreal and satirical way, the greatness of the American experiment while offering a warning beacon for what could come.

Directors: **Shirin Neshat, Shoja Azari**
USA, Germany, Qatar / English, Farsi / 2021 / 113 mins

EXPERIENCE A WORLD BEYOND



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1982: A DFI Inclusive Screening



Doha Film Institute Supported Film

Fri 12 Nov / 8.00 PM / K16-DT
Free - Reserve a ticket for access

Working in partnership with the Translation and Interpreting Institute of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Hamad Bin Khalifa University—Ajjal Film Festival is delighted to bring our popular inclusive experience back to the silver screen this year with a DFI supported film, Oualid Mouaness' critically acclaimed '1982'.

Visually impaired audiences will be able to view the film through sound alone, with audio description of those visual elements that cannot be understood through voice, music or sound effects. While our viewers who are deaf, hard-of-hearing or have difficulty understanding speech will benefit from enriched subtitles in Arabic and English, as well as sign-language interpretation. By adapting the film to the needs of audiences with different abilities, we hope to make cinema universally accessible.

1982 PG-13

As the academic year draws to a close in the mountains of Lebanon, eleven-year-old Wissam struggles to pluck up the courage to reveal his true feelings to classmate Joanna. But before he can, and with his school in the midst of their final exams, the air invasions on Beirut begin, and the pupils are to be sent home. However, the imminent danger only makes Wissam even more resolute, as it becomes clear that no one knows what tomorrow will bring.

Director: **Oualid Mouaness**
Lebanon, USA, Norway, Qatar / Arabic, English / 2019 / 100 mins

Made in USA 15+

Thu 11 Nov / 9.30 PM / K16-OH / QR 35

We are delighted to present a selection of the very best in contemporary American short-form filmmaking.

The Chicken

After mishandling an emergency he witnesses on the streets of New York City, Hiro, a young Japanese immigrant, cannot bring himself to butcher the chicken he bought for dinner.

Director: **Neo Sora**
USA / English, Japanese / 2020 / 14 mins

The Jog

A man awakes to the news of his lifetime. But minutes later, when he attempts to rescue a woman during his morning jog—his altruistic gesture leads to tragic consequences.

Director: **Joseph Lee Anderson**
USA / English, Spanish / 2019 / 7 mins

Character

Actor Mark Metcalf takes a critical look back on his life and career in this meditation on power, privilege, and the perils of being a "type".

Director: **Vera Brunner-Sung**
USA / English / 2020 / 17 mins

Moving

Transporting an old mattress into a new apartment becomes an absurdist, cinematic one-woman choreography, full of humour and pathos in this wordless vignette of city life.

Director: **Adinah Dancyger**
USA / English / 2019 / 8 mins



The Chicken

Forever

A life insurance company uses an AI algorithm to determine the risk of a new applicant. The subsequent denial sparks a period of introspection for the individual in question.

Director: **Mitch McGlocklin**
USA / English / 2020 / 7 mins

To Know Her

Filed decades apart on the same camcorder, 'To Know Her' is a poetic exploration of the filmmaker's relationship with her mother, who passed away when she was 14 years old.

Director: **Natalie A. Chao**
USA, Hong Kong / Chinese, English / 2020 / 15 mins

Lonely Blue Night

An awkward family reunion at a business dinner leads a Chinese mother to realize the consequences of leaving her daughter in the care of an American homestay family.

Director: **Johnson Cheng**
USA / English, Mandarin / 2020 / 15 mins

A World of Colour & 'Under the Trees' Cine-Concert PG

Sat 13 Nov / 11.00 AM / K16-DT / QR 35

Colours are universal—much like the wonderfully delightful tales in this short programme that has been specially curated for the whole family to enjoy!

Colourful Feathers

A family of blue chickens are ostracized from their flock. But when a fox arrives, they quickly learn to get along!

Director: **Maribel Suárez**

Mexico / No dialogue / 2021 / 3 mins

Ink

An octopus is a bit of a neat freak. But sometimes, even though you have so many arms, you still cannot reach what you want!

Director: **Joost van den Bosch, Erik Verkerk**

Netherlands / No dialogue / 2020 / 2 mins

Under the Clouds

Walter the Lamb dreams of one day becoming a cloud. He's certainly got the fluffiness to achieve his ambition, but it won't be an easy journey!

Director: **Vasilisa Tikunova**

Russia / No dialogue / 2021 / 4 mins

Little Snowman

A little snowman keeps losing his carrot nose, which his mother replaces every evening. Until one day, a rabbit pays them a visit.

Director: **Alexey Pochivalov**

Russia / No dialogue / 2021 / 4 mins

Orchestra Rehearsal

A busy dad and musician is late for his philharmonic orchestra concert. With not a minute to waste, he must quicken his tempo and get there presto!

Director: **Tatyana Okruzhnova**

Russia / No dialogue / 2020 / 7 mins

Kenya's Symphony

Kenya, a young girl, is reluctantly dragged to a symphony by her mother only to discover a new passion for music blossoming within.

Director: **Carlos Douglas Jr**

USA / No dialogue / 2019 / 5 mins

Ajyal is delighted to once again partner with Forum des Images to present an audio-visual feast for the senses!

Making its Qatar premiere, 'Under the Trees' is an endearing and oh-so-fun musical show full of poetry and sweetness—accompanied live by talented musicians Leslie Bourdin and Rémi Foucard.

So come with us on an incredible adventure into the woods, where under every tree you'll find a new friend with a story to tell!

According to Birds

The great owl arrives as the leaves begin to fall. Smaller birds take flight soaring into the air, looking for warmer climates as winter begins in the forest.

Director: **Linde Faas**

Netherlands / 2008 / 5 mins

Raccoon and the Light

Late at night in the deep dark forest, a curious racoon discovers a mysterious new friend. Strange at first, the pair soon form an illuminating friendship!

Director: **Hanna Kim**

USA / 2018 / 4 mins

The Fox Who Followed the Sound

An enchanting sound is coming from the woods. What could it be? A curious little fox goes to investigate and discovers the music within himself.

Director: **Fatemeh Goudarzi**

Iran / 2012 / 10 mins

The Last Day of Autumn

All the forest animals have been squirrelling away parts to build their bikes for the big race on the last day of Autumn, but who will win?

Director: **Marjolaine Perreten**

Switzerland, Belgium, France / 2019 / 7 mins

Orchestra Rehearsal



Ajyal at VOX Cinemas

Doha Festival City

Ajyal returns to VOX Cinemas, Doha Festival City, with an incredible selection of internationally award-winning features and compelling short programmes for you to enjoy.



A Hero PG-13

MENA Premiere

Mon 8 Nov / 8.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Tue 11 Nov / 8.00 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Rahim finds himself in jail for incurring a business debt he is unable to repay. While on a two-day leave, his girlfriend offers him a gilded opportunity to secure his freedom, albeit at a dubiously immoral price. Unable to balance the weight of his newly ill-gotten gold coins with his conscience, Rahim does the ethical thing and attempts to find their rightful owner by putting up posters around town. But no good deed goes unpunished, and he soon finds himself caught up in a quagmire of increasingly complex moral dilemmas—all stemming from a single, seemingly inconsequential falsehood.

Winner of a Grand Prix Award at Cannes Film Festival 2021

Director: **Asghar Farhadi**

Iran, France / Farsi / 2021 / 127 mins



Asteroid PG

MENA Premiere

Wed 10 Nov / 5.00 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Thu 11 Nov / 6.00 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Ebrahim is only twelve years of age but bears much of the responsibility for his household of five younger siblings with his mother. Living in a remote desert, they get by mostly on odd jobs and seasonal work when tourists arrive. Ever the industrious boy, Ebrahim finds work wherever and whenever he can as he dutifully helps his family in their dream to build a house in the local village. 'Asteroid' is an earnest family drama with genuine heartfelt moments between a talented young cast.

Winner of a Best Film Award at Fajr International Film Festival 2021

Director: **Mehdi Hoseinivand Aalipour**

Iran / Balochi, Farsi / 2021 / 78 mins



Brother's Keeper PG-13

MENA Premiere

Thu 11 Nov / 5.00 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Fri 12 Nov / 5.00 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Yusuf and his best friend Memo are pupils at a boarding school for Kurdish boys in Eastern Anatolia. When Memo falls ill, Yusuf struggles through the bureaucratic obstacles put up by the school's repressive authorities to try to help his friend. But by the time the adults in charge understand the seriousness of Memo's condition, the school has been buried under heavy snowfall. With no way out, teachers and pupils engage in a blame game where grudges and hidden secrets emerge—as time ticks mercilessly by and threatens to run out...

Winner of a FIPRESCI Prize at Berlin International Film Festival 2021

Director: **Ferit Karahan**

Turkey / Kurdish, Turkish / 2021 / 85 mins



Captains of Zaatari PG

Middle East Premiere

Mon 8 Nov / 5.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Sat 13 Nov / 4.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

After fleeing the war in Syria, best friends Mahmoud and Fawzi have spent the last five years in Jordan's Za'atari refugee camp. Though they both have little sense of what the future may hold for them, they focus their energy on their first love—soccer. Despite the dire circumstances in the camp, the pair practice daily, firmly believing that playing professional football is their ticket to freedom. When Aspire Academy, one of the world's leading sports academies, arrives to pick players for an international tournament in Qatar, the friends seize their opportunity...

Director: **Ali El Arabi**

Egypt / Arabic / 2021 / 75 mins



Costa Brava, Lebanon 18+

Doha Film Institute Supported Film

Middle East Premiere

Fri 12 Nov / 8.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

In 'Costa Brava, Lebanon', the free-spirited Badri family escape the overwhelming pollution and social unrest of Beirut by seeking refuge in a utopic mountain home they built for themselves. Unexpectedly, an illegal garbage landfill begins construction right next door, and with it comes the very trash and corruption they were seeking to escape. As the landfill rises, so do family tensions. The Badris are left with a choice—stay off the grid or leave their idyllic home and face the reality they fled, hoping to stay true to their ideals.

Winner of a NETPAC Award at Toronto International Film Festival 2021

Director: **Mounia Akl**

Lebanon, France, Spain, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Qatar / Arabic / 2021 / 107 mins



Dear Future Children 15+

MENA Premiere

Mon 8 Nov / 5.00 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Tue 9 Nov / 8.00 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

With global protests on the rise, 'Dear Future Children' is a film about the new generation at the heart of this seismic political shift. The intimate documentary follows three activists—Rayen protests for social justice in Chile, Pepper fights for democracy in Hong Kong and Hilda battles the devastating consequences of climate change in Uganda. Facing almost impossible odds and grappling with the staggering impact of their activism on their lives, the film captures all the energy, anger, and ingenuity of these inspirational young women as they struggle to create a brighter future for themselves and the world.

Winner of an Audience Award at Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival 2021

Director: **Franz Böhm**

Germany, UK, Austria / English, Spanish, Cantonese, Luganda / 2021 / 89 mins



Feathers 15+

Middle East Premiere

Mon 8 Nov / 7.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Thu 11 Nov / 9.00 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

When a magic trick goes terribly awry at a children's birthday party, the autocratic father of an impoverished family is turned abruptly into a chicken. This ludicrous event causes an avalanche of coincidental absurdities to befall everyone else. The dutiful mother, whose mundane life was dedicated to her husband and children, is now thrust to the forefront as head of the new, unusual household and primary breadwinner for her family. While trying everything to bring her husband back and secure their financial survival, she undergoes a considerable transformation of her own.

Winner of the Critics' Week Grand Prize at Cannes Film Festival 2021

Director: **Omar El Zohairy**

France, Egypt, Netherlands, Greece / Arabic / 2021 / 112 mins



Fighter PG-13

MENA Premiere

Mon 8 Nov / 8.00 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Fri 12 Nov / 2.00 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

After a courageous escape from North Korea, Jina spends some time in a social inclusion facility in the south before moving to a small studio in Seoul. Free from the regime that controlled every aspect of her life, she takes the first tentative steps towards independence by taking a job as a cleaner. Money she desperately needs in order to rescue her father, who is still trapped in the north. While working at a local gym, she notices female boxers as they train. Awakening a fighting spirit inside her, Jina decides to enter the ring and compete.

Winner of the NETPAC Award at Busan International Film Festival 2020

Director: **Jéro Yun**

South Korea / Korean / 2020 / 103 mins



Josee, the Tiger and the Fish PG-13

MENA Premiere

Geekdom Screening

Tue 9 Nov / 5.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Sat 13 Nov / 2.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Tsuneo is a university student with dreams of diving abroad. While out walking one day, he gets a job assisting Josee, an artist whose imagination takes her far beyond her wheelchair. But when the tide turns against them, they push each other to places they never thought possible and inspire a love fit for a storybook. A gorgeously animated and effortlessly charming melodramatic animated feature based on a short story and young adult novel of the same name by Seiko Tanabehe.

Director: **Kotaro Tamura**

Japan / Japanese / 2020 / 98 mins



Land of Dreams 18+

Doha Film Institute Supported Film

MENA Premiere

Fri 12 Nov / 7.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

'Land of Dreams' takes place in the near future in a small town in America. Simin is an Iranian immigrant who works for US Census Bureau, which has begun a programme to record citizens' dreams. Unaware of the American government's plot, Simin's personal obsession is to try to capture her interviewees' dreams by photographing and later impersonating them in Farsi on social media. Playful and poignant, 'Land of Dreams' acknowledges in a surreal and satirical way, the greatness of the American experiment while offering a warning beacon for what could come.

Directors: **Shirin Neshat, Shoja Azari**

USA, Germany, Qatar / English, Farsi / 2021 / 113 mins



Lily Topples the World PG

MENA Premiere

Tue 9 Nov / 7.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Wed 10 Nov / 7.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

The visually spectacular and utterly satisfying 'Lily Topples the World' follows 20-year-old Lily Hevesh—the world's greatest domino "toppler" and the only woman in her field. A delicate balance of engineering and creativity, Lily's unique brand of art is an absolute delight to watch. Filmed over three years, the documentary is a wholesome coming-of-age story cloaked within a unique portrait of an artist and a shining example of how passion and dedication can make dreams come true.

Winner of the Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary at SXSW 2021

Director: **Jeremy Workman**

USA / English / 2021 / 90 mins



Little Palestine, Diary of a Siege 15+

Doha Film Institute Supported Film

Middle East Premiere

Wed 10 Nov / 8.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Fri 12 Nov / 2.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Yarmouk in Damascus sheltered the largest Palestinian refugee camp in the world from 1957 to 2018. When the Syrian revolution broke out, Bashar Al-Assad's regime saw Yarmouk as a refuge of rebels and resistance, besieging the camp from 2013 onwards. Gradually deprived of food, medicine and electricity, Yarmouk was cut off from the world. Filmmaker Abdallah Al-Khatib was born in Yarmouk, living there until his expulsion by Daesh, documenting the besieged inhabitants' daily lives, who chose to face bombing, displacement and hunger with rallying, study, music, love and joy.

Winner of the Interreligious Award at Visions du Réel Film Festival 2021

Director: **Abdallah Al-Khatib**

Lebanon, France, Qatar / Arabic / 2021 / 89 mins



Nobody Has to Know 18+

MENA Premiere

Sat 13 Nov / 8.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Working as a farmhand on a remote and weather-beaten Scottish island, middle-aged Phil is an outsider who speaks his mind. After a sudden stroke, Phil wakes up with no memories of his past, a case of apparent amnesia due to his ordeal. A demure but enterprising girl named Millie soon comes to his rescue. The daughter of Phil's boss, she is on-hand to nurse him back to health, soon revealing a clandestine secret—the pair were more than mere acquaintances.

Director: **Bouli Lanners**

Belgium, UK, France / English, French / 2021 / 99 mins



Not So Friendly Neighbourhood Affair PG-13

MENA Premiere

Tue 9 Nov / 8.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Wed 10 Nov / 5.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Enis and Izo are friends living in the Old Town area of Sarajevo. Running restaurants opposite each other, they don't seem overly concerned that they are business competitors. On the contrary, Enis wants Izo to join him in his latest venture. But as Izo warns—if you do business with friends, you either mess up the business or you mess up the friendship. One day, everything changes for the pair when a seemingly harmless courtesy thrusts Izo and his now-famous "Cevapi"—a grilled dish of minced meat—into the national spotlight.

Director: **Danis Tanović**

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey / Bosnian / 2021 / 90 mins



Orca PG-13

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
Home Premiere

Sat 13 Nov / 7.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Elham, a divorced Iranian woman, survives a horrific beating at the hands of her husband. Haunted by the traumatic experience and seeking to rediscover herself, she finds solace and salvation in the open expanse of water. Courageous, determined and encouraged by her father, Elham soon makes her mark as a formidable endurance swimmer. In the fight of her life, Elham faces political, ideological, and personal obstacles in search of her ultimate goal—the Guinness world record for swimming the longest distance with her hands bound.

Director: **Sahar Mossayebi**
Qatar, Iran / Farsi / 2021 / 108 mins



Playground PG-13

MENA Premiere

Tue 9 Nov / 5.00 PM / QR 40 & QR 50
Wed 10 Nov / 8.00 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

7-year-old Nora and her big brother Abel are back to school. When Nora witnesses Abel being bullied, she rushes to protect him by warning their father. But Abel forces her to remain silent. Caught in a conflict of loyalty, Nora must ultimately try to find her place, torn between the worlds of childhood and adulthood—each with its own set of paradoxical rules. A powerfully authentic look at the micro-society of a schoolyard, 'Playground' shows us the realities of growing up and the integration of the self in broader society.

Winner of the FIPRESCI Prize at Cannes Un Certain Regard 2021

Director: **Laura Wandel**
Belgium / French / 2021 / 72 mins



Poupelle of Chimney Town PG

MENA Premiere

Geekdom Screening
Fri 12 Nov / 5.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50
Sat 13 Nov / 5.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Young Lubicchi lives in Chimney Town, a place where the sky is eternally grey due to the countless smokestacks that billow out soot into the air. Lubicchi's father, who has mysteriously disappeared, used to tell him stories of blue skies and twinkling stars that lie above the thick layers of smog. One Halloween, Lubicchi meets a friendly monster made of garbage which he names Poupelle. Convinced that "if you believe, you'll find a way", Lubicchi and Poupelle, embark on a daring mission to discover a new world beyond the smoke.

Director: Yusuke Hirota
Japan / English / 2020 / 100 mins



School of Hope PG

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
MENA Premiere

Wed 10 Nov / 4.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50
Fri 12 Nov / 4.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

In the vast expanse of desert, East of Atlas Mountains in Morocco, seasonal rain and snow once supported livestock, but now the drought seems to never end. Families must travel to get water from a muddy hole in the ground. Yet the children willingly walk for miles to a "school of hope" built of clay. Following both the students and the teachers in the Oulad Boukais Tribe's community school for over three years, 'School of Hope' is an intimate and charming portrait of optimism in the harshest of environments.

Winner of a Special Jury Prize at Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival 2021

Director: **Mohamed El Aboudi**
Finland, France, Morocco, Qatar / Arabic / 2020 / 88 mins



Writing with Fire 15+

MENA Premiere

Thu 11 Nov / 5.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Fri 12 Nov / 1.30 PM / QR 40 & QR 50

Amid a crowded, patriarchal news landscape emerges India's only newspaper run by Dalit (low caste) women. Chief Reporter Meera and her journalists break traditions, be it on the frontlines of India's biggest issues or within the confines of their homes, redefining what it means to be powerful. Following Meera and her journalists' rapidly changing professional worlds, we see them negotiate obstacles and inch closer to their dream. But how will Meera re-wire the traditional mindsets of a society that has never experienced the power of a Dalit woman with a smartphone?

Winner of an Audience Award at Sundance Film Festival 2021

Director: Rintu Thomas, Sushmit Ghosh
India / Hindi / 2021 / 93 mins

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Don't Get Too Comfortable



Virtual Voice

Made in Qatar Programme PG-15

Presented by Ooredoo

Tue 9 Nov / 7.30 PM / K16-DT / QR 35
 Tue 9 Nov / 8.30 PM / K16-OH / QR 35
 Thu 11 Nov / 8.30 PM / VOX / QR 40 & 50

The Ajyal Film Festival is delighted to showcase and celebrate the thriving filmmaking scene in Qatar. The programme presented this year features some internationally shown and award-winning short documentaries and narratives.

Border

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
 In an abstrusely dystopian future, a man wishes to return to his family. But navigating the complex system becomes a near-impossible journey.
 Director: **Khalifa Al Thani**
 Qatar / English, Arabic / 2021 / 12 mins

Fever Dream

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
 A documentary about a reality that is stranger than fiction. Sick with the coronavirus, a couple films themselves in quarantine—a five-star hotel with a sea view and sealed windows.
 Director: **Ania Hendryx Wójtowicz**
 Qatar, Poland, USA / English / 2021 / 8 mins

There Were People

Filmed in the aftermath of the tragic explosion that rocked the city of Beirut last August, 'There Were People' documents the stories of Lebanese people as they endure daily hardships.
 Director: **Mohamed Al Hamadi**
 Qatar, Lebanon / Arabic / 2021 / 10 mins

Don't Get Too Comfortable

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
 Shaima Al-Tamimi shares an introspective letter to her deceased grandfather, reflecting on her ancestral migrational journey and its implications over three generations.
 Director: **Shaima Al-Tamimi**
 Yemen, USA, Netherlands, Qatar, UAE / English, Swahili, Arabic / 2021 / 9 mins

A Lens Under Water

An eye-opening and colourful dive into the teeming coastal waters of Qatar with underwater photographer Faisal Jarkas.
 Director: **Fatma Zahra Abderrahim**
 Qatar / Arabic / 2021 / 17 mins

Virtual Voice

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
 A digital-savvy and satirical review of our online times. Meet Suzi doll, an ego-warrior marching to the algorithms of social media—another vacuous virtual voice, echoing injustices.
 Director: **Suzannah Mirghani**
 Sudan, Qatar / English / 2021 / 7 mins

Atlal (Remnants)

A wistful Palestinian man embarks on a trip down memory lane to the pivotal locations of his life in Qatar—all of which now lay abandoned.
 Directors: **Balkees Al-Jaafari, Tony El Ghazal**
 Qatar / Arabic / 2021 / 11 mins

And Then They Burn the Sea

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
 Filmmaker Majid Al-Remaihi ruminates on the experience of witnessing his mother's gradual and terminal memory loss over the course of many years.
 Director: **Majid Al-Remaihi**
 Qatar / Arabic / 2021 / 13 mins

When Beirut was Beirut

If these buildings could talk, what would they say? In this animated documentary, three of Beirut's monumental buildings come to life and share their stories of Beirut's unsettling history.
 Director: **Alessandra El Chanti**
 Qatar, Lebanon / Arabic / 2021 / 12 mins

Olayan

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
 A Bedouin boy named Hamad forms a bond with a newborn camel, who he calls Olayan. When Olayan is later sold to market, young Hamad embarks on a mission to rescue his friend.
 Director: **Khalifa Al-Marri**
 Qatar / Arabic / 2021 / 18 mins

The Journey Within PG

Fri 12 Nov / 7.30 PM / VOX / QR 40 & 50

To truly grow as individuals, we must look inward, not outward. This compelling short programme showcases how a journey within ourselves can lead to a revelation at every step.

Umbrellas

In a village where the rain never stops, young Kyna spends her days playing happily, protected under her father's umbrella beard. Until one night, her beloved dog Nana disappears.

Directors: **José Prats, Álvaro Robles**

France, Spain / No dialogue / 2020 / 12 mins

Adaptation

A young red-haired boy draws the ire of local bullies because of his unique appearance and must summon the courage to stand up for himself.

Director: **Ngima Gelu Sherpa**

Portugal / Portuguese / 2020 / 15 mins

Just for the Record

In an abandoned attic, a little robot voice recorder named 'REC' desperately tries to copy over his last painful memory with that of a songbird.

Director: **Vojin Vasović**

Serbia, Canada / No dialogue / 2020 / 7 mins



Umbrellas

A Lens Under Water

An eye-opening and colourful dive into the teeming coastal waters of Qatar with underwater photographer Faisal Jarkas.

Director: **Fatma Zahra Abderrahim**

Qatar / Arabic / 2021 / 17 mins

Louis' Shoes

Inspired by interviews and testimonials from people with autism, this short shows us the world through the eyes of an eight-year-old boy who has just joined a new school.

Directors: **Théo Jamin, Kayu Leung, Marion Philippe, Jean Géraud Blanc**

France / French / 2020 / 5 mins

Bambirak

When 8-year-old Kati stows away in her father's delivery van, Faruk must juggle his responsibilities as a single dad while holding down his first job in a new country.

Director: **Zamarin Wahdat**

USA / Germany / German, Dari, Farsi / 2020 / 14 mins

My Name is Fear

The surprisingly charming emotion "Fear" that lives in your head wants to give an interview. Maybe you can become friends?

Director: **Eliza Płoceniak-Alvarez**

Germany / English / 2021 / 5 mins

My Friend Tiger

A tiger cub and little girl grow up together in a busy city. Inseparable, they go everywhere as a pair on an increasingly cramped bike!

Director: **Tatiana Kiseleva**

Russia / No dialogue / 2021 / 7 mins

Changing Times PG-13

Sat 13 Nov / 2.00 PM / VOX / QR 40 & 50

Change is inevitable; it is how we adapt and overcome that defines us. In this dynamic programme of shorts, we explore the natural state of turmoil and seek to find meaning in chaos.

Olayan

Doha Film Institute Supported Film A Bedouin boy named Hamad forms a bond with a newborn camel, who he calls Olayan. When Olayan is later sold to market, young Hamad embarks on a mission to rescue his friend.

Director: **Khalifa Al-Marri**

Qatar / Arabic / 2021 / 18 mins

Don't Get Too Comfortable

Doha Film Institute Supported Film Shaima Al-Tamimi shares an introspective letter to her deceased grandfather, reflecting on her ancestral migrational journey and its implications over three generations.

Director: **Shaima Al-Tamimi**

Yemen, USA, Netherlands, Qatar, UAE / English, Swahili, Arabic / 2021 / 9 mins

Night

Doha Film Institute Supported Film In a city devastated by war, it can be difficult to sleep, let alone dream. To ease a women's anguish, Night tricks her into seeing her missing child one last time.

Director: **Ahmad Saleh**

Germany, Qatar, Jordan, Palestine / Arabic / 2021 / 16 mins



Olayan

Summer Fasting

Scorching beneath the summer sun, eleven-year-old Kader is determined to observe Ramadan for the first time with the unsolicited help of his best friend, Rudy.

Director: **Abdenoure Ziane**

France / French / 2020 / 18 mins

Peek-A-Boom

Surrounded by her loving family on her birthday, a startling event occurs that will shape young Mira's life forever.

Directors: **Maya Zankoul, Toni Yammine**

Lebanon / Arabic / 2021 / 5 mins

Shadegan

A day in the life of a 12-year-old fisherman on his boat in Shadegan Pond, Iran—his second home and the source of his family's livelihood.

Director: **Ako Salemi**

Iran / No dialogue / 2020 / 15 mins

Silence

A young Kurdish girl who has recently become deaf from an infection struggles with her disability and begins to feel increasingly isolated from her community.

Director: **Brwa Vahabpour**

Norway, Iraq / Kurdish / 2020 / 15 mins

Tomorrow My Love

An old man is separated from his hospitalised wife due to the pandemic. But love will always find a way in this painstakingly illustrated and affecting short about connection and loss.

Director: **Gitanjali Rao**

India / No dialogue / 2021 / 4 mins

Uncertain Futures I 15+

Sat 13 Nov / 5.00 PM / VOX / QR 40 & 50

It's certainly been an unpredictable couple of years for the world. But as the old adage goes, when nothing is sure—everything is possible. This thought-provoking programme of shorts illustrates that at the beginning of some of life's most meaningful journeys, lies uncertainty...



Junko

Junko

A newlywed girl patiently waits for a call from her husband, who has left to find work in India. As days pass, longingness turns to loneliness, then resignation to resolve.

Director: **Minsho Limbu**
Nepal / Nepali / 2021 / 15 mins

Have a Nice Dog!

Trapped in war-surrounded Damascus, a lonely man becomes increasingly lost in his fantasies of escape. With only his dog for company, he ventures deeper into the darker recesses of his mind.

Director: **Jalal Maghout**
Germany, Syria / Arabic / 2020 / 13 mins

Time Flows in Strange Ways on Sundays

A mother, trapped in the comfort of memory and mourning, confronts her grief when she is invited to the wedding of her late son's childhood sweetheart.

Director: **Giselle Lin**
Singapore / English, Mandarin / 2021 / 17 mins

Shark

Jack, a serial prankster, finds his perfect match in the equally daring Rose. But there may be some troubled waters ahead for the couple.

Director: **Nash Edgerton**
Australia / English / 2021 / 14 mins

Light Fingers

In an attempt to run away from the problems of their old neighbourhood, Omar and Sahar move house but ultimately find themselves stuck in the same unusual cycle.

Director: **Carina Ashkar**
Lebanon / Arabic / 2021 / 14 mins

Before Darkness

An Afghan woman hides her child because she does not have enough money to take them both across Iran's border. But her plan is exposed with heartbreaking consequences.

Director: **Mosayeb Hanaie**
Iran, Afghanistan / Afghan, Persian, Turkish / 2021 / 18 mins

No Leaders Please

An eloquently animated film based on a poem about self-discovery and reinvention by Charles Bukowski. The composition is inspired by artists Basquiat, Banksy, Haring, and A Weiwei.

Director: **Joan Gratz**
USA / English / 2020 / 2 mins

And Then They Burn the Sea

Doha Film Institute Supported Film
Filmmaker Majid Al-Remaihi ruminates on the experience of witnessing his mother's gradual and terminal memory loss over the course of many years.

Director: **Majid Al-Remaihi**
Qatar / Arabic / 2021 / 13 mins

Uncertain Futures II 18+

Sat 13 Nov / 8.00 PM / VOX / QR 40 & 50

BJ's Mobile Gift Shop

BJ, a young Korean-American hustler, tirelessly runs throughout the city of Chicago making hard-earned sales out of his infinitely convenient "mobile gift shop".

Director: **Jason Park**
USA / English, Korean / 2020 / 16 mins

When Light is Displaced

A soon to be removed orange grove in Los Angeles inspires contemplation on the politics of storytelling in the multi-generational experience of Palestine in exile.

Director: **Zaina Bseiso**
Palestine, USA / Arabic / 2021 / 6 mins

Khadiga

A teenage mother is left to raise her child alone when her husband moves away to find work in another city.

Director: **Morad Mostafa**
Egypt, France / Arabic / 2021 / 20 mins

I Gotta Look Good for the Apocalypse

A mixed media animation about the Covid-19 lockdown, and its effect on relationships and increasingly digitised lives.

Director: **Ayce Kartal**
France, Turkey / English, Spanish / 2021 / 6 mins



Neon Phantom

Trumpets in the Sky

Boushra, one of the Syrian potato-picking girls in Lebanon, returns from a long day in the field only to learn that today—her childhood will come to an end.

Director: **Rakan Mayasi**
Palestine, Lebanon, France, Belgium / No dialogue / 2021 / 15 mins

Peel

The daily routine of a retirement home unfolds as time seems to stand still—the pencilled residents come to life on paper.

Directors: **Samuel Patthey, Silvain Monney**
Switzerland / No dialogue / 2020 / 15 mins

Neon Phantom

Joao works in the gig economy as a delivery driver. He dreams about buying a motorcycle and transforming his life into a musical, but his reality is far harsher.

Director: **Leonardo Martinelli**
Brazil / Portuguese / 2021 / 20 mins

When Beirut was Beirut

If these buildings could talk, what would they say? In this animated documentary, three of Beirut's monumental buildings come to life and share their stories of Beirut's unsettling history.

Director: **Alessandra El Chanti**
Qatar, Lebanon, USA / Arabic / 2021 / 12 mins

Ajyal Drive-in Cinema at Lusail

In partnership with Qatar Tourism

Always a crowd-pleaser, the Ajyal Drive-in Cinema experience returns to Lusail. So, start your engines as we've got something for everyone on this year's programme—from classic family favourites during the day, to lock your car doors horror at our terrifying midnight screenings!



Maya the Bee 3: The Golden Orb PG

Qatar Premiere

Wed 10 Nov / 6.30 PM / LUS-DIC / QR 100–150 per car

When Maya, a headstrong little bee, and her best friend, Willi, rescue an ant princess, they find themselves in the middle of an epic bug battle that will take them to strange new worlds and test their friendship to its limits. A genuine feel-good family movie about the importance of friendship, freedom and facing our fears.

Director: **Noel Cleary**

Germany, Australia / English / 2021 / 80 mins



Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone PG

Thu 11 Nov / 6.30 PM / LUS-DIC / QR 100–150 per car

An adaptation of the first of J.K. Rowling's popular children's novels about Harry Potter, a boy who learns on his eleventh birthday that he is the orphaned son of two powerful wizards and possesses unique magical powers of his own. He is summoned from his life as an unwanted child to become a student at Hogwarts, an English boarding school for wizards. There, he meets several friends who become his closest allies and help him discover the truth about his parents' mysterious deaths. A big-screen magical caper celebrating its 20th anniversary this year!

Director: **Chris Columbus**

UK, USA / English / 2001 / 152 mins



Child's Play 18+

Thu 11 Nov / 11.59 PM / LUS-DIC / QR 100-150 per car

Gunned down by Detective Mike Norris, dying murderer Charles Lee Ray uses black magic to put his soul inside a doll named Chucky—which Karen Barclay then buys for her young son, Andy. When Chucky kills Andy's babysitter, the boy realizes the doll is alive and tries to warn people, but he's institutionalized. Now Karen must convince the detective of the murderous doll's intentions before Andy becomes Chucky's next victim in this wildly original and truly creepy horror classic.

Director: **Tom Holland**
USA / English / 1988 / 88 mins



One Hundred and One Dalmatians PG

Kids' Red-Carpet Screening—come dressed as your favourite character!

Fri 12 Nov / 6.30 PM / LUS-DIC / QR 100-150 per car

Dalmatian Pongo is tired of his bachelor-dog life. He spies lovely Perdita and manoeuvres his master, Roger, into meeting Perdita's owner, Anita. The owners fall in love and marry, keeping Pongo and Perdita together too. After Perdita gives birth to a litter of 15 puppies, Anita's old school friend Cruella De Vil wants to buy them all. Roger declines her offer, so Cruella hires the criminal Badun brothers to steal them—so she can make herself a fur coat!

Directors: **Wolfgang Reitherman, Hamilton Luske, Clyde Geronimi**
USA / English / 1961 / 79 mins

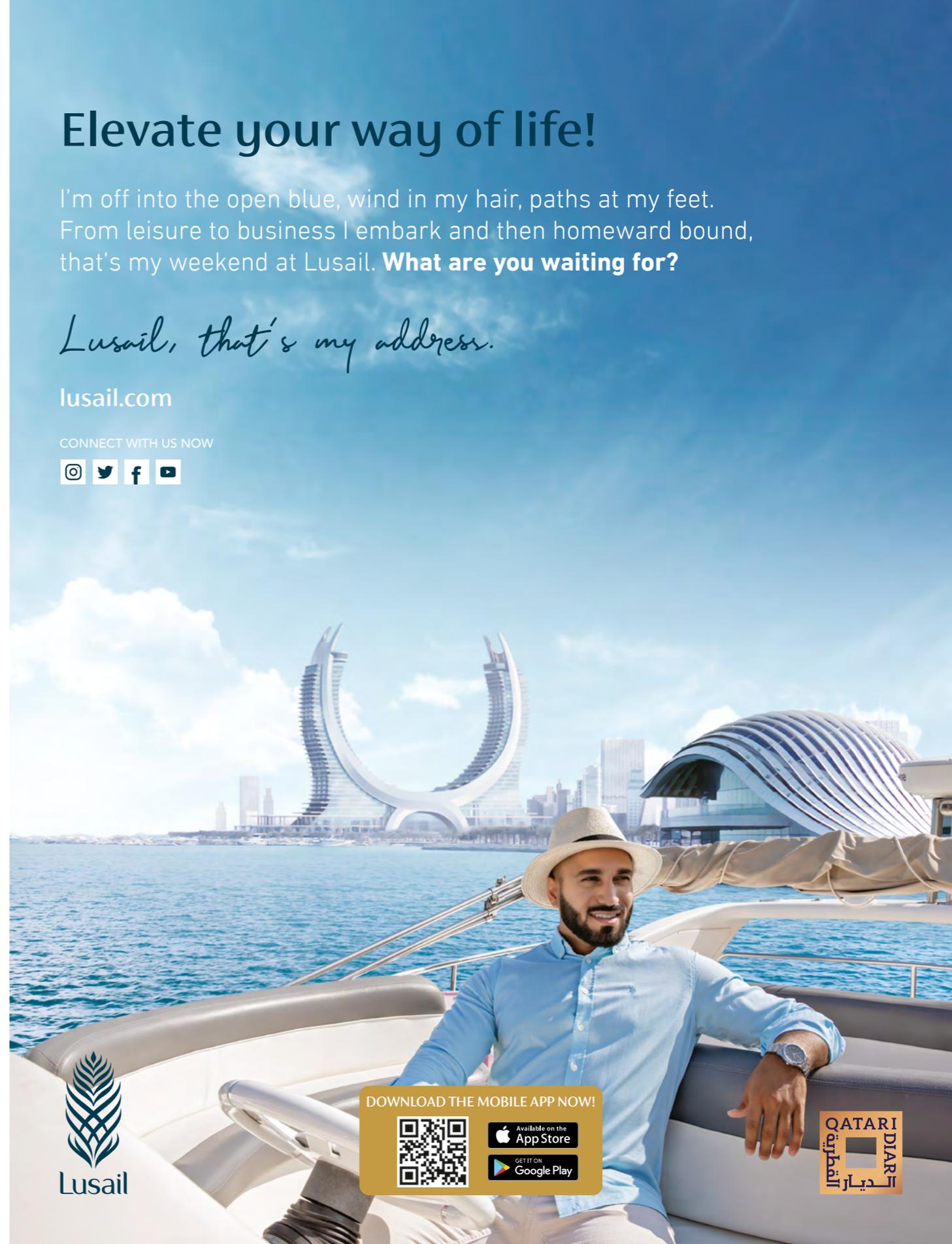
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The Conjuring 18+
Fri 12 Nov / 11.59 PM / LUS-DIC / QR 100-150 per car

In 1970, paranormal investigators and demonologists Lorraine and Ed Warren are summoned to the home of Carolyn and Roger Perron. The Perrons and their five daughters have recently moved into a secluded farmhouse, where a supernatural presence has made itself known. Though the manifestations are relatively benign at first, events soon escalate in horrifying fashion, especially after the Warrens discover the house's macabre history.

Director: **James Wan**
USA / English / 2013 / 109 mins



Annabelle 18+
Sat 13 Nov / 10.00 PM / LUS-DIC / QR 100-150 per car

John Form has found the perfect gift for his expectant wife, Mia—a beautiful, rare vintage doll in a pure white wedding dress. But Mia's delight with Annabelle doesn't last long. On one horrific night, their home is invaded by members of a satanic cult, who violently attack the couple. Spilt blood and terror are not all they leave behind. The cultists have conjured an entity so malevolent that nothing they did will compare to the sinister conduit to the damned that is now...Annabelle.

Director: **John R. Leonetti**
USA / English / 2014 / 99 mins

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Ajyal at Msheireb

Sikkat Wadi Msheireb is home to Ajyal's Creativity Hub, including our ever-popular events such as Geekdom, the multimedia art exhibit 'We Will Not Leave' and Ajyal Tunes.

Geekdom 2021

The Return of the Geeks!



Welcome back one and all to Qatar's largest pop-culture event. We may have been apart for a while, but we hope you're ready to be a part of the action once more as Geekdom 2021 returns in all its glory.

This year, we've moved to the amazing Sikkat Wadi Msheireb and play host to all your favourite events, such as awesome video game tournaments, unmissable screenings, talented artists, fun karaoke and much more!

8-13 Nov / 2.00 PM – 11.00 PM / Free - Register online for tickets

Geekdom Screenings

8–13 Nov / SWM
Free - Reserve a ticket for entry

Join us at our Msheireb screening room for a harmonious good time with four classic Disney hits for you to sing along to! We also have two fantastic anime features showing at VOX, Doha Festival City this year, so be sure also to check out 'Josee, the Tiger and the Fish' (page 23) and 'Poupelle of Chimney Town' (page 27)



Mulan

Beauty and the Beast PG

Wed 10 Nov / 4.00 PM

An arrogant young prince and his castle's servants fall under the spell of a wicked enchantress, who turns him into the hideous Beast until he learns to love and be loved in return. The spirited, headstrong village girl Belle enters the Beast's castle after he imprisons her father, Maurice. With the help of his enchanted servants, including the matronly Mrs Potts, Belle begins to draw the cold-hearted Beast out of his isolation in this classic animation with plenty of wonderful musical numbers.

Director: **Gary Trousdale, Kirk Wise**
USA / English / 1991 / 84 mins

Tarzan PG

Sat 13 Nov / 4.00 PM

The orphaned Tarzan grows up in the remote African wilderness, raised by the gentle gorilla Kala. When a British expedition enters the jungle, Tarzan encounters the beautiful Jane and recognizes that, like her, he's human. Falling in love with Jane, Tarzan is torn between embracing civilization and staying with his gorilla family, which becomes threatened by the ruthless hunter Clayton in this thrilling animated action-adventure.

Director: **Chris Buck, Kevin Lima**
USA, UK / Arabic / 1999 / 78 mins

The Lion King PG

Tue 9 Nov / 4.00 PM

Emotionally stirring and richly drawn, 'The Lion King' follows the adventures of young lion Simba, the heir of his father, Mufasa. Simba's wicked uncle, Scar, plots to usurp Mufasa's throne by luring father and son into a stampede of wildebeests. But Simba escapes, and only Mufasa is killed. Simba returns as an adult to take back his homeland from Scar with the help of his friends Timon and Pumbaa in this Disney favourite with unforgettable songs by Elton John and Tim Rice.

Director: **Roger Allers, Rob Minkoff**
USA / Arabic / 1994 / 88 mins

Mulan PG

Mon 8 Nov / 4.00 PM

Fearful that her ailing father will be drafted into the Chinese military, Mulan takes his spot—though, as a girl living under a patriarchal regime, she is technically unqualified to serve. She cleverly impersonates a man and goes off to train with fellow recruits. Accompanied by her dragon, Mushu, she uses her smarts to help ward off a Hun invasion, falling in love with a dashing captain along the way in this vibrantly animated tale about war, honour, gender roles and family pride.

Director: **Barry Cook, Tony Bancroft**
USA / Arabic / 1998 / 88 mins

Geekdom Tournaments

Prepare for gladiatorial combat as Geekdom's Gaming Tournaments return with another incredible selection of titles for you to compete in. Leave everything on the pitch in FIFA 22, or take it all out on your opponent in Tekken 7—we've got something for every gamer at Sikkat Wadi Msheireb this year!

Register online at www.dohafilminstitute.com/pages/geekdom

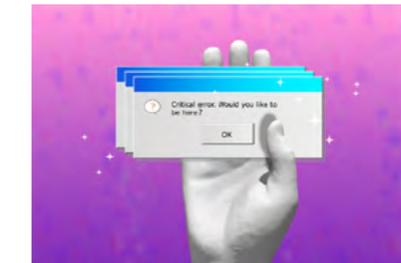
Pokémon GO

1 November, 6.00 PM



Guilty Gear Strive

9 November, 4:00 PM – 11:00 PM



Street Fighter V

11 November, 4:00 PM – 11:00 PM



League of Legends

8 November, 4:00 PM – 11:00 PM



Fifa 22

9 – 10 November, 4:00 PM – 11:00 PM



Tekken 7

12 November, 4:00 PM – 11:00 PM



Super Smash Bros. Ultimate

8 – 12 November, 4:00 PM – 11:00 PM



Valorant

9 – 12 November, 4:00 PM – 11:00 pm



We Will Not Leave

An Exhibition by Doha Film Institute

Curated by Sheikh Khalifa Abdulla Al-Thani

8 Nov–18 Dec / 10.00 AM–10.00 PM
(Fridays 2.00 PM–10.00 PM)

Free

Throughout history, oppressors have used the imbalance of power to subjugate and control dissenting voices. Traditionally, mainstream media has sided with the dominant force, often misinterpreting, misreporting, or purposefully misrepresenting the powerless to appease the powerful.

There is no more tragically true example of this today than the struggle of the Palestinian people. Their voices have been muted, their cries silenced and their viewpoints all but ignored by unjust and partisan forces in global media and industry. But with the rise of new media, comes a glimmer of hope. Thanks to the brave people of Palestine and the ascent of citizen journalism, the world is beginning to see the true nature of their plight.

Drawing inspiration from the Al-Kurd family living in the embattled Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood, this year's exhibit 'We Will Not Leave' derives its name from their defiant and now iconic piece of graffiti art. Qatar's creative community has come together in a spirit of solidarity, support and kinship for our Palestinian brothers and sisters to present a multimedia experience that aims to manifest both the poignant beauty and affecting hardships of their current subjugation...



Artists

Twenty-seven artists have graciously supported this year's cause with their artworks. We would like to sincerely thank each of them for their generous contribution of time and talent in making this year's exhibit a success.

- Jumanah Abbas
- Abdullah Ahmadi
- Hanof Ahmed
- Ibrahim AlBaker
- Shaikha Al-Elaiwy
- AlAnoud Al-Ghamdi
- Reem Al-Haddad
- Anfal Al-Kandari
- Sharefa Al-Mannai
- Saad Al-Mslamani
- Noof Al-Naama
- Amira Alnamla
- Hazem Asif
- Maryam Al-Tajer
- Buthaina Al Zaman
- Nour El-Basuni
- Sumaia El Kilani
- Yousef Fakhroo
- Ahmad Tariq Hamad
- Obada Jarbi
- Fatima Javed
- Arman Mansouri
- Hayyan Monawar
- Lana Shaheen
- Tanya Shamil
- Haytham Sharrouf
- Mala Waseem

Exhibition Talks

8–13 Nov / SWM
Free

As part of our 'We Will Not Leave' multimedia exhibit, we are honoured to host a series of insightful talks with esteemed guests from the region and beyond. Taking place at Sikkat Wadi Msheireb, each of these hour-long discussions will shine a light on an important topic related to the Palestinian struggle.



A Conversation with Elia Suleiman

Moderator: Jovan Marjanovic
Mon 8 Nov / 7.00 PM

Amplified Voices: The Rise of Digital Advocacy.

Guests: Muna El-Kurd, Tariq Al-Baker and Muna Hawwa
Moderator: Salam Hindawi
Thu 11 Nov / 7.00 PM

Public Open Mic Evening: The Poetry of Palestine

Guests: Public
Moderator: Sana Uqba
Thu 18 Nov / 7.00 PM



Cinematic Hope: The Present and Future of Palestinian Filmmaking

Guests: Farah Nabulsi
Moderator: Rafia Hussain Oraid
Wed 10 Nov / 7.00 PM

Inescapable Truth: Palestine Online

Guests: Ala Hamdan
Moderator: Ahmed Shihab Eldin
Fri 12 Nov / 7.00 PM

Ajyal Tunes

Curated by Dana Almeer

11–13 Nov / CHMM
Free

Join us in the historical setting of Msheireb Museums' Company House for an incredible programme of live music this November. As you probably already know, at Ajyal we love to support our local artists. This year's lineup is glistening with Qatar-based talent and a few special international guests too. All concerts are completely free of charge, but capacity is strictly limited and on a first-come, first-served basis—so be sure to get there early!

Film Tunes

Thurs 11 Nov / 7.30 PM

We kick things off with a cinematic feast for all film fans with a concert featuring music from Disney classics to Bollywood and everything in-between.

World Tunes

Fri 12 Nov / 8.30 PM

On Friday, we take you on a trip around the world of music with medleys from different genres and languages featuring special guests from Jordan, Ahmad Al Zmaili & Mohammad Bashar.

Geekdom Night

Sat 13 Nov / 8.30 PM

We round off this year's Ajyal Tunes series with a special Geekdom concert brimming with classic songs from all your favourite anime and animated series from the 1970s to today!

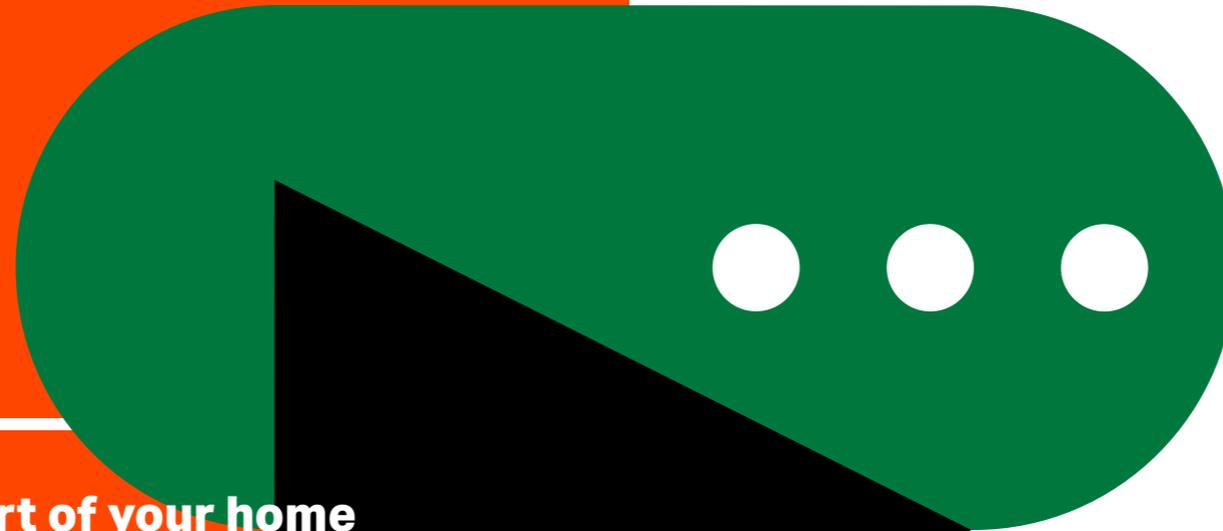
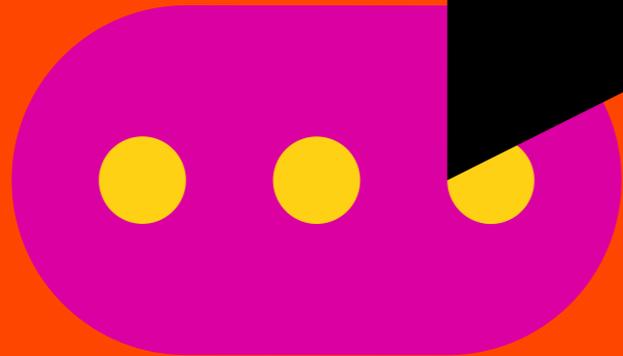


MSHEIREB DOWNTOWN DOHA

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Ajyal Talks

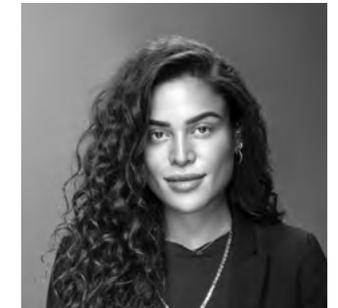
Join us online from the comfort of your home for two fascinating talks on the power of dreams and having the courage to pursue them.



Meet the Gamechangers

Mon 8 Nov / 7.00 PM / Online / Free

In this inspirational talk, we'll meet a panel of young entrepreneurs who are transforming the Qatari business landscape. They'll discuss how they built their unique brands using time-honoured storytelling techniques to create intrigue and engagement with their audiences. These forward-thinking business brains are shining a light on some of the most important issues in today's world and inspiring the next generation of leaders. Guests include Joujou Al Fardan (Evergreen, Green & Go, Ox Fitness), Kerem Mergen (Workinton Qatar) and Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani (Rasen Sports).



Replace 'can't' with 'maybe'— Alexi Pappas on how to chase big dreams.

Sat 13 Nov / 5.00 PM / Online / Free

Olympian, actress, filmmaker, and author Alexi Pappas shares the lessons she's learned about setting ambitious goals in life—and how to care for your mental health along the way. We must remember to be as kind to ourselves as we are hard on ourselves. Alexi will also share the best advice she's ever heard, called "the rule of thirds," which applies to anyone who is chasing big dreams.



Ajyal Spotlight

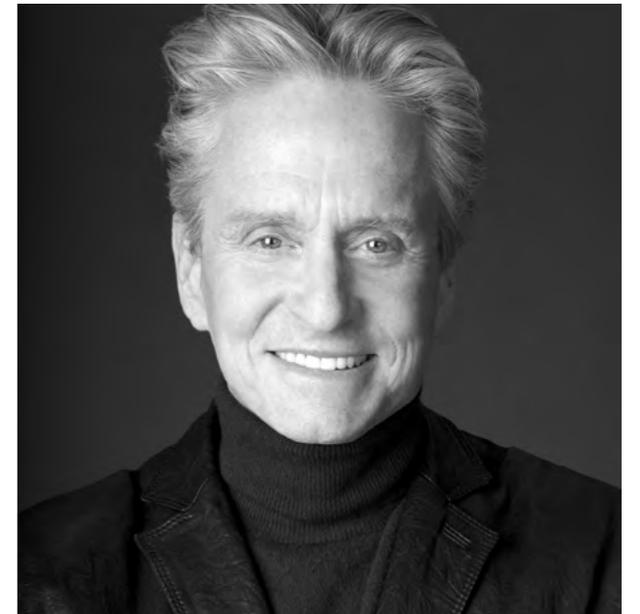
The Ajyal Film Festival is honoured to present global personalities in film and arts as our special guests for this year's 'Ajyal Spotlight'. As always, our jurors will have the opportunity to engage with these renowned individuals through a series of inspiring and interactive discussions. We are also excited to announce that this year, these fascinating sessions will be opened up to the public.



Christopher Walken

Mon 8 Nov / 9.00 PM / Online / Free

Legendary actor Christopher Walken won an Academy Award and the New York Film Critic's Circle Award for his performance in 'The Deer Hunter' (1978). Walken also received an Academy Award nomination and won BAFTA and SAG awards for 'Catch Me if You Can' (2002). In 2010, he was nominated for a Tony Award and Drama Desk Award for his performance in 'A Behanding in Spokane'.



Michael Douglas

Thu 11 Nov / 10.00 PM / Online / Free

An actor with over forty years of experience in theatre, film, and television, Michael Douglas branched out into independent feature production with the Academy Award-winning 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest' (1975). Over the years, he has been involved in influential motion pictures such as 'The China Syndrome' (1979) and 'Traffic' (2000), as well as popular films including 'Romancing the Stone' (1984), 'Fatal Attraction' (1987), 'Basic Instinct' (1992), 'Behind the Candelabra' (2013) and 'Wall Street' (1987)—for which he won an Academy Award for Best Actor. He is currently shooting his third 'Ant Man' feature film for Marvel Studios.



Andria Tayeh & Noor Taher

Fri 12 Nov / 10.30 AM / Online / Free
Fri 12 Nov / 10.30 AM / K16-OH / Free –
Reserve a ticket for entry

Andria Tayeh is a twenty-year-old actress who recently played the leading role of Mariam in the Jordanian Netflix series 'AlRawabi School for Girls'. She is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a focus on Management from the Lebanese American University in Lebanon. Andria's passion for acting will always be an ongoing journey of growth. Her goal in the next couple of years is to participate in many Middle Eastern and international leading roles.

Noor Taher is a Jordanian actress of Palestinian origins. She first discovered her passion for acting when she was a six-year-old child performing in school plays and landing roles in Hollywood productions. Best known for her role as Layan on the Netflix series 'AlRawabi School for Girls', Noor is also a classically trained ballerina as well as in other dance forms.



Sheila Vand

Fri 12 Nov / 6.30 PM / Online / Free

Sheila Vand is an actress and artist who has appeared in numerous award-winning films such as 'The Rental' (2021), 'We the Animals' (2018), 'A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night' (2014), and the Academy Award-winning 'Argo' (2012). Sheila can currently be seen as the lead of internationally-acclaimed artist Shirin Neshat's feature film 'Land of Dreams', which premiered at the 2021 Venice Film Festival, and is showing at this year's Ajyal. Sheila has served on juries of the Sundance Film Festival and the Vimeo Film Festival.



Mark Mangini

Sat 13 Nov / 2.30 PM / Online / Free

Mark Mangini is an Academy Award-winning, and five-time nominated sound designer best known for films including 'Blade Runner 2049' (2017), Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home (1986), 'The Fifth Element' (1997), 'Gremlins' (1984), 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' (1981) as well as the recently released and critically-acclaimed 'Dune' (2021). Mangini won the 2015 Academy Award for Best Sound Editing for his work on 'Mad Max: Fury Road' (2015).

Doha Film Institute Film Ratings Guide

All films exhibited by the Doha Film Institute are presented in their original, uncut versions. Based on their content, films are assigned approved ratings from the Ministry of Culture.

Viewer discretion is advised for all screenings and may be guided by the rating system outlined below. Parental guidance is advised in selecting films for young people at the Ajyal Film Festival.

G General Audience

Suitable for all audiences ages 4 and up. Films do not contain material that is inappropriate for children.

PG Parental Guidance

Parental guidance is advised. Some material may be inappropriate for young children. Parents should note that films may contain mature themes, strong language and/or depictions of violence.

PG-13 Parental guidance is advised for viewers under the age of 13.

Individuals under the age of 13 are not admitted into cinemas unless accompanied by an individual aged 18 or older. Parents are cautioned that films may contain mature themes, coarse language, violence and/or adult situations that may be inappropriate for those under the age of 13. Parents are strongly encouraged to find out more about the content of films before deciding whether they are appropriate for their children.

PG-15 Parental guidance is advised for viewers under the age of 15.

Individuals under the age of 15 are not admitted into cinemas unless accompanied by an individual aged 18 or over. Parents are strongly cautioned that films may contain mature themes, coarse language, graphic violence, horror, and/or intimate adult situations that may be inappropriate for those under the age of 15. Parents are strongly encouraged to find out more about the content of films before deciding whether they are appropriate for their children.

Please note: Identification may be required as proof of age

15+ Mature subject matter. May not be suitable for minors.

Individuals under the age of 15 are not admitted into cinemas. Parents are strongly cautioned that films may contain mature themes, controversial subject matter, coarse language and/or profanity, graphic or persistent violence, horror, substance use and/or intimate adult situations that may be inappropriate for minors. Parents are strongly encouraged to find out more about the content of films before deciding whether they are appropriate for their children. Please note: Identification may be required as proof of age.

18+ Mature subject matter. Not suitable for minors. Individuals under the age of 18 are not admitted into cinemas. Films may contain mature themes, controversial subject matter, coarse language and/or profanity, graphic or persistent violence, horror, substance use and/or intimate adult situations, and are not suitable for those under the age of 18. Audiences are strongly encouraged to find out more about the content of films before deciding whether they wish to attend. Please note: Identification may be required as proof of age.

Tickets

Tickets go on sale from Tuesday, 26 October at 12.00 PM.

Prices

Opening Night Screening	QR 50
General Screenings	QR 35
Drive-in Screenings (per car)	QR 100–150
VOX Cinemas, DFC	QR 40–50

Tickets are available for purchase 24 hours a day at

ajyalfilm.com

Customers may purchase a maximum of six (6) tickets per screening per order.

Culture Pass by Qatar Museums

As a Friend of the Ajyal Film Festival, Culture Pass by Qatar Museums is offering Culture Pass holders a 20% discount on all tickets sold by Doha Film Institute. This discount does not apply to Ajyal screenings at VOX cinemas. All tickets are subject to availability.

The Culture Pass by Qatar Museums is only available through Qatar Museums.

For more details, please visit

www.qm.org.qa/en/culturepass

Ticket Outlet Locations and Timings

Online

For Ajyal screenings held at Katara and Drive-in Cinema in Lusail tickets can be purchased online at www.dohafilminstitute.com

Katara Building 16

7–13 November

Opens approximately one hour prior to an event's start time.

VOX Cinemas

Tickets for Ajyal Film Festival screenings held at VOX Cinemas will be sold from VOX Cinemas Box Office at Doha Festival City or online at <https://qat.voxcinemas.com>

Admission

To guarantee admission, all ticket holders must be present in line at the venue at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled screening or event start time. Late seating is at the discretion of the venue management team and is not permitted 30 minutes after the start time of any screening. All attendees require a ticket for admission to screenings and events. A badge alone does not grant admission.

Doha Film Institute Ticket Policy

- All tickets are subject to availability
- No children under the age of 4 will be admitted to any Ajyal screenings or events. Children 12 years of age and under must be accompanied by an adult to all public ticketed Ajyal screenings. Please refer to the Doha Film Institute Film Ratings Guide for film attendance policy and age restrictions.
- Any and all audio or video recording and/or photography is strictly prohibited at all events
- All sales final. No refunds. No exchanges. No reprints.

Screening Venues

Katara Building 16

This venue houses both the Katara Opera House and the Katara Drama Theatre.

Katara Opera House: K16-OH

Katara Drama Theatre: K16-DT

Ajyal Drive-in Cinema, Lusail

Drive-in Cinema, Lusail: LUS-DIC

For our Drive-in policies and procedures, please visit www.ajyalfilm.com

VOX Cinema

VOX Cinema, Doha Festival City, Cinema 10

VOX Cinema, Doha Festival City, Cinema 11

VOX Cinema, Doha Festival City, Cinema 12

Msheireb

Sikkat Wadi Msheireb (SWM)

Company House - Msheireb Museums (CHMM)

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