

OBJECTIVE
METAMORPHOSISMac Lear

OBJECTIVE:

The objective is a very simple one. Your friend is sitting very sadly, and you are alone with him in a very small room. You must sit down and stroke his head. That is all. The objective is to comfort your friend. As you enter the door you must say, "what is the matter?" Then when you get no answer you walk over and touch his head. These are the nuances. The whole body must be used - as if the stream is coming up to your speech apparatus, to your eyes, to your hand and your whole body. The whole body is always full of activity. Like a pianist who uses the higher notes or the lower ones, but the whole piano is at his disposal. The more flexible the actor is in this sense, the more persuasive he is.

Some actors of the old school have a few habits or tricks which are so elaborate that the whole energy of the actor is really in his tricks. We are trying to find the right possibility to use everything we want for concentrating on the objective. This gives the actor so many possibilities to awaken new things in his being. This "walking" in the actor's organism gives the actor the possibility to substitute one thing for another. It may be necessary to keep the objective for hours and hours during the performance. You must train yourselves to keep the objective.

METAMORPHOSIS:

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The director must distribute the actor's acting so that the process of the first and the last part are being reversed, and the metamorphosis takes place in the middle. Divide the actor's activity into three parts. For instance, the mother begins with strength and anger, and finished helpless and torn to pieces. Even the characters who are not given a metamorphosis by the author, and do not change themselves, require that a metamorphosis be found for them by the director. For example, King Lear changes himself always, but Gloucester does not change. But for the characters who do not change, the director must find the means of acting so that the characters will find their metamorphosis. Sometimes the metamorphosis of the character is given by the author.