

Hayy Cinema, Saudi Arabia's first independent cinema and audio-visual centre, welcomes audiences from December 6, 2022 at Hayy Jameel, Jeddah's home for the arts

- *Hayy Cinema opens to the public on December 6, 2022, coinciding with Hayy Jameel's one year anniversary and the second edition of Red Sea International Film Festival*
- *Hayy Cinema's year-round programming includes Saudi, Arab and international features, shorts and documentaries plus thematic film festivals for all ages*
- *Hayy Cinema's opening programme, developed in collaboration with Red Sea International Film Festival, includes a Youssef Chahine retrospective and 'As Seen', a Gamal Fahmy archival exhibition*

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia | November 30, 2022 - [Art Jameel](#), the independent organisation that supports artists and nurtures creative communities, opens **Hayy Cinema** to the public from **December 6, 2022**. Hayy Cinema expands the definition of cinema as a meeting point to watch, learn, exchange, discover and research; the complex includes a 168-seat theatre, a 30-seat community screening room, a multimedia library and an educational exhibition space. Imagined as a year-round home for the Saudi film community and local cine-enthusiasts, the permanent, two-floor space at Hayy Jameel is designed by Jeddah-based architectural practice **Bricklab**, whose design won an international architectural competition run by **Art Jameel** in 2019, and is based on the extensive research into the history of cinema in the Gulf, and interviews with Saudi and regional actors, directors and producers.

Hayy Cinema's year-round programming includes Saudi, Arab and international features, shorts and documentaries and is set to host flagship film festivals for all – from children through to country- and genre-specific audiences.

Indicative of the collaborative nature of Hayy Cinema, the opening programme is co-developed with the Red Sea International Film Festival (RSIFF) and celebrates visionaries of Arab cinema's golden era, including a retrospective of five newly restored, groundbreaking films by Egyptian master **Youssef Chahine** – one of the Arab world's most internationally celebrated filmmakers – and a thoroughly-researched and rare archival exhibition that highlights renowned photographer **Gamal Fahmy**'s contribution to the revolutionary force of filmmaking in the region.

Antonia Carver, Director, Art Jameel, said: "There is no better way to celebrate Hayy Jameel's first anniversary than with the launch of the much-anticipated Hayy Cinema. This is Saudi's first bespoke independent picturehouse, developed with the intent to nurture the local film scene – not only filmmakers, but also the audiences who appreciate them. Via a year-round programme of films from Saudi, the region and the world, as well as talks, exhibitions and film festivals held across its various community spaces, the cinema becomes a convivial site of convening, opening up a whole new world of storytelling and imagination. We believe that Hayy Cinema's focus on presenting and documenting

the great breadth of global cinema, and in tracing the history of cinemas and films from the Gulf, complements the blockbusters of Saudi's fast-growing commercial scene and government-led industry initiatives. With Hayy Arts being a museum space for the visual arts and Hayy Cinema for the moving image, both anchor Hayy Jameel, grounding the complex as Jeddah's home for creative expression."

HAYY CINEMA OPENING PROGRAMME

Co-curated by Hayy Cinema Senior Manager **Zohra Ait El Jamar** with Jeddah-based writer and director **Yaser Hammad**, and in collaboration with Red Sea International Film Festival, Art Jameel is proud to present an opening programme that spotlights visionaries of Arab cinema's golden era and the revolutionary force of filmmaking in the region. Through a carefully curated retrospective and archival exhibition, the programme invites audiences to discover iconic and unmissable titles and learn more about the inner workings of the independent film industry that influenced social and political trends throughout history.

Youssef Chahine retrospective

December 6-23, 2022

Cinema 1

The opening programme presents a rolling roster of five groundbreaking films by one of the Arab world's most internationally celebrated filmmakers, Egyptian master **Youssef Chahine**. Recently restored and digitised by Misr International Film (MIF), and screening anew to the public at Hayy Cinema, the films span from the 1970s through to the late 80s, revealing Chahine's sensitive approach to filmmaking, in which social and personal dynamics play out in poetic complexity.

The films on view: *Alexandria Why / Iskendereya Leh* (1978); *Alexandria Again And Forever / Iskendereya Kaman We Kaman* (1989); *Adieu Bonaparte / Al Wedaa Ya Bonaparte* (1984); *The Sixth Day / Al Yom El Sades* (1986); *Return Of The Prodigal Son / Awdet El Ibn El Dal* (1976)

The full schedule of screenings can be found on www.hayyjameel.org

'As Seen', a Gamal Fahmy archival exhibition

December 6, 2022 - March 25, 2023

Hayy Library and Hayy Archives

Alongside the retrospective is a thoroughly-researched and rare archival exhibition that highlights renowned photographer **Gamal Fahmy's** contribution to the revolutionary force of filmmaking in the region. Curated by Art Jameel from the Red Sea International Film Foundation Archives Collection, the exhibition features never-before-seen photographs, a collection of personal items, vintage cameras and various ephemera.

The second edition of Red Sea International Film Festival is set to take place in Jeddah (December 1-10, 2022). The Hayy Cinema opening programme marks the second programming collaboration between Art Jameel and Red Sea International Film Festival; in December 2021, Hayy Jameel hosted 'Red Sea: Immersive', a selection of significant and era-defining virtual reality projects curated by Liz Rosenthal.

Zohra Ait El Jamar, Hayy Cinema Senior Manager, said: “The opening of Hayy Cinema in Jeddah captures a moment of increasing passion and support for local and global cinema in Saudi. The collaboration with Red Sea International Film Festival for the opening programme of Hayy Cinema speaks to the ethos of Art Jameel: our model has long been dynamic and adaptive, working with many partnering institutions to build programming collaborations anchored in the specific context of our creative community’s needs and aspirations. I thank the team of Red Sea International Film Festival and look forward to continuing to work with the festival and the Saudi film community to build ever-greater appreciation for cinema across the Kingdom.”

WHAT’S NEW AT HAYY JAMEEL

Exhibitions

‘The Mountains Quiver in Anticipation’

Until April 29, 2023

Second floor, Hayy Arts

The Art Jameel-run museum space, **Hayy Arts**, presents a homegrown group exhibition titled **‘The Mountains Quiver in Anticipation’**. With its title inspired by the words of celebrated artist and poet Etel Adnan (1925-2021) – *“The moon darkened at dawn, / the mountain quivered with anticipation”*, the exhibition features new commissions and works from the **Art Jameel Collection**.

Through painting, photography, installation, sculpture and video, eight emerging artists from Saudi Arabia document their interactions with a moment of rapid change: from the social, cultural and personal to the urban and environmental. Curated by **Rotana Shaker**, the exhibition includes works by **Alia Ahmad, Abdulmohsen Albin Ali, Mohammad Alfaraj, Badr Ali, Zahra Bundakji, Bashaer Hawsawi** and **Alaa Tarabzouni** and **Fahad Bin Naif**.

The exhibition is accompanied by public programmes, workshops and screenings.

Hayy Learning

Hayy Explorers

From March 2023

Following Art Jameel’s life-long-learning philosophy, Hayy Jameel is launching **Hayy Explorers**, an interactive, drop-in children’s space. Through a year-long dynamic programme, young learners are encouraged to freely create, experiment and discover new concepts, materials and techniques that correspond to running exhibitions, films and public programmes.

In anticipation of Hayy Explorers’ launch, **Art Jameel** is collaborating with **Yajooob** – a Jeddah-based platform producing educational resources and programmes for children and educators – to present *The Maze of Curiosity*, a two-month children’s programme anchored around a thought-provoking and interactive installation accompanied by a series of workshops and talks.

Find out more about Hayy Explorers and the ongoing children programme's on www.hayyjameel.org

HAYY RESIDENTS

The Art Jameel-run spaces are joined by partner-tenant '**Hayy Residents**' who represent Jeddah's entrepreneurial ethos. **Aysh Academy**, a local baking institute, and **Homegrown**, a leading concept store for regional designers, are now open, followed by the gradual launch of **AKTHR**, **Al Mohtaraf**, **Chapters**, **Fennec**, **Riwaq Dahr** and **Sofia's Dining**, throughout 2023.

ABOUT HAYY CINEMA'S OPENING PROGRAMME

Alexandria Why / Iskendereya Leh (1978)

December 6, 2022, at 8 PM

December 16, 2022, at 8 PM

During World War II, an Egyptian teen escapes his country's tense political climate through his love of American film.

Alexandria Again And Forever / Iskendereya Kaman We Kaman (1989)

December 7, 2022, at 8 PM

December 11, 2022, at 8 PM

December 23, 2022, at 8 PM

During a hunger strike by the Egyptian film industry, Yehia, a famous Egyptian director, finds himself obsessed with Amir, the leading man in one of his movies, and Nadia, a woman he desires to work with.

Adieu Bonaparte / Al Wedaa Ya Bonaparte (1984)

December 8, 2022, at 8 PM

December 14, 2022, at 8 PM

December 18, 2022, at 8 PM

A story during the French Occupation of Egypt (1797-1803), depicting the conflict between tradition and modernization in the context of fighting the French invaders.

The Sixth Day / Al Yom El Sades (1986)

December 10, 2022, at 8 PM

December 16, 2022, at 8 PM

December 22, 2022, at 8 PM



Set in a poor neighbourhood in Cairo, the film follows a period during the British occupation of Egypt in the 20th century where the protagonist, Sadika, is caring for her bedridden husband and her grandson.

Return Of The Prodigal Son / Awdet El Ibn El Dal (1976)

December 9, 2022, at 8 PM

December 15, 2022, at 8 PM

December 21, 2022, at 8 PM

Ali Madbouli, a former social activist married to the daughter of a wealthy contractor, returns home to his family after ten years in prison for his involvement in a cost-cutting scheme that resulted in the collapse of a contracted building.

– End –

For more information visit hayyjameel.org and join the conversation on Hayy Jameel's social media channels:

- Instagram [@HayyJameel](https://www.instagram.com/HayyJameel)
- Facebook [Hayy Jameel](https://www.facebook.com/HayyJameel)
- Twitter [@HayyJameel](https://twitter.com/HayyJameel) using the hashtag #hayyjameel #hayysayshi #fromjeddahtojeddah

Press Contacts

Arfa Shahid

arfa@rpr.ae

0503058405

About Hayy Jameel

[Hayy Jameel](http://HayyJameel) is developed and managed by [Art Jameel](http://ArtJameel) as Saudi Arabia's dedicated arts complex and creative hub. Hayy joins [Jameel Arts Centre](http://JameelArtsCentre) in Dubai – which opened in 2018 – in its efforts to build culture-oriented, connected communities. Designed by waiwai, Hayy references the Arabic word for *neighbourhood*, denoting the convivial and collaborative nature of the complex and its intent on bringing together a wide range of creative disciplines in one destination. Alongside the museum **Hayy Arts**, education platforms **Hayy Learning** and **Hayy Studios** is **Hayy Cinema**, Saudi's first independent audiovisual centre, designed by Jeddah-based architects Bricklab – and now **Hayy Explorers**, a forthcoming 'drop-in' children's zone, featuring a year-long dynamic programme. **Fena Hayy**, a multi-purpose space for performances, workshops and talks opens onto **Saha**, a central community courtyard underpinned by philosophies of sustainability and adaptability.

The Art Jameel-run not-for-profit spaces are joined by **Hayy Residents** – a set of pioneering, homegrown creative enterprises that range from contemporary art and performance to design and publishing, culinary institutes, new cafes and eateries.



The launch of Hayy Jameel in 2021 marked 75 years of Jameel family global philanthropies and is in line with Vision 2030, coming to fruition with a new era for the arts and creative sector across the Kingdom.

About Art Jameel

[Art Jameel](#) supports artists and nurtures creative communities. Founded and supported by the Jameel family philanthropies, the independent organisation is headquartered in Saudi Arabia and the UAE and works globally. Art Jameel's programmes – across exhibitions, commissions, research, learning and community-building – are grounded in a dynamic understanding of the arts as fundamental to life and accessible to all.

Art Jameel's two institutions – [Hayy Jameel](#), a dedicated complex for the arts and creativity in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and [Jameel Arts Centre](#), an innovative contemporary institution in Dubai, UAE – are complemented by digital initiatives plus collaborations with major institutional partners and a network of practitioners across the world.