



**Sigal Yehuda, Founder & Executive Director**

Sigal Yehuda is the Founder & Executive Director of *Close-Up*, an Independent International Organization based in Brussels, Belgium, dedicated to mitigating conflict through

**documentary filmmaking.** For the past 12 years Yehuda was the Director of Greenhouse, a development program for filmmakers from the Middle East & North Africa. She led the program into a prestigious and internationally recognized initiative for fostering the talents of the region's most promising filmmakers. She has been instrumental in securing financial support as well as professional partnerships with key international & regional organizations, these strategic alliances with **The Sundance Institute, IDFA Berthe Foundation, Tribeca Film Institute, Chicken & Egg Pictures, Catapult Film Fund, Fork Films, ARTE France, MDR Germany, IKON TV the Netherlands, Doc Society, The Guardian, The Jacob Burns Film Center in NY, SVT TV Sweden, MEDIMED Industry Market in Spain**, which is the avenue through which the filmmakers are able to achieve an international audience and financing for their projects. In addition to fostering many multinational organizations, Yehuda also manages to encourage unprecedented creative collaboration between several different entities in the European Union and the Middle East. In 2010, Yehuda brought on board CFI France to collaborate on a project including Eastern European filmmakers to explore human rights and racism. When this program ended in 2011, Yehuda realized that a wider view of human rights and conflict resolution could be attained by supporting emerging filmmakers and cinema school graduates who were lacking opportunities, specifically in the Middle East & North Africa. These young leaders have the potential to create significant change, Yehuda decided resources should be allocated especially to them, and she formed a new partnership with the School of Visual Arts in Marrakech. Under Yehuda's tutelage, Greenhouse encompassed a lasting legacy that created the ground

for the initiation of **Close-Up**, an international consortium of individual leaders from **Turkey, Morocco, Israel, the Netherlands and US**.

Prior to her current position, Yehuda established a successful production and post-production company in Greece, where she produced and co-directed several films. In 2010, she co-produced the feature length documentary, *The Black Bus* (Berlinale 2009), by Israeli filmmaker Anat Zuria about women's oppression in Orthodox Jewish society and the documentary film, *The Hangman* (IDFA 2010), by Natalie Braun and Avigail Sperber, about the man who hanged Adolph Eichmann.

Yehuda graduated from Camera Obscura, Israel's most prestigious school for Avant Garde cinema and the arts, in 1994 with a degree in Art Photography and Sound Design for Film.