

M. Chekhov

June 29, 1938

## THE ROLE OF THE AMATEUR

## THE ROLE OF THE AMATEUR IN THE THEATRE:

For me, the amateur is a person who is not born as an actor. The best way to develop amateurs, and to serve the audience at the same time, is to stress the interpretation of the play. This will develop them more in other ways, rather than actually developing them as actors, which requires one's whole life effort. By trying to find the depths in a play it will help them to develop as persons. Perhaps they should concentrate on the interpretation of one play very deeply, so that they can show the audience all they know about it.

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## SCENE GIVEN DURING AN AUDITION:

Imagine a room in which there are many important people - a large gathering of important people. At the moment when you reach a certain point in the room you notice someone sitting there whom you don't want to meet. - your life enemy - a person who makes you more than unhappy.

You are simply crushed, and it comes as a great shock because it is really an evil person for you. Gradually you lose your poise, and gradually you feel that your authority is dying and you are almost fainting. You must leave the room, but you must find some reason why, so that it will be more or less

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justified. You are very beautifully dressed, with many  
jewels and your entrance is a very striking one.