

Michael Chekhov

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STYLE

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The Possessed: Scene I:

You must start acting in this play with fiery interpretation of the thoughts in the play. They can only be interpreted by fire - then the audience will be able to accept them. Verkovenski must hate everything - he lives in the atmosphere of hatred. His work is a very fine one - like a watchmaker - there is nothing primitive in him - the more it is elaborated, the more it is Verkovenski. Nothing in general.

Scene II:

The character in the scene is very human, very psychological. Drama - all the lines are changing quite quickly, therefore, the technique of the scene requires that you catch everything. Each sentence is separate, as if a new thing. Every movement, every glance, every work is a new thing. It is a mosaic of many colors - it consists of many different things and each moment must be anew.

When the actor stands with his face absolutely directed to the audience, it is a very powerful means of impression, and should be used only when that is the desired effect. When the actor is in this position, the stage and everything on it recedes, and the actor is as if alone - projected away

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from the stage. For instance, Hamlet's soliloquy - in certain interpretations he is finished with the world around him. Then it would be right for him to stand facing the audience.