

Michael Chekhov

December 8, 1938

SPANISH EVENING

## REHEARSAL OF FINAL PERFORMANCE IN THEATRE

Notes of Michael Chekhov's speech:

Before we try to show you our rehearsal, I would like to introduce to you Henry Lyon Young, the author who has made an offering of his play for our experiments, and this is what we call collaborating with the author. Also Terence Morgan, the assistant director of the play.

We shall begin by demonstrating to you the part of our Method which we call "rehearsing with different grounds." That means that when rehearsing a scene, we always define for ourselves the aim or the leading idea, which is like a spine running through the given scene. For instance, these grounds can be 1. atmosphere; 2. character; 3. the objective; 4. psychological gesture, etc.

We shall start by rehearsing the love scene between Harlequin, Flaminia, Scaramouche and the Carpenter, and as a ground we will take atmosphere.

The next scene will be the love scene between Angelica and the Sacristan and Teresa, the maid. As a ground this time I would suggest the quality of insatiable desire for Angelica and Teresa, and for the Sacristan the psychological gesture. By psychological gesture we mean that the psychology is expressed in the form of a physical gesture.

For the next scene we will choose the objective. This means for helping the actor was invented by Stanislavsky. The objective is really the condensed will impulse of the character.

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In this case, for instance, the objective can be, "I want to live."

Now we will leave the means which we call "to take a ground," and we will proceed to another thing which we call "flying over the play." By this we mean to give the cast the opportunity, even before the play is ready, to experience the whole construction of it. For this aim we, from time to time, combine certain important scenes and ask the cast to act them one after another, as if it were the whole content of the play. By this means we get the very important thing which we call the feeling of the whole play.

This time we will combine these things: the flying over the play, the feeling of the whole play, and the feeling for the style of the play which is light, easy, butterfly, sparkling, child-like qualities. All the characters are like children.