

Michael Chekhov

September 13, 1939

CHARACTERIZATION

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The Possessed: Scene XV:

Verkovenski has become so gloomy, so closed that he seems to be dead, but he is not dead as a character, or as Verkovenski - that it still alive waiting to come back. Neither Verkovenski or Stavrogin is dead. There is no triumph, but there is a warning to be careful of Verkovenski in the future. He is closed and gloomy, but powerful inwardly. He is filled with a tremendous fear when he realized that he cannot shoot Stavrogin. He is full of activity of a certain kind. When he speaks of Christ, it is strong and powerful - if Christ were as weak as we think of Him in our churches, there would be nothing to fight with. We must pronounce this word with strength and power.

Verkovenski is active and full of desire to kill Stavrogin and everything around him, and he is almost dead because of the closed form. He has nothing more to do at the moment, but in Scene XVI - which is another play - he will act. In this scene Verkovenski consists of two things only - very clear brain and very strong will. He has a clear, almost angelic view - like a machine, an archetypal machine, everything exact, nothing of feelings.