

Michael Chokhov

September 1, 1939

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RHYTHM
ATMOSPHEREAdventures of Samuel Pickwick, Esq.Dingley Dell scene:

The atmosphere is one of sorrow and impending disaster, in the style of the play. Pickwick, from the moment of his entrance, is concerned with the problem of Arabella and Winkle - he is absolutely distracted. We must understand what has happened to him; we must see what he is thinking and perhaps even speaking to himself.

RHYTHM:

In rhythm there are three stages: first there are the main climaxes which sometimes take the whole scene, then auxiliary climaxes which are smaller in time, and then accents which are mostly moments which are leading from one auxiliary climax to another.

ATMOSPHERE:

The atmosphere of depression lasts until we see Arabella and Winkle. The Sam and Weller scene is in this atmosphere, and it must be very much oppressed - they are without the will to get up when they hear Stiggins at the door. The scene between Stiggins and Sam and Weller is cold and official and very serious - without movement. Slowly the volcano in Weller grows, but he does everything slowly. When he re-enters after throwing Stiggins out, he is in a great state of agitation

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and very tired - great power and temperament.

In the scene with Pickwick and Weller, Sam has something of the same quality he had with Stiggins - dry and matter of fact. Stiggins' objective is to penetrate into their psychology because he has to solve a tremendous problem.

Rachel has many things to take care of - a reticule, a fan, things around her neck - like a cheap shop. Mary is aware of everything - alert to everything - but not coquettish. She follows Sam because she always feels she is in danger - he is dangerous for her.