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The recent death of Grigori Kozintzev deprives the Soviet Cinema of one of its greatest artists. In the twenties, Kozintzev worked with a group of avant-garde artists called the FEKS (Factory of Eccentric Actors): together with Leonid Trauberg, Kozintzev produced a series of mannered, experimental comedies and agit-prop recreations. Their greatest silent is the famous THE NEW BABYLON, on the Paris Commune. Kozintzev survived the difficult Stalinist years to become the only true heir of Eisenstein as a director of stylized, visually brilliant, historical subjects. Somewhat in the tradition of IVAN THE TERRIBLE are his three last works, DON QUIXOTE (1957), HAMLET (1964) and this KING LEAR (1970). His powerfully atmospheric LEAR stars the Estonian actor Yuri Jarvet.