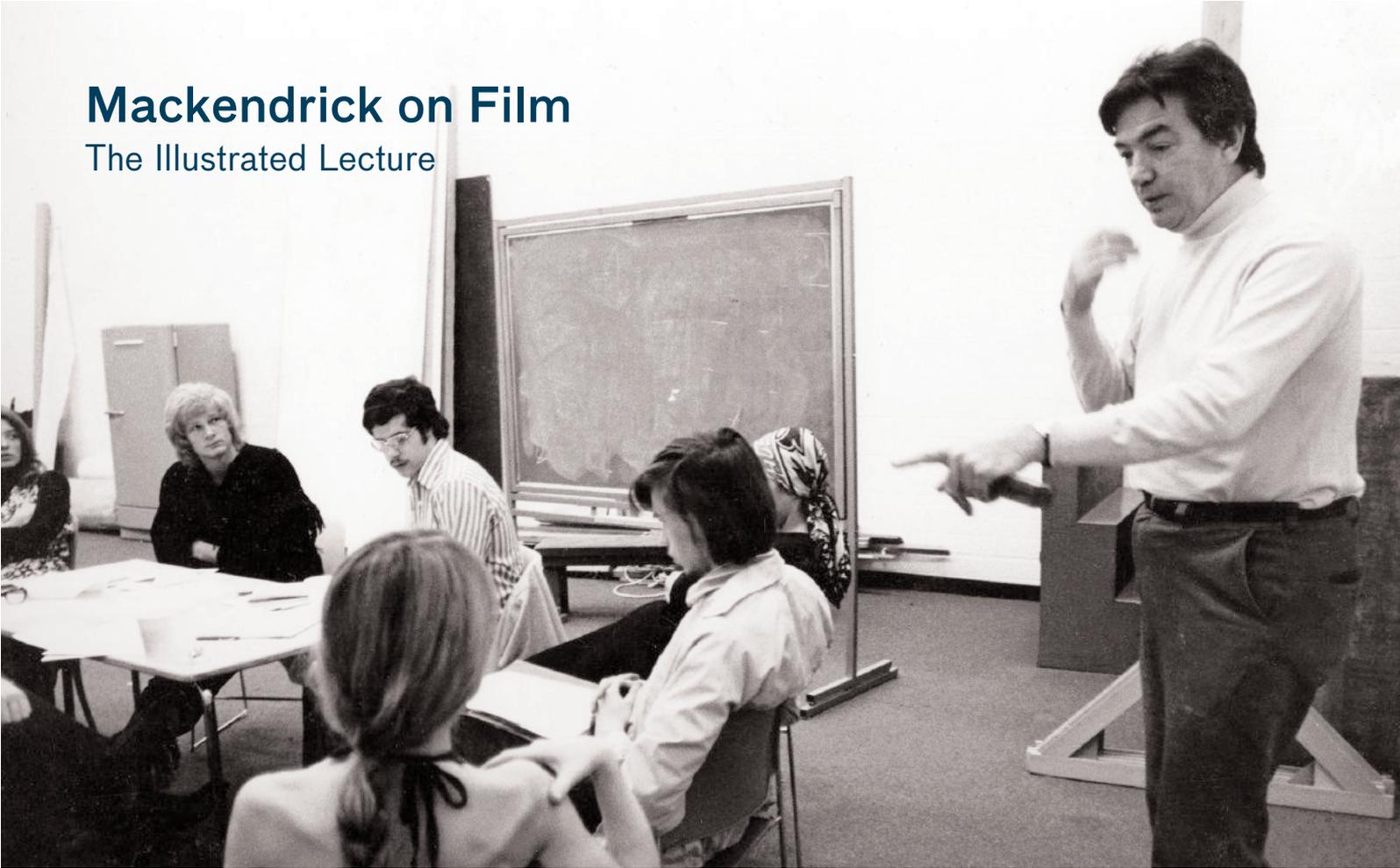


Mackendrick on Film

The Illustrated Lecture



'Film writing and directing cannot be taught, only learned, and each man or woman has to learn it through his or her own system of self-education.'

Alexander Mackendrick

Alexander Mackendrick, after retiring from his career as an internationally respected film director in 1969, spent over twenty years teaching his craft at the newly established California Institute of the Arts where he guided students through the disciplines he called Dramatic Construction and Film Grammar ('the narrative and visual devices that have been developed through inventive direction and performing during cinema's short history').

A legendary teacher of cinema, Mackendrick's writings were designed specifically for students, and are masterful studies of the two primary tasks confronting the film director: how to structure and write the story he wants to tell, and how to use those devices particular to the medium of film in order to tell that story as effectively as possible. Devoid of obscurantism, concentrating on the practical and tangible rather than abstract concepts of cinema as 'art,' they reveal that Mackendrick had the talent not only to make films, but also to articulate with clarity and insight what that process involved.

Mackendrick on Film is an educational project constructed around the film teachings of legendary pedagogue Alexander Mackendrick. Taking as its starting point Mackendrick's body of written work contained in his book *On Film-Making: An introduction to the Craft of the Director*, Mackendrick on Film

'Invaluable... I can easily imagine a college without a film program building a curriculum around these writings.'

Martin Scorsese

is a structured 'illustrated lecture' that features never-before-seen footage of Mackendrick at work in the classrooms and studios of the California Institute of the Arts, new interviews with former students and colleagues, extracts from archive interviews with Mackendrick about the craft of film-making, rare photos, and a selection of his student handouts, storyboards and sketches.

Martin Scorsese has called Mackendrick's book 'Invaluable... I can easily imagine a college without a film program building a curriculum around these writings.' Mackendrick on Film would be an integral component of such a curriculum, as students will be able to see and hear Mackendrick discuss many of the concepts he articulates in detail throughout his book.

Mackendrick on Film has been screened at film festivals and college film departments around the world.

On Film-Making: An Introduction to the Craft of the Director by Alexander Mackendrick, edited by Paul Cronin, published by Faber & Faber (London, 2004) and Farrar, Strauss and Giroux (New York, 2005)

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