

Press Release

Opening and Closing Night Films of Abu Dhabi Film Festival 2014 confirmed

- *World premiere of locally produced film FROM A TO B by Emirati director Ali Mostafa to open Festival*
- *Disney's animated film BIG HERO 6 to make regional premiere at closing ceremony*

Abu Dhabi-UAE: 15 September, 2014 – Abu Dhabi Film Festival (ADFF), powered by twofour54, will open, for the first time, with a locally produced film - FROM A TO B by Emirati director Ali Mostafa and Image Nation Abu Dhabi. The closing film of the festival has been confirmed as Disney's animation film BIG HERO 6. The Festival will open on October 23 and will last until November 1, 2014.

Famed for the award winning 2009 film CITY OF LIFE, Mostafa's second full length feature film follows three Western-educated Arab youths who travel 1,500 miles from Abu Dhabi to Beirut in memory of their deceased best friend, who passed away five years earlier.

Ali Al Jabri, Director of ADFF, says: "We are delighted to feature a locally produced film as opening title of this year's festival. The success of high-calibre Arab filmmakers like Ali Mostafa is a testament to the vibrancy of filmmaking in the region. This year's festival will highlight the growth of the film industry in the region and showcase the best Arab filmmaking talent alongside the best in world cinema.

Ali Mostafa adds: "It is an honor to have my film From A to B selected as the opening night screening of this year's Abu Dhabi Film Festival. It is a privilege to celebrate the World Premiere in our capital city and I am proud to have the first Emirati film to ever open the festival. This is another testament to our growing industry as the festival has proven to be a great platform for launching Arab films to an international audience"

From Walt Disney Animation Studios and the team behind Frozen and Wreck-It Ralph, comes Big Hero 6, an action-packed comedy-adventure about the special bond that develops between Baymax a plus-sized inflatable robot, and robotic prodigy Hiro Hamada who join forces with a team of crime fighters to save San Fransokyo. Directed by Don Hall and Chris Williams, Big Hero 6 will be presented at ADFE only a few days after its world premiere in Tokyo.

“We are very happy to close the festival with a film that is not only a lot of fun, but brings to superhero movies the same heart-wrenching emotions that Frozen brought to princess stories” Says Ali Al Jabri “ this choice shows the wide range of great films the festival brings year after year”.

ADFE was established in 2007 with the aim of helping to create a vibrant film culture throughout the region. A key event in Abu Dhabi’s cultural calendar, it features an extensive 10-day programme of Arab and international cinema, complemented by red-carpet premieres, co-production meetings and associated events. Films compete for Black Pearl Awards in the Narrative, Documentary and New Horizons sections of ADFE’s programme.

-ENDS-

For images of both films please click [here](#)

To submit your accreditation request, please go

to www.abudhabifilmfestival.ae/en/press/accreditation and follow the online registration guidelines.

The deadline for accreditation is October 15, 2014, and we kindly ask you to complete the application form by then.

For more information, please contact:

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About Abu Dhabi Film Festival

Abu Dhabi Film Festival (ADFE), powered by twofour54, is presented each October to help create a vibrant film culture throughout the region. With a focus on Arab cinema and the wealth of emerging and established film talent from around the world, ADFE has become one of the most anticipated cultural events in Abu Dhabi, helping to enhance the emirate as a hub of creativity.

Abu Dhabi Film Festival is committed to curating exceptional programs and engaging and educating the local community with their own and other cultures through the art of cinema. The films of Arab film directors are presented in competition with those of the most respected film-makers from all over the world.

About twofour54

twofour54, the commercial arm of the Media Zone Authority-Abu Dhabi, is a leading media and entertainment hub in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, aiming to nurture the development of creative industries in the region through supporting talent, content development, and young entrepreneurs.

As part of its mission to help Arabs realise their ambitions across diverse media platforms, twofour54 provides financial support, a creativity lab that engages members in creative projects, as well as training and networking opportunities through tadreeb, and world-class production facilities through intaj. All of these services are supported by its end-to-end business services provider, tawasol.

A key contributor to the UAE's economic growth and diversity, twofour54's Abu Dhabi campus is home to more than 300 local, regional and international media and creative companies including Ubisoft, Cartoon Network, Sky News Arabia, CNN, Flash Entertainment, Sports 360, Reed Exhibitions, Charisma, Tahadi and Jawaker.

twofour54 powers the Abu Dhabi Film Festival and Abu Dhabi Media Summit annually to drive the development of a vibrant film and entertainment industry. The Abu Dhabi Film Commission (ADFC) is also part of twofour54 and offers international projects incentives such as a 30 per cent cash-back rebate on their first production.

For more information, visit: www.twofour54.com