

14 Spring Grant projects helmed by women filmmakers

DFI announces 34 projects for 2018 Spring Grants Cycle

DOHA, Qatar, May 14: An impressive range of 34 projects by first and second-time filmmakers from across the world, including four from Qatar have been selected by the Doha Film Institute for its Spring 2018 Grants Cycle that aims to nurture the new generation of creative talents. Underlining the important role of women in filmmaking, 14 of the chosen projects are helmed by talented female directors.

Additionally, the Institute has announced the expansion of its Grants programme, to cover TV and web series by scriptwriters, producers and directors from the Middle East and North Africa region.

The announcement, which reflects the Institute's commitment to support the development of emerging forms of entertainment and innovative content, was made on the sidelines of Cannes Film Festival 2018 by Fatma Al Remaihi, Chief Executive Officer. She also announced the recipients of the 2018 Spring Grants Cycle covering feature, documentary and short film projects by emerging talents from across the world.

Fatma Al Remaihi said: "The recipients of the 2018 Spring Grants Cycle bring to the table a diversity of original stories that reflect modern-day realities as well as innovative narrative threads. Our grantees represent the core of the Doha Film Institute's mandate to support emerging filmmakers and contribute to a culture of storytelling. The new grantees represent some powerful new and established voices in cinema from the Arab region and beyond, highlighting the remarkable leaps in creativity by our emerging filmmakers, and their innovative and bold approach to presenting our stories. The diversity of submissions for this cycle has been exceptional, with over 380 submissions received, and we chose the 34 projects for their ability to push cinematic boundaries and engage with audiences anywhere in the world."

She added, "We are marking a new chapter in our support with the expansion of our Grants programme to include TV and web series – both of which have gained traction in the region. This underlines our continued commitment to support Arab talents and the evolving forms of creativity and new possibilities, allowing them to tell their stories to the world. We hope this will further drive the creation of original and compelling content from our region".

The TV fiction and creative documentary series development grant aims to assist independent screenwriters/producers from the MENA region in developing original serialised content intended for international audiovisual markets, while the web fiction and creative documentary series grant will support independent MENA directors/producers in financing the production of original serialised content for the web.

2018 Spring Grantees:

Among the 34 projects selected for the Doha Film Institute's Spring Grants cycle are 14 projects helmed by women filmmakers and 10 returning grantees. While four projects are by Qatari talents, there are 24 films by Arab directors from the MENA region. Six projects are chosen from outside the MENA region with five countries supported for the first time. In addition to two films from Afghanistan, this cycle includes films from Brazil, Bulgaria, China and Montenegro.

Awarded film **Long Day's Journey into Night** (China, France, Taiwan, Qatar) by Gan Bi is premiering in Un Certain Regard at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival, underlining the quality of films supported by the Doha Film Institute.

Feature Narrative - Development:

Arabic Translator (Iraq, Italy, Germany, Qatar) by Ali Kareem Obaid, about Hassan, an Iraqi student, who starts working as a translator for Arabic-speaking refugees to stay in Germany. The job will lead him into an inner conflict, as his past and present collide.

Behind Closed Doors (Qatar) by Hend Fakhroo, an intimate and visceral look at an Arab family from three different female points of view, all centering around the father figure. Hend had earlier received a DFI Grant for her short **The Waiting Room**.

Longer Will Be the Night (Algeria, France, Qatar) by Latifa Said depicts Nora's search for justice, when her native country Algeria decrees compensation for women abused during the 'Black Decade', a bloody and brutal civil war in the 1990s, she must seek witnesses to compensate for the medical certificate she lacks as proof.

Feature Documentary - Development:

Gevar's Land (Syria, France, Qatar) by Qutaiba Barhamji, a profound exploration of how an uprooted Syrian refugee finds a natural affinity with the new land he toils.

Heights (Algeria, France, Qatar) by Faiza Yakoubi documents young Rohingya refugees fleeing persecution in Myanmar and endeavouring to overcome the hardships of everyday life in Kuala Lumpur.

The Kingdom of Malika (Algeria, France, Qatar) by Hassen Ferhani tells the story of Malika, who lives alone in the middle of the Sahara Desert. She runs a restaurant, a stopover for many truckers and occasional tourists on the Trans-Sahara highway, crossing from Algeria to Mali. A previous DFI Grant recipient, Ferhani's **Roundabout in My Head**, his first feature earned multiple awards including the Grand Prix and GNCPR Prize Special Mention at FID Marseille 2015.

The Cave (Syria, Denmark, USA, Qatar) by Feras Fayyad, depicts a group of female doctors who establish a subterranean hospital in order to save the



A photo from the event.

Malabar Gold celebrates Int'l Nurses Day with Al Adan Hospital

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one among the BIG 5 global jewellery retailer has celebrated the International Nurses Day in association with Al Adan Hospital on May 12, 2018 at the Al Adan Hospital. International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world on every May 12, which is the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. Nursing is a profession within the health care sector focused on the care of individuals, families, and communities so they may attain, maintain, or recover optimal health and quality of life. Nurses may be differentiated from other health care providers by their approach to patient care, training, and scope of practice.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has taken the initiative to celebrate the International Nurses Day as a token appreciation to the Nurses for their selfless contribution. Commenting on the celebration, Lukman Alavi, Deputy Branch Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds said, "We thank Al Adan Hospital for as-

sociating with us to celebrate the International Nurses Day. As we celebrate a very special day, the day of the nurses, and we appreciate to all those who serve in nursing".

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has also honored 62 nurses by giving certificate & memento as a token of appreciation for their service. Cake cutting ceremony along with some fun games has been arranged as a part of the event.

"We thank Malabar Gold & Diamonds for their gesture towards us & also celebrating 'International Nurses Day' with us and it was indeed a new experience for all of us here", said Sadiq Abdul Hadi Al Feeli, Nursing Director, Al Adan Hospital said during the event. The event also marked the importance of 'World Hygiene Day' which falls on May 5. The day is declared by the 'World Health Organization' and encourages patients and their family members to join health workers in their efforts to practice good hand hygiene.



Etihad Aviation Group celebrates the graduation of Emirati talents from its training programmes.

90 pct of Foundation Program graduates female

EAG celebrates graduation of 143 Emiratis

ABU DHABI, UAE, May 14: Etihad Aviation Group has celebrated the graduation of 143 Emiratis from its various training programmes. The graduates included 72 Emirati trainees from Etihad's Foundation Programme, who were trained at the Higher Colleges of Technology and Abu Dhabi Vocational Education and Training Institute (ADVETI).

61 cadet pilots also received their Bachelor Degree in the Aviation Science Programme, eight senior captains received their Bachelor Degree in the Prior Learning Programme, and two staff members received their Masters of Business Administration. All the graduates studied at Abu Dhabi University.

With a strong focus on Emiratisation, Etihad Aviation Group has launched a wide range of initiatives to shape the future of the aviation industry in the UAE, and encourage Emiratis to play an active role in it.

Ibrahim Nassir, Deputy Group Chief People and Performance Officer, and Senior Vice President Human Resources Etihad Airways, said: "We are committed to developing the capabilities and expertise of Emirati aviation professionals, and we are delighted to welcome the graduates to the Etihad family. They will be a valuable addition to our increasingly expanding base of Emirati employees."

"Today, we celebrate the vision of the Founding Father Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. We are deeply inspired by his wisdom and vision of developing human resources as the springboard for the future. These enthusiastic young men and women are motivated by this vision, and I'm confident that they will play a critical role in our company's future."

Etihad Aviation Group invests in the development of UAE nationals through its highly successful portfolio of Emiratisation programmes. The company also offers a host of

lives of victims of chemical and conventional weapons during the Syrian civil war. Feras has previously directed **Last Men in Aleppo**, which was nominated for the Academy Award.

Feature Narrative - Production

200 Meters (Palestine, Jordan, France, Germany, Qatar) by Ameen Nayfeh, in which a Palestinian man, living on the West Bank and separated from his hospitalised son by the wall, must embark on a harrowing journey to see him. A distance of 200 meters becomes a 200-kilometer odyssey.

Adam (Morocco, France, Qatar) by Maryam Touzani narrates the story of Samia, eight months pregnant who has decided to give up her child for adoption. When she knocks on Abla's door, a hard-working widow, both their lives will change forever.



Al Roudhan with NEST's officials and the campaign's partners

Platinum Partnership part of firm's CRS

Zain supports NEST education campaign

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its Platinum Partnership of Nurture and Educate Students Today (NEST)'s educational campaign, entitled #Rock_Paper_Pen held at the Avenues mall from May 10-24 in partnership with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) and Direct Aid. The campaign's launch event witnessed the attendance of Zain Kuwait Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al Roudhan.

Zain's Platinum Partnership to this campaign came as part of its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility Strategy that closely focuses on supporting humanitarian and educational initiatives and aims at continuingly developing the education sector and further contributing to resolve the challenges it faces locally and globally. Zain considers supporting education a top priority, as it plays a crucial role in building the

future.

NEST's #Rock_Paper_Pen campaign mainly aims at raising donations for the benefit of building three new schools set to serve 820 students in the Republic of Chad. The campaign's idea centers around using advanced technology solutions to attract and aware potential donors in the campaign's booth at the Avenues mall. The booth was designed to mimic the harsh living environment that faces Chad's children, where potential donors can wear Virtual Reality (VR) headsets and see up-close the hardships children face to get education, which adds a human value and encourages visitors to donate and contribute to building a better future for those who are in need of help.

Zain is proud of its long list of programs and contributions that serve noble causes through strategically partnering

with entities that adopt humanitarian work, including Nurture and Educate Students Today (NEST) and the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), as well as other non-profit organizations, governmental institutions, and global entities.

One of Zain's latest humanitarian contributions was its Strategic Sponsorship of "One Roof" campaign to raise awareness on domestic workers and employers rights in partnership with the Human Line Organization and the Social Work Society in partnership with the Ministry of Interior. The company's support came as part of its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility Strategy, through which it aims at supporting such humanitarian initiatives that achieve equality between all members of the society. Zain will always stay committed to building a better future for everyone.

training programmes such as the Cadet Pilot Programme, Graduate Manager Programme, Technical

Girl Made of Dust (Palestine, Lebanon, France, Germany, Denmark, Qatar) by actor Hiam Abbass tells the story of 10-year-old Ruba who escapes into her imagination to save her family when living in a Lebanese village where the ravages of war draw closer every day.

Harvest (Lebanon, France, Belgium, USA, Qatar) is by DFI grantee Ely Dagher and depicts a young woman, who suddenly returns home after a long absence and finds herself reconnecting with the familiar, yet strange life she had once left. Dagher's **Waves '98**, supported by DFI, had won the Palme d'Or at the 2015 Festival de Cannes.

My Little One (Morocco, Belgium, France, Qatar) by Kadja Leclere is about Sarah, a Belgian woman of Moroccan descent, who adopts a little girl in Morocco. But when the Belgian



A still from 'The Last Queen'

Engineer Programme, Foundation Programme, and Corporate Trainee Programme.

authorities deny her child's visa, it is the beginning of an arduous ordeal for both of them.

The Last Queen (Algeria, France, Qatar) by returning DFI grantee Damien Ounouri is set in Algiers, at the beginning of the 16th century. After the death of her husband, a queen must stand up to the most fearsome pirate.

Tlamesh (Tunisia, France, Qatar) by Ala Eddine Slim is the story of 'S', a young Tunisian soldier who deserts the army, and his meeting with 'F', a pregnant woman. Slim's first feature, **The Last of Us**, supported by DFI, won the Luigi De Laurentiis Award for First Feature and Prize for the Best Technical Contribution at the Venice Film Festival 2016 Critics' Week

Feature Documentary - Production

Children of the Famine (Lebanon, Qatar) by Reine Mitri, a previous recipient of a DFI grant, is a look into the death from hunger of an estimated 200,000 people in Mount Lebanon, between 1915 and 1918. There is no memorial for them. Few photos remain, and ruins emerge from oblivion.

Plastic Flowers (Syria, Germany, Sweden, Qatar) by Amer Almatar is about a family's difficult search to discover the fate of their son and brother, a journalist abducted to the jails of Daesh in August 2013.

Feature Narrative - Post-Production

Haifa Street (Iraq, Qatar) by Mo-hamad Hayal depicts a vindictive sniper on Haifa Street in Baghdad, who shoots a man in broad daylight, preventing anyone from retrieving the body under the threat of gunfire. Hayal had earlier received a DFI Grant for the same film in its development stage.

Joana, Imagination Is a Form of Memory (Brazil, France, Qatar) by Flavia Castro is about 14-year-old Joana, who returns to Brazil with her family after a childhood spent in France. As she struggles to adapt to her new reality, fragments of her past resurface.

In Long Day's Journey into Night (China, France, Taiwan, Qatar) by Gan Bi, Luo Hongwu returns to Kaili, the hometown from which he fled 12 years earlier. As memories of an enigmatic and beautiful woman resurface, Hongwu begins his search for her. Past and present, realism and dream, all combine in a profoundly visual and highly innovative film noir ballet.

In Sister (Bulgaria, France, Qatar) by Svetla Tsotsorkova, the lie of a teenage girl destroys the world of her elder sister. Struggling to regain her sister's trust, she finds out the truth about their mother.

You Have the Night (Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, Qatar) by Ivan Salatic is about Sanja, who returns home following her stay aboard a cruise. In an attempt to understand the people around her, she embarks on yet another journey.

Feature Documentary - Post-Production

Facing the Dragon (Afghanistan, USA, Qatar) by Sedika Mojaddidi follows two unconventional Afghan women, one a member of parliament and the other a journalist, as the international community withdraws from their country's fragile democracy.

In Freedom Fields (Libya, UK, USA, Netherlands, Canada, Qatar) by Nazih Arebi, at the new dawn of a nation once cut off from the world, a dynamic group of women from fractured sides of the revolution come together. Their dream, to form the first Libyan women's national football team. Arebi had earlier received a DFI Grant for the same film in its development stage.

Midnight Traveler (Afghanistan, USA, Qatar) by Hassan Fazili follows an Afghan family on the run from the Taliban, with refugee-director Fazili offering an unprecedented first-person perspective on a geo-politically complex issue.

The Devil's Drivers (Palestine, Germany, Qatar) by Mohammed Abugeth and Daniel Carsenty, depicts two Bedouin cousins struggle Palestinian migrant workers through the Negev desert, chased by the Israeli army; in an intimate portrait of men living on the edge.

Shorts

Gubgub (Qatar) by Nouf Al Sulaiti is about an adventurous young girl, who goes crab-hunting with her father and brother. Discouraged when her father undervalues her accomplishments, she sets out to win his approval.

The Unlucky Hamster (Qatar) by Abdulaziz Khashabi, is an animation in which Fluffy, a cute hamster in a pet shop dreams of a new home. But when someone finally decides to buy him, his dream quickly turns into a nightmare.

Lemon Hart (Qatar, France) by Sara Al-Thani has a troubled young girl re-tell her tale of courage and the fear she endured at the hands of her stepfather.

Brotherhood (Tunisia, Canada, Qatar) by Meryam Joobeur, is about Malik, an 18-year-old with flaming red hair, who returns to his small village in Tunisia after fighting in Syria and must confront a complicated relationship with his father.

Burn the Bird (Palestine, Qatar) by Zahed Bata is about grief-stricken Samaa and her son Mohyeh, who set out in the middle of the night to bury her beloved parrot, inadvertently triggering buried feelings from a previous tragedy.

How My Grandmother Became a Chair (Lebanon, Germany, Qatar), an animation by Nicolas Fattouh, is a whimsical story of transformation and discovery, as an ageing woman turns into a chair and finds companionship in the most unlikely of places.

Prisoner and Jailer (Libya, Qatar) by Muhammad Lamin – a returning DFI grantee – is an animation – and a stirring tragedy based on actual events that asks the question, what happens when the prisoner becomes the jailer?

Another animation, **Rest in Piece** (Syria, Germany, UAE, Qatar) by Antoine Antabi shows Midyan, who is escaping his war-torn home country, and is forced to eat his last and dearest belongings. But what will become of him after this strange supper?

An experimental, **1001 Stars** (Lebanon, France, Qatar) by Valentin Noujaïm, is about a father who only speaks Arabic, his wife only French, while their son speaks both. A mysterious visit by The Unknown one night, will change the way they communicate forever.