

Michael Chekhov

June 29, 1937

TRAGEDY  
SIGNIFICANCE OF FIRST PUBLIC  
PERFORMANCE

TRAGEDY: Balladina:

Tragedy is beyond the dimensions of human psychology, beyond human control. Therefore, we try to interpret this play so that Balladina lives in a beautiful dream world. The reason why she kills and murders is so that she may be lifted up and be in this dream world. Golplana and the Saint show her her conscience and she hates them. Everything is counter-action for her - one tremendous, fantastic action. She is a dreamer and a poet. In tragedy when we try to find a human objective, it is a little too small. In the psychological gesture of going up and down, the going down is very speaking for the actress who is playing Balladina.

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SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR FIRST PUBLIC PERFORMANCE:

The performances of July 17th and 19th will not be public performances. We will show our first performances only when we are really responsible, when our directors, actors, and designers are absolutely responsible for what they are doing. It is tempting to show our work sooner, but we must be careful for the sake of the studio, because those who see us for the first time will be very critical. Therefore, we must be sure that what we do is the best we can reach in the period in which we have worked.