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Michael Chekhov

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CHARACTERIZATION

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ADVENTURES OF SAMUEL PICKWICK, ESQ.

Scene I:

Pickwick's soliloquy is in the nature of a scientific statement - he divides his speech to the Pickwickians into three parts - the first part is before "danger" - the second part is before "contemplate" - in this part he has the opportunity to speak a little about science, as if explaining a scientific problem - and the third part is from "now let us adjourn," which is the conclusion.

Pickwick is so rich with his gestures that he uses both hands as if they were one. His speech is a little affected. During the love advances of Mrs. Bardell, he alternates between an idiotic laugh and great severity - he has two faces.

Mrs. Cluppins is very active - she is everywhere, shaking her head and denying everything. In Pickwick's pauses she becomes very active, with sudden movements and mumbled words - so that the audience will be drawn to her immediately. She is a very inspiring spirit and is always busy with something - she has a bag full of things, many bracelets, pins, earrings, rings, etc., with which she is constantly busy - she seems to be constantly concerned with them rather than with what is going on although she sees, hears, and knows everything. In this scene she is almost entirely concentrated on what is going on with Pickwick in the next room, so that she

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seems to pay little attention to Mrs. Bardell and Tommy.

Mrs. Bardell is very vulgar. Her acceptance of everything gives her pleasure - Pickwick's voice, everything about her adds to her very pleasant state of mind. She is very active psychologically and constantly spreading out. She pretends that she is a virgin when she is packing the things. When she says, "Thank you for your consideration," she begins to approach him. When she says, "You good kind playful dear," she is like a big passionate tank - very primitive.