

PSYCHOLOGICAL GESTURE

Joan of Arc:

In the scene where Joan is standing when four soldiers come in with a gesture of heavy weakness; they fall down and Joan takes this into herself and falls down too. Then she awakens at the sound of music and goes about, touching each soldier until the second time when one of the soldiers awakens. What does it mean to be weak and fall down? It means that the center wishes to be down, and the body wishes to be down. This means that the body has a victory when one falls. Joan must be actively passive on the stage, which is a very good activity. All these gestures can be given in the minutest and most detailed way. Perhaps at certain stages it is not sufficient to give a general gesture. Then the director must give a more clear-cut and detailed gesture. If the actor need some more explanation, it will be absolutely obvious.

The gesture for Joan and the soldiers was to fall down being heavy and weak. To keep the center up and the body down will give the struggle and the gesture. This is the gesture. In our sense a psychological gesture has to add something actively. The gesture of falling down was not given as action only, but in addition it has its psychological significance. To be awakened means to transform the music in the scene, and this will arouse you.

As the director, Alan does not always give the inner purpose or aim of the exercise. This is the second step.

M. Chekhov

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He tends to allow his actors to do things with their intuition and imagination, but this is really the second step. He should give them the first step which is to define the inner aim - nothing is unnecessary. If Alan could tell Joan at once what her action is it would save time.

The Cave of Salamanca:

All the good germs are there, the idea you wanted to reach was there but the mixture was not good. You must first develop each gesture separately. None of the things were led to the end. The main mistake was a mixture of too many things. Give your material in better order and give time for the result. You gave too many objectives, psychological gestures, imagination, acting - everything all together.