

**Letter from Professor Susanne Stürmer, President of the Film University Babelsberg  
KONRAD WOLF, on the occasion of awarding Naum Kleiman with an honorary  
doctorate in Media Studies**

In Tatiana Brandrup's truly impressive film „Cinema – A Public Affair“ (2015), Naum Kleiman describes cinema as a modern “agora”, an important social institution that creates the public sphere and is thus conducive to those qualities that make a community human. The same could be said of Naum Kleiman himself, who throughout his life has enabled, shaped and supported the social activities of individuals, groups and communities.

Born in 1937 in Kischinijow, today's Moldova, the film historian, publicist, lecturer and curator is one of the most important representatives of Russian film culture. After completing his studies at the State Film School (VGIK) in Moscow, he co-founded the renowned Sergei Eisenstein Archive, which he headed from 1967 to 1985. In 1989 he founded the Cinemathek Musej Kino in Moscow and took over its management in 1992. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Musej Kino was a place that supported young filmmakers and thus had great significance for the further development of Russian cinema. Kleiman administered a collection of more than 150,000 objects, which was accessible for exhibitions, publications and research. Before he was dismissed as director in 2014, the Musej Kino showed up to 500 films a year in addition to numerous publications and exhibitions.

Next to his many years of teaching at VGIK, Naum Kleiman has taught at New York University and at the German Film and Television Academy Berlin (dfbb), and gives invited lectures on various aspects of film theory and film history all over the world. He has published extensively on film theory and the history of Russian and Soviet cinema.

Naum Kleiman is not only one of the world's leading authorities on Sergei Eisenstein, he is also one of the founders of international Eisenstein studies. He is editor of the authoritative Russian-language editions of Eisenstein's theoretical writings and of Eisenstein's autobiographical notes in Russian and German. In numerous articles in international anthologies and journals, he has decisively advanced the theoretical and analytical study of Eisenstein's work. His invaluable efforts to make sources and archival materials accessible for scholarly purposes have helped to turn Eisenstein into one of the outstanding protagonists of 20<sup>th</sup> century film and culture.

Naum Kleiman's numerous editions and publications are part of the essential knowledge base on the theory and history of film at the Film University and thus form an indispensable basis for film education at the Film University. However, his connection to the Film University is not limited to the presence of his theoretical work in the teaching and research of the university. From 2013 to 2015, the Filmmuseum Potsdam and the Musej Kino collaborated on the exhibition "Catherine the Great and Frederick the Great – Life as in Film", which, curated by Naum Kleiman, opened in May 2015 at the Zaryzino Palace in Moscow and became a great success with the public.

For everyone involved, it has been an honour and an invaluable source of insight and inspiration that Naum Kleiman has been working actively at the Film University with a number of colleagues and students on the project "Eisenstein's House" since January 2018, invigorating our university with his knowledge and ideas, his humour and friendliness. Through his involvement in this project, Naum Kleiman has entrusted a large part of his legacy into the hands of the Film University.

It is in recognition of your outstanding scholarly achievements, but also with the greatest pleasure and utmost gratitude for the faith you have put in our institution, that the Steering Committee of the Film University has decided to endorse the recommendation of our colleagues in the Department of Media Studies and award you with the degree of "doctor honoris causa".

In the hope that your close collaboration with the Film University will continue in the future, I send you, dear Naum Kleiman, my sincerest congratulations and kind regards.

Professor Susanne Stürmer