

Michael Chekhov

June 30, 1938

STAFF MEETING  
EURYTHMY PERFORMANCE  
ANTHROPOSOPHYDartington  
Dr. Rudolf Steiner  
Stanislavsky

Excerpts from a Staff Meeting, during which the problems of Dr. Steiner's Speech and Eurythmy methods were discussed in relation to the proposed visit of a group of Eurythmists from Dornach to Dartington.

Miss Crowther: If we are aiming at an English speaking group, what can be said to the students about getting rid of their accents? If we are going to have a company in which it does not matter much that there are different accents because they will be speaking well, it is a different thing. But are we going to be able to please an English audience as well as an American audience, or any audience? The desire to lose their accents must come through their own decision.

M. Chekhov: Could I perhaps include this theme when I speak about our decision to divide the group into three - this may have more influence on them.

Miss Crowther: I think it would be of tremendous help for our students to hear the speech group from Dornach. Would it be possible to take our group to London, or would it be better for the Dornach group to come here?

M. Chekhov: As we have speech and Eurythmy in our

M. Chekhov

June 30, 1938

school it would be a very special case, but to show Eurythmy to an audience at Dartington is quite another thing. Even the special Wednesday classes, which we have tried to give in our school, are not well attended because the interest is not there, and to try to impose the interest for spiritual work is the worst thing. If we try to show Dr. Steiner's Eurythmy and speech to a larger group it would be something which we should absolutely deny. It would only make harm for Dr. Steiner's ideas and Eurythmy.

For our school as a pedagogical event it would be very desirable in order to show our students something more of this work. But if it is a performance for an audience I must deny it, because it will only make harm for us; we know that already certain mistaken ideas about Anthroposophy exist.

As for the question about where I have taken my Method from, this is quite a different thing. I have used Stanislavsky's Method, Dr. Steiner's Method, and my own experience and many other things which have come I cannot actually know from where. So if I consider Dr. Steiner the only person to whom I should make apologies for having used his ideas, and especially for me who is his servant, it would not be true. So I think if somebody has some interest for the Method, and has understood enough, then I would answer the questions by telling the person to read some books. To

2488

7-4-38

M. Chekhov

June 30, 1938

every enquiry I will find a different answer. It will depend upon who the person is who asks, and what he is. I show my Method and that is all. I am not obliged to explain everything about my inner life.