

American University of Beirut
Office of the President



May 7, 2015

Dear AUB Community,

I am very pleased to share with you today the names of two international luminaries who will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters at the university's 146th commencement exercises on May 29, 2015.

This year's honorands will be the American director of opera, theater, and film, **Peter Sellars**; and **Ismail Serageldin**, a noted public intellectual and founding director of the new Bibliotheca Alexandrina. They were selected by AUB in recognition of their notable achievements and the enduring impact of their work.

Peter Sellars

Frequently controversial, always original, Peter Sellars is a world-renowned director of opera, theater, and film. Throughout his remarkable career in the performing arts, Sellars has been hailed as one of the boldest and most innovative theater practitioners in the world. A graduate of Harvard University, he is best known for his progressive and daring productions of classical and contemporary operas. He has worked at theater and opera companies all over the world and directed numerous high-profile arts festivals. His operas, plays, and films have probed such challenging moral issues as war, poverty, modern slavery, and the global refugee crisis. Sellars' works are characterized by technical virtuosity combined with penetrating social critique, exploring questions about history and what it means to be human. Peter Sellars is a Distinguished Professor of World Arts and Cultures at UCLA and Resident Curator of the Telluride Film Festival.

[\[See FULL BIO\]](#)

Ismail Serageldin

A humanitarian, noted public intellectual, and author, Dr. Ismail Serageldin has made indelible contributions to numerous fields in his native country Egypt and internationally. Over the course of a remarkable career distinguished by a variety of highly influential positions, Serageldin has proven himself to be an indispensable proponent of conservation, the arts, and the creation of a more tolerant, just, and humane society. Through his leadership, his teaching, his writing, and his tireless advocacy of the values he holds dear, he has made a lasting impact on the world around him. His numerous publications, on topics ranging from architecture and literature to political reform and environmental sustainability, are a testament to the breadth of his learning and expertise. Currently, Serageldin serves as the Founding Director and Chairman of the Board of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, the new Library of Alexandria, established in 2002. [[See FULL BIO](#)]

Peter Dorman
President