

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 17 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, 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) Midnight Traveler (Berlinale & Sundance Special Award 2019) Kabul City in the Wind (2018 IDFA Opening Film & Best First Feature Length Documentary, CPH Award) Hollywoodgate (Venice 2023) Q (Best Documentary Tribeca 2023) No Other Land (Best Documentary Berlinale 2024), 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 Institute, USA, International Documentary Association (IDA), USA, Tribeca Film Institute USA, Middle East Now Film Festival, Italy, CPH Dox, Denmark, Zagreb Dox, Croatia, Antalya Film Festival, Turkey, Movies That Matter Film Festival, 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.