

Michael Chekhov

December 3, 1936

Second Lecture given by Miss Georgette Boner

"The Theatre as a Building"

The Golden Steed:

Don't allow yourself to speak without an image and a gesture - if you do, it will be clear to see and hear that you are empty.

The brothers and Lucifer are opposite forms of evil, and yet they form one; and the interesting moment will be when there is a struggle between the two.

The director's mission is not only to lead the rehearsals but sometimes to be a mirror to show what is good and what is bad. The more active the actor is, the more he can use the reflection of the director. Through being aware of what we are doing, we will get our inspiration.

You must bear in mind that in speaking your words you must have pleasure - without this you will never be able to speak fully. This is a great secret. You have to be happy to move, to breathe, and to feel that all these processes are going on when you are speaking. When you have found pleasure in speaking, you will speak with much more color. This applies to the process of speaking.

Let us begin with Section 6 - "Cain and Abel" - or the entry of the brothers. The crowd must find words and expressions to help the brothers and to help Antin. We must show our activity by finding some sounds - there are two things

M. Chekhov

December 3, 1936

on the stage - to see and to hear. We can fill the stage with settings, people, etc.; and we must fill the air with sounds. The evil group must echo the brothers in a stupid way - the good group, still with the feeling of longing for the Mountain and the Princess, must feel sympathy for Antin and try to help and protect him. We must hear very clearly your words and the gestures in your words.

John and Eleanor have shown us how they felt the groups would move in the scene between Antin and his brothers. In our life we must all feel that we are directors as well as actors. The important part of the efforts of Eleanor and John is that they have been active in trying to work out the mise en scene.

The group made one mistake in this connection - you could not find the right relationship to John and Eleanor as directors - you did not help them enough; you were not open to them. If their activity had been properly appreciated, we would have taken a step forward as a group. That was our mistake. We must take this into consideration. When it is your turn to be directors - then you will feel how important it is to open the heart.

You must decide for yourselves whether you are doing a certain gesture for your future speech or whether you are acting through the means of your gesture. Your movements must be powerful.

M. Chekhov

December 3, 1936

We called the section from the entrance of Antin to the entrance of the brothers "Black Frost." Other suggestions are "Red Flame and Ashes," "Flickering Light," and "Hell's Gate." For the moment we shall use "Hell's Gate."

* * * * *

Criticism of Alan's exercise:

The movement with the boxes to a phrase of music really began to mean something today. It has become beautiful - that beauty which is achieved by doing something artistically. Everything can be beautiful if done in this way.