

M. Chekhov

March 2, 1937

SPEECH - GESTURE:

Balladina: Criticism:

It is very important to rehearse the text with the gesture only - it is absolutely important for the cast. In this case the gesture which the director has given is much more powerful than the words. The director must not allow the gesture in the speech to be weaker than the gesture in the body. Therefore, you must require much more from your actors when they begin to have such speech rehearsals. They must be much more expressive. To speak on the ground of the psychological gesture is absolutely right. Never ask your actors to do anything with the face - this is wrong.

All directors must develop a sense or feeling for the gesture underneath the speech. The means of expression - speech, movement and gesture are all equal in power. Without this equality our work is nothing. That is the reason why we have done the preparatory work of the gesture. The director's instinct must remind the actor to have the same quality in speech, or action, or movement as in the gesture - they must have the same power.

The Meeting: Criticism:

It was too soon to try improvising because the characters were not ready, the objectives were not ready. Everything was tried too soon, with the result that there was no feeling of truth and everything was exaggerated. To escape this we must explore the objectives until we know them with

M. Chekhov

March 2, 1937

all our being. The psychological gestures must be explored in the same way. This is also true of movements, atmosphere, action. Without this you will always get exaggeration and lying and crude things.