

sponsored by the European Union. Today, the bulk of its funding — which covers airfare and production costs for both filmmakers and mentors to attend the three annual seminars — comes from Steven Spielberg's Righteous Persons Foundation and a number of private donors.

"It's not about Israelis or Palestinians. It's a film market," explains director Abu Sidu. "Here there is no nationality or conflict, no violence. We are all filmmakers. Cinema gathers people together."

Greenhouse's greatest success is the Oscar-nommed "5 Broken Cameras," which Palestinian helmer Emad Burnat brought to the program as a rough, unformed film about Palestinian residents of the village of Bil'in and their years-long protest against the building of Israeli settlements there. Through Greenhouse, Burnat connected with his co-director, Israeli helmer Guy Davidi, and overhauled his script into a first-hand account of his life in the Israeli settlements, anchored by the vicissitudes of how those five cameras became shattered, and the milestones in the life of his youngest son. Other Greenhouse successes include Orhan Eskikoy and Ozgur Dogan's 2008 "On the Way to School," which won, among other kudos, the Black Pearl award for best doc at the Middle East Film Festival, and was released theatrically in Turkey; and 2010's "A Film Unfinished," which won the World Cinema Doc award at Sundance, and secured a U.S. release with distributor Oscilloscope.

"A lot of the filmmakers in this region are interested in telling the stories of their own backyards, and they are incredible stories," says Bruni Burres, who has been working with Greenhouse as a mentor and adviser for the past five

years. "Greenhouse is able to get the participants to a place where they are internationally competitive, where they are eligible for grants from Sundance or Amsterdam or Tribeca. That wouldn't happen without us."

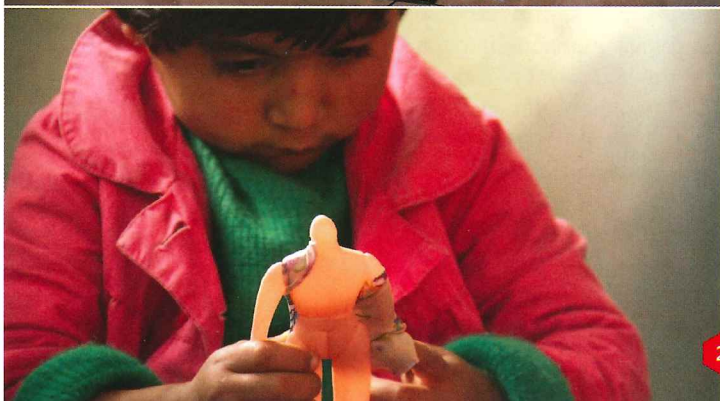
This year's highlight's include Moroccan filmmaker Yakout Elhabibi's tale of marijuana farmers in her nation's hinterlands, "Children's Games"; Israeli Idan Glikzelig's "State of War," for which he spent a year chronicling his nation's obsession with war preparations; and Sidu's pic, which used footage from the weddings of her family members, in exile across the region, to bring the realities of the occupation into focus.

Projects about grassroots feminism in Iran, rape and incest in Afghanistan, and LGBT rights in Turkey round out this year's Greenhouse crop.

"I feel like I'm living an alternative reality through Greenhouse," says Sigal Yehuda, the program's Tel Aviv-based director. "It shows us how we could live peacefully in this region, and understand each other. For nine years, three times a year with different filmmakers from all across the region, we do (just that)."

Yehuda, who was raised in a Persian-speaking Israeli home by Iranian parents, says that at each seminar, she is amazed by how vast the filmmakers' cultural middle ground is.

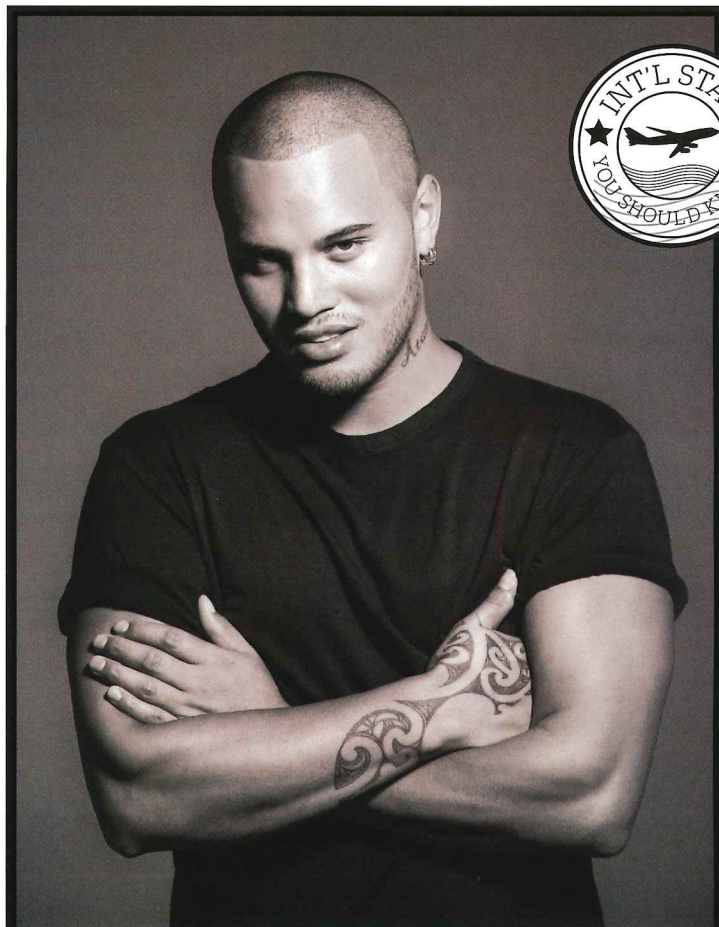
Ahmet Boyacioglu, who chairs the Ankara Cinema Foundation, adds that she's impressed by the incubator's success rate. "Steven Spielberg once said if you make a bad film, the film is a bastard. And if you make a good film, it has 100 fathers. In the last nine years, we have managed to create and develop films that win awards. We have hundreds of fathers."



Global Warming

Greenhouse successes and 2015 highlights

- **On the Way to School (2008)** Centers on a Turkish teacher and his Kurdish students; released in Turkey.
- **A Film Unfinished (2010)** This Warsaw ghetto docu won at Sundance; released in the U.S. via Oscilloscope
- **5 Broken Cameras (1)** (2011) Oscar-nommed first-person account of Palestinian helmer Emad Burnat's life among Israeli settlers
- **Children's Games (Upcoming)** Yakout Elhabibi's doc studies the children of marijuana farmers
- **To Remember (2)** (Upcoming) Sahra Mosawi's pic is the story of a girl, now a woman, raped by her father



Stan Walker

Singer, actor and 'Australian Idol' winner dances to the Toronto fest with new pic

BY MANNIE HOLMES

'IDOL' MOMENT

Of Maori descent, Walker was born in Australia but grew up in New Zealand. At 18 in 2009, he rose to stardom when he won the final season of "Australian Idol." "The whole journey was incredible, especially for me to win a show like that," he says. "A Kiwi with a strong Kiwi accent sometimes does not go (over) so well with locals." After his win, he was a judge on New Zealand's "X Factor," and starred in 2013 drama "Mt. Zion" from Te Arepa Kahi. He'll appear in the upcoming comedy "Hunt

for the Wilderpeople," with Sam Neill and Rhys Darby.

'BORN' ULTIMATUM

At the Toronto Film Festival, he'll be hoofing it in Tammy Davis' "Born to Dance," a pic about a competitive hip-hop dance crew, although that discipline is not his forte. "I definitely feel like I accomplished a lot being able to keep up," he says of the moves choreographed by Parris Goebel. "I didn't initially know that I would be actually dancing in the film. I didn't read the fine print," he jokes.

SPIN DOCTOR

He's promoting his album, "Truth & Soul," with a Canadian tour, and his shows will include the film's theme song, which he wrote.

ROLE MODEL

Walker says "Born to Dance" — starring Maori thesp Tia-Taharoa Maipi and a cast of Aboriginal actors — tells a significant New Zealand story. "I'm proud to see young Maori and Polynesian people being examples of hope," he says. "All of the actors in the film are paving the way for the next generation, and they don't even know it."