



**A CO-PRODUCTION PROGRAM FOR DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKERS
FROM THE MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA & EUROPE**



**A CULTURAL EXCHANGE – MIDDLE EASTERN, NORTH AFRICAN
DIRECTORS & EUROPEAN EMERGING PRODUCERS**

Founding Partners



Sigal Yehuda

Founder & Executive Director Close-Up Initiative .



Ahmet Boyacioglu, *Ankara Cinema Association, Turkey.*

Founder and director of the "Festival on Wheels" (since 1995) and past representative of Turkey at Eurimage.



John Appel, *VOF Appel & Honigmann productions, the Netherlands.*

A producer and director of feature length documentaries and a tutor at the Binger International Documentary Workshops and at the IDFA master-classes.



Bruni Burres

Producer and Senior consultant for The Sundance Documentary Program, USA.



Vincent Melilli *Esav School of Visual Arts, Morocco.*

The initiator & Director of ESAV- School of Visual Arts.

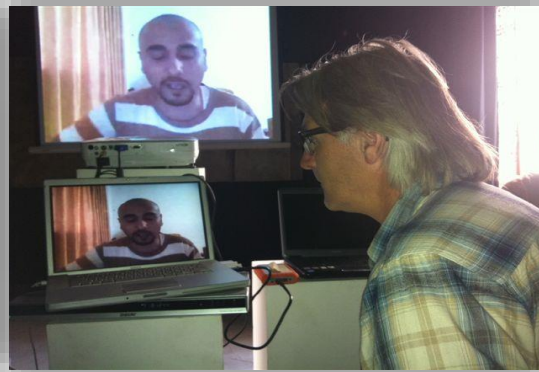
Funding Partners

- Spunk Fund Inc, New York, USA
- Barbara and Eric Dobkin, New York, USA
- Blue Ice Docs, Canada
- Lisa Kleiner Chahnoff, USA
- Nordic Culture Fund
- Silver Sun Foundation, New York, USA



Objectives

- To improve the **professional skills** of young filmmakers from the Middle East, North Africa & Europe.
- To establish **Co-Production opportunities** for young emerging filmmakers from the Middle East, North Africa & Europe.
- To generate **access to the international** market for the region's storytellers.
- To Promote **Cultural Diversity**, dialog and partnerships between filmmakers from different ethnicities, cultures, and religious background
- .



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2006 - 2024

Greenhouse 2006-2009

A Development Program for MENA Filmmakers Funded by
Euromed Audiovisual II

Greenhouse 2010

Development of Documentaries on the theme of Racism & Human Rights by European &
MENA Filmmakers Funded by MEDIA International

Greenhouse 2011-2013

A Development Program for Southern Mediterranean Cinema School Graduates Funded by
Euromed Audiovisual III

Greenhouse 2014-2018

A Development Program for Middle Eastern & North African Documentary Filmmakers

CLOSE-UP 2019-2024

**A CO-PRODUCION PROGRAM FOR DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKERS FROM THE MIDDLE
EAST & NORTH AFRICA & EUROPE**



Mentors



John Appel, Filmmaker, Tutor and Adviser for the Dutch Cultural Broadcasting Fund, The Netherlands



Bruni Burres, Curator, producer, and Senior Consultant for the Sundance Institute's Documentary Program and the World Cinema Foundation



Hans Robert Eisenhauer, Producer, former Head of THEMA at ZDF/ARTE, Germany



Nino Kirtadze, Academy-Award-Winning filmmaker and actress based in France and Georgia

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International Partners



And Acclaimed Experts from the International Documentary Market

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FIRST WORKSHOP

December 13th -19th 2019

- After a very competitive selection process, **16 powerful documentary projects** were selected for program and **6 Nordic Producers** were selected to participate at Close Up's 2019-2020 Co-Production Training Program!
- The Close-Up **First Workshop** was held successfully in Morocco in December 13th 19th 2020. It was a moving week for us at Close-Up, witnessing our vision to form a community of passionate filmmakers creating documentaries together was highly inspiring! Seeds of ideas are on their way to becoming extraordinary projects.



At the end of the First Workshop the mentors gave concrete assignments to each filmmaker to be delivered in preparations for the second Workshop.

- Our filmmakers worked intensely with their committed mentors and team to break through artistic challenges. The Nordic producers attended as observers and held one-on-one meetings with the MENA directors.
- They all attended a brilliant masterclass by Nicolas Philibert ; as well as a case study on Co-Production by Moroccan filmmaker Hind Bensari and her Danish producer Vibeke Vogel.

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SECOND WORKSHOP

March 2020

- Due to the Covid-19 crisis, the Close-Up Partners, Team & Mentors decided that in order to keep the safety of everyone, the Close-Up Second Workshop would be Virtual!



- We scheduled meetings for our filmmakers from MENA with our Nordic Producers from Sweden, Finland and Denmark.

The video conversations were inspiring and very productive both for the filmmakers and producers.

- We are extremely happy of the success of our our Co-production Training Program that promotes valuable Culture Exchange between Nordic Producers and MENA filmmakers. We're witnessing these new fruitful collaboration and the Co-Production possibilities that filmmakers are having now after meeting each other.

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SECOND WORKSHOP

March 2020

- Our virtual meetings continued in March 2020 with Masterclasses, Lectures and meetings between filmmakers and their mentors.
- Maintaining our community by offering professional guidance on how to move forward with the development of the projects is a key factor these days for all our filmmaker, as it helps them preserve their commitment to the creative process and assist them create strategic planning to finance their films.



Filmmakers attending Joelle Alexis' Lecture on Trailers



Masterclass by filmmaker and mentor Nino Kirtadze



One-on-one meetings on Financial Strategy with producer and mentor Hans Robert Eisenhauer

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ASSIGNMENTS & PREPARATIONS FOR FINAL WORKSHOP & PITCHING FORUM

2019/2020

After the second workshop the Filmmakers received concrete assignments from their mentors to be delivered in preparations for the Final workshop & Pitching forum.



Meeting of the CU team with the Editors



Session between Filmmakers, their Mentor and the editor

- In between the second & third workshops the Filmmakers continue working on their written proposals & trailers with the guidance of their mentors.

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THIRD WORKSHOP & PITCHING FORUM

June 14-17 2020

- Due to the Covid-19 crisis, the Close-Up Partners, Team & Mentors decided that in order to keep the safety of everyone, the Close-Up Final workshop and Pitching Forum would be Virtual!
- In preparations for the final workshop & pitching forum the Filmmakers will have throughout May virtual consultancies meetings with prominent editors. They'll work together on their trailers that will be presented to 14 Panel Members from across the world.
- The Pitching Forum will be held on June 14th, 15th 16th & 17th. 14 decision makers from foundations & TV channels from across the world will take part at the Close-Up Virtual Pitching Forum.



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THIRD WORKSHOP & PITCHING FORUM

June 14th -17th 2020

- In attendance are key leaders from the international documentary market:

KAREN MICHAEL – ARTE / FRANCE

LISA CHANOFF – Catapult Film Fund / USA

CECILIA LIDIN – *The Danish Film Institute* / DENMARK

JESS GORMLEY – The Guardian/ UK

ADRIEK VAN NIEUWENHUYZEN – IDFA Bertha / NETHERLANDS

SOPHIE CHEGARAY – FRANCE TÉLÉVISION / FRANCE

DR. GUDRUN HANKE-EL GHOMRI – SWR/GERMANY

KRISTIN FEELEY – SUNDANCE INSTITUTE/ USA

HAJNAL MOLNAR-SZAKACS – SUNDANCE INSTITUTE/ USA

ROBIN SMITH – BLUE-ICE DOCS / CANADA

MARGJE DE KONING – MOVIES THAT MATTER / NETHERLANDS

SEAN WEINER – JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER / USA

SERGI DOLADÉ – MEDIMED / SPAIN

LUCILA MOCTEZUMA – CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES / USA

KAREN SLOE GOODMAN – SILVER SUN FOUNDATION / USA

AMY HOBBY – TRIBECA FILM INSTITUTE / USA

ISABEL ARRATE – IDFA / NETHERLANDS



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Grants & Awards

The Tribeca Film Institute, Industry Meetings

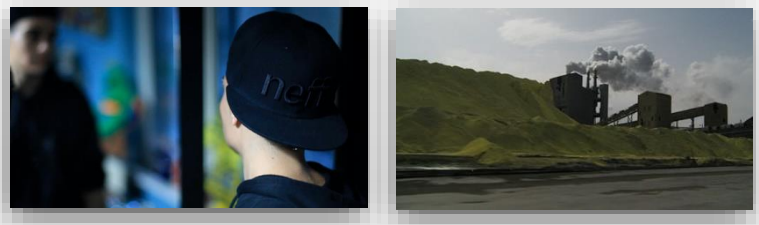
2013-14 Awards

'Villages of the Absent' / Omar and Ola Shami, Lebanon
'The Wonderful Kingdom of Papa Alaev' / Tal Barda & Noam Pinchas, Israel



2015 Awards

'Blue ID' / Burcu Melekoglu & Vuslat Karan, Turkey
'Weight Throwers' / Co-Production by Hind Bensari & Vibeke Vogel, Denmark, Morocco



2016 Awards

'Braving the Waves' / Norwegian/Iranian Co-Production by Mina Keshavarz, Iran
'Weight Throwers' / Co-Production by Hind Bensari & Vibeke Vogel, Denmark, Morocco



2017 Awards

'Mr. Gay Syria' / Ayse Toprak & Ekin Çalışır, Turkey
'La Rockeuse du Desert' / Sara Nacer & Laura Bustillos, Algeria



Grants & Awards

The Jacob Burns Center Artists in Residency Award

2016 Residency Award

'Stronger than a Bullet' / Maryam Ebrahimi
Iran & Editor Japser Osmound, Denmark



2017 Residency Award

'Mr. Gay Syria' / Ayse Toprak & Ekin Çalışır
Turkey



'We Could be Heroes' / Hind Bensari

Morocco & Editor Asa Mossberg, Denmark



'La Rockeuse du Desert' / Sara Nacer

& Laura Bustillos, Algeria



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International Collaborations

The Euro-Mediterranean Documentary Market & Pitching Forum (MEDIMED), Sitges, Spain,

2017 Awards

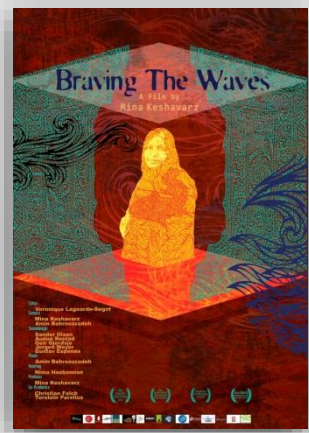
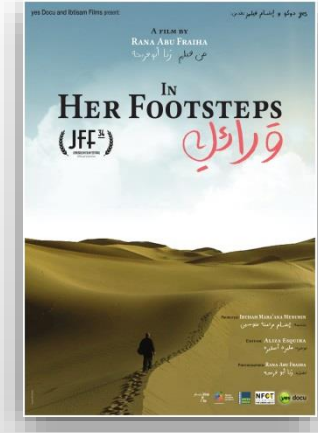
'Kabul Dystopian Symphony' / Aboozar Amini, Afghanistan & Jia Zhou, the Netherlands

2016 Awards

'Mr. Gay Syria' / German/French/Turkish Co-Production by Ayse Toprak & Ekin Çalışır, Turkey
'In Her Footsteps' / Rana Abu Fraiha, Israel

2015 Awards

'Braving the Waves' / Norwegian/Iranian Co-Production by Mina Keshavarz, Iran
'The Weight-Throwers' / Hind Bensari, Morocco & Vibeke Vogel Denmark,

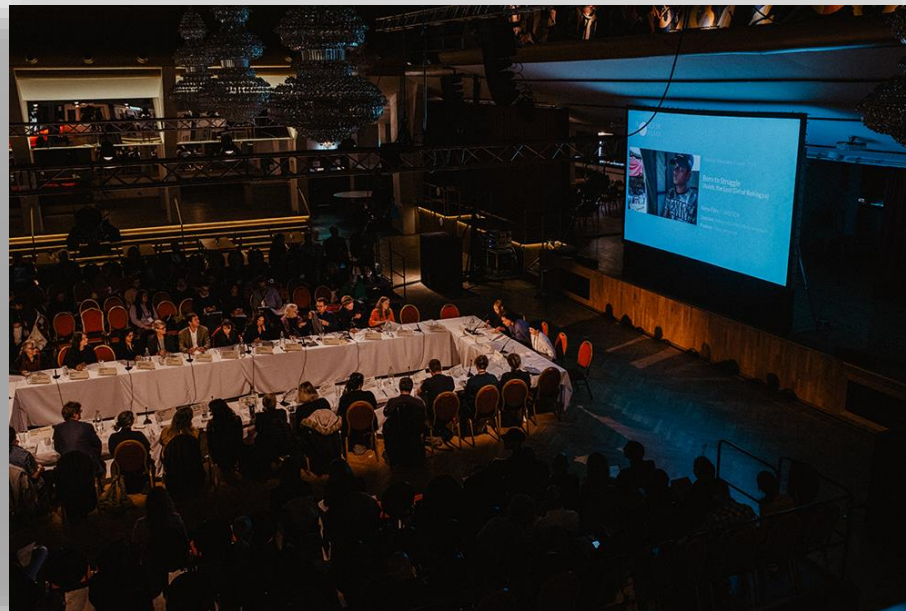


International Collaborations

NORDISK PANORAMA

The Close-Up Executive Director was invited from September 21 -24 2019 to the Nordisk Panorama in Malmö, Sweden to meet with industry people and emerging producers/candidates for the Close-Up Program.

She presented the Close-Up Co-Production Initiative. It was a success as many of these emerging producers applied to the program.



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Accomplishments

- In the past 14 years our organization was one of the most prominent venture in the international documentary film world.
- In 14 years of activity, we have trained **over 225 filmmakers** from the **Middle East, North Africa & Europe**, guiding them to **develop the necessary skills to create extraordinary and powerful films**. The core elements of our work have proven to be a winning combination, and the results speak for themselves: Of **158 film concepts subjected to the full training program**, **44 films have been completed, 3 films per a year**. One film was **nominated for Best Documentary** at the **American Academy Awards** and **won an International Emmy Award**, many others won highly acclaimed international awards, and **50% of our graduates are in advanced stages of production**. This is an extraordinarily high completion rate for a documentary development program, and a reflection of our enormous investment in ensuring that our films get made and funded.



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Completed Films



Five Broken Cameras

Palestine/Israel/France

- 2013 Academy Awards Nominated
- Sundance World Documentary Directing Award 2012



Braving the Waves

Iran / Norway / France

- World Premiere - One World Human Rights Documentary Film Festival, Prague



A Thousands Girls Like Me

Afghanistan, France

- Premiered at 2018 Hot Docs International Film Festival, Canada



10949 Women

Algeria

- Festival du Film Arabe de Fameck, France, 2014
- Cairo International women's film festival, Egypt, 2014



On the Way to School

Turkey / the Netherlands

- Best Documentary, Dubai Film Festival
- Best First Film Award, Antalya Film Festival



We Could Be Heroes

Morocco, Denmark

- Best Feature Documentary Hot Docs International Film Festival, Canada.

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Selected Trailers

Kabul, City in the Wind

Aboozar Amini

Afghanistan, the Netherlands



A Thousands Girls Like Me

Sahra Mani-Mosawi

Afghanistan, France



Stronger than a Bullet

Maryam Ebrahimi & Nima Sarvestani,

Iran & Sweden



We Could Be Heroes

Hind Bensari, Morocco,

Vibeke Vogel, Denmark



Mr. Gay Syria

Ayse Toprak & Ekin Çalışır

Turkey, France, Germany



Sbitar

Othmane Balafrej, Morocco





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**A CULTURAL EXCHANGE – EUROPEAN EMERGING
PRODUCERS & MIDDLE EASTERN, NORTH AFRICAN
DIRECTORS**

