

Michael Chokhov

(afternoon) March 20, 1939

## CHARACTERIZATION

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Spanish Evening Rehearsal:

The tragedy of this comedy is that we cannot actually distribute the parts because we had hoped to get some new characters, but they were not successful from our point of view. It is an illusion if we go on torturing the same play. There must be definite qualities, and if we know them, then we cannot have any illusions about them. For instance, the Dressing scene: On the basis of certain imaginative grounds, try to incorporate - then repeat the process. Don't lie, don't try to persuade yourself that you can do more than you can. Imagine a new mise en scene - a new picture entirely. It must be the product of your imagination.

Please imagine that Minjaca is a woman about forty - when she was twenty, she had tremendous charm as a woman - she was like a little magician - when who throw a glance at someone, they were captured - when she moved her hand or any part of her body, she had magic charm. She was the incorporation of legato movement - charming, and fine, and legato, and magic, like a famous actress. Another picture: now she is forty, sexless, and forgotten. Start with this and elaborate it in your imagination.

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M. Chekhov

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Mary La, imagine a boy in love with a girl. Discard all these efforts to make us laugh.

Sam, as Slim Mike in The Possessed. He must be a beautiful Georgian - black hair and brown, sparkling eyes - everything beautiful in the same person.