

Michael Chekhov

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CHARACTERIZATION  
TEMPO - STYLE

Stanislavsky

## CHARACTERIZATION:

When working on a part, the first step is very difficult - finding the character and incorporating it. Then comes the moment when you "have" the part, when it "sits" in you. Then the moment may come when it is too much - that is the moment when you must "play with the part" as Stanislavsky once said - play like a juggler with the part.

## STYLE:

The style of Mr. Shdanoff's play:

1. Presence on the stage - "I am"
2. Radiation
3. Form filled to the bursting point - "threatening"
4. The air around you is like water which can be disturbed
5. Free bodies
6. Feeling of form
7. Significance
8. Feeling of ease - lightness - like fire.
9. Free body but strong spirit
10. Tempo

## TEMPO:- STYLE:

The tempo is not artificially added to the play - it is the heart, the style of the play. If this tension is taken as part of the style, it will be right, otherwise it is only an illusion. Look at the style through the spectacles of the tempo, and you will see that this is the tempo. Presence means to move psychologically (the opposite thing, when we are not present we are lying on the universe, whether on gods' or

2428

5455

M. Chekhov

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Devils' shoulders, like a stone and only by having presence can we serve god or Devil).

Presence is activity - radiation is tempo - free body is tempo - if your body is stiff, you will see it is like a stone, and there is no tempo in it. Now free your body, and you will see that the tempo is there. Tempo is the style in this play. To be on the boundary where the form is filled and can be broken - this is the full tempo. The tempo is everywhere and embraces everything in this play. Take the tempo from two sources - imagination and style.