

Mogens Rukov

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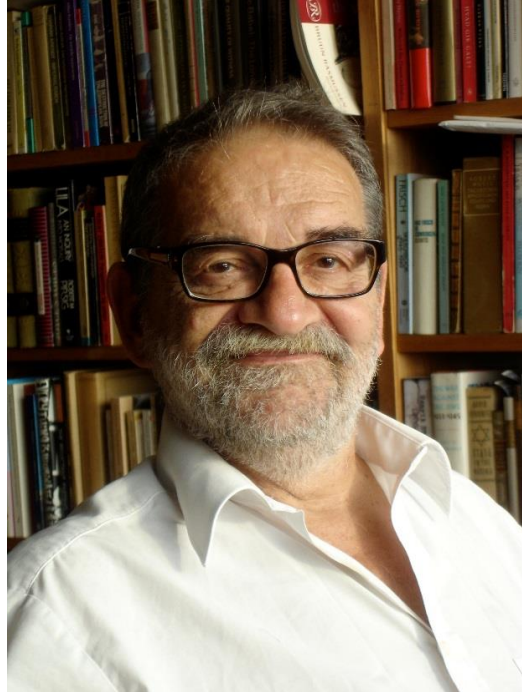


photo by Vibeke Tøjne

Mogens Rukov passed away last Friday. He was the legendary founder of the screenwriters' education at the National Film School of Denmark. He was an important mentor and collaborator for numerous directors, Lars von Trier, Thomas Vinterberg and Christoffer Boe to name a few. In the public he was known for his script for *The Celebration / FESTEN*, and in the film industry everybody knew that he was the Godfather of the Dogma 95.

Mogens spent more than three decades as a teacher at The National Film School of Denmark. His artistic insight and grandeur were his foremost qualities. But Mogens was also a very lovable person. He was extremely generous and his interest in the young generations was limitless. But above all he was a source of inspiration.

Schematic dramaturgy was not Mogens's cup of tea. His irrational mind knew that dramaturgic laws cannot be applied as an insurance against bad storytelling, his artistic motto was closer to the words of Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard: "Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards." Perhaps this is why Mogens was so good at showing us how rules can enable you to unfold artistically as opposed to limiting your work.

It is truly regrettable that Mogens died without having left behind a coherent, written testament of his film philosophy. Perhaps he felt that his ingenious ideas and observations seemed too banal when put on paper. Scriptwriting was the way in which he best expressed himself. Through his precise descriptions of human actions and relations, Mogens showed us that wisdom of life could unite the chaos of life and narrative order.

Vinca Wiedemann, Director, The National Film School of Denmark