

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.

For the past 15 years Sigal has been instrumental in securing financial support from the European Union as well as Steven Spielberg's Righteous Persons Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, Nordic Culture Fund in Denmark, individual philanthropists and family foundations in Europe, the USA, and Canada. In addition, Sigal established significant professional partnerships with key international & regional organizations, these strategic alliances with The Sundance Institute, Blue Ice Docs, Chicken & Egg Pictures, Catapult Film Fund, the Whickers, Docs Up Fund, European Film Market at the Berlinale, IDFA Bertha Foundation Middle East Now Film Festival, Silver Sun Foundation, ARTE France, MDR Germany, France TV, Tribeca Film Institute, 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 legacy that created the ground for the initiation of Close-Up, an international independent consortium of individual leaders from Turkey, Morocco, 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.