

## **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. Between 2007-2018 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 for Greenhouse from the European Union between 2006-2013 in four different EU programs - EuroMed Audiovisual I, II III and Media Mundus Program as well as securing funds from Steven Spielberg's the Righteous Persons Foundation, the Ford Foundation and family foundations in the USA and Canada.** In addition Yehuda establishes significant professional partnerships with key international & regional organizations, these strategic alliances with **The Sundance Institute, IDFA Berthe Foundation, Tribeca Film Institute, Blue Ice Docs, Chicken & Egg Pictures, Catapult Film Fund, Hot Docs, ARTE France, MDR Germany, IKON TV the Netherlands, Doc Society, The Jacob Burns Film Center in NY, MEDIMED Industry Market in Spain,** is the avenue through which the filmmakers are able to achieve an international audience and financing for their projects.

**Under Sigal's tutelage, Greenhouse encompassed a lasting legacy that created the ground for the initiation of Close-Up, an international independent consortium of individual leaders from Turkey, Morocco, Israel, the Netherlands and USA.**

**Sigal was involved in the development of highly acclaimed international award-winning documentaries such as Five Broken Cameras (2013 Oscar Nominee) Mr. Gay Syria (2017 MoMa, Sheffield) Midnight Traveler (Berlinale & Sundance Special Award 2019) Kabul City in the Wind (2018 IDFA Opening Film & Best First Feature Length Documentary, CPH Award) to name a few.**

**Sigal serves as a Selection committee member, pitching forum trainer & Jury member in various cinema foundations and Film festivals such as Sundance Documentary Fund, Tribeca Film Institute, Middle East Now Film Festival Florence Italy, Antalya Film Festival in Turkey, Movies That Matter Film Festival in the Netherlands, FIPADOC Film Festival Biarritz, France.**

**In January 2021 Sigal joined The Why Foundation in Denmark as an editorial Board Member. Sigal is a member of the European Film Academy.**