

Michael Chekhov

(afternoon) March 17, 1938

STYLE - PRESENCE

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Scene between Nicholas and the Spy:

Concentrate only on one thing, while speaking the text - to savour the style of the play. You can do anything you like, but use this opportunity in the theatre so that every attempt you make you must reckon with the theatre. Don't push the words. Remember your presence on the stage. This is the most important thing in this play - your personal, creative individuality.

Nicholas must try to order everything around by his voice. All his inner gestures must be in his voice. He speaks, but at the same time he gives orders. He speaks to the spy as though through a mist. He governs with his kind of speech - this is very characteristic of him. Each sentence he pronounces must be an event, because of how he speaks - he gives orders. Such a strange figure, with such a pale face, he speaks so that the whole audience hangs on his every word. The idea is to get the gesture in the speech for the whole of the play.