

**Greenhouse Program for Jewish and Arab Women Documentary Filmmakers
In partnership with the Dobkin Family Foundation, Mifal Hapayis and Friedrich
Ebert Stiftung**

Jerusalem, Israel - Second Seminar November 13-17, 2016

The second of three seminars of the NFCT's Greenhouse Program for the Development of Documentary Films by Jewish and Arab Women Filmmakers in Israel ended successfully on Thursday, November 17, 2016.

12 participants from all over the country came together to work on projects in a broad array of subjects, such as: the hospice at the Tel Hashomer hospital in Israel, where dying patients come to spend their last days; the social meaning of the Hijab – the woman's head cover – within Muslim society in Israel, from the point of view of the filmmaker, who herself has been wearing a hijab for 10 years and is questioning its role; Rabbi David Menachem, a Jewish spiritual leader and gifted musician, who manages to bring together people from different communities and religions through his unique character and talent and now wishes to create a unique community that fits his way of life; exiled Israeli-Palestinian Theresa Halasa, who participated in the kidnapping of the Sabena flight and the unique relationships that develops between her and the filmmaker, who portrays her character in an Israeli film, in which the dramatic events are re-enacted; three generations in a family of beekeepers in the North of Israel – a disappearing occupation that deals with a disappearing breed of animal; and more.

Over the course of five intensive days, the filmmakers worked with the program's team and three mentors – all prominent filmmakers in Israel - Anat Zuria, Ibtisam Mara'ana-Menuhin and Vidi Bilu. Each mentor worked with 4 filmmakers – in groups and in one-on-one sessions. During these sessions the filmmakers worked on further developing their synopsis, research, and characters and prepared for the filming they will have to do in order to prepare a trailer in the next stage.

The filmmakers also participated in lectures by several leading film professionals: Yair Lev, Greenhouse's Head of Studies, talked about storytelling techniques in documentary filmmaking and presented examples; Sigal Yehuda, head of the program, discussed the role of trailers in the process of producing and funding the projects; and director and producer

Barak Heymann discussed the role of the producer in a documentary project and the relationship formed between director and producer.

In addition, the filmmakers participated in a fascinating master class with leading Finnish auteur filmmaker, Ms. Pirjo Honkasalo, who came to Israel especially for the program. The filmmakers watched two of her films, on a big screen, in collaboration with the Jerusalem Cinematheque: Honkasalo's documentary masterpiece *The Three Rooms of Melancholia* and her first feature-length narrative *Concrete Night*. Honkasalo shared her fascinating filmmaking techniques with the filmmakers, discussed the connection between documentary and narrative filmmaking and talked about ethics and aesthetics in her films. The master class was also attended by Greenhouse Women graduates from 2014 and 2015.

On the seminar's final day, each of the participating filmmakers presented her project in front of the program's team and the other filmmakers, and received feedback on her film and her presentation.

At the end of the seminar, each filmmaker received a set of assignments to work on and complete in time for the final seminar, which will take place in February 2017 and will focus on trailer editing and preparations for the pitching forum at the end of February 2017.

Attached, please find the full list of the participating projects.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the filmmakers the best of luck with their important projects and thank our kind partners for their continued support of this program!

The Greenhouse Women Team, the New Fund for Cinema and Television.

