

Michael Chekhov

December 8, 1936

### CHARACTERIZATION

#### The Golden Steed:

Begin with the scene between the Guard and the crowd. We must establish a close relationship between the crowd and the Guard. He is the power which prevents them from getting near the mountain. He is like a mechanical force - a symbol of the law.

Antin and the White Old Man and the Guard must work on the scene of their meeting. Antin must work not to be abstract in his meeting with the Guard and must find the possibility to see and hear and be able to react truthfully. If he is able to react, he will be able to create. Some actors can do this naturally, but others must develop this power.

#### CHARACTERIZATION:

The psychology of the character will come not only through your movements, but through the feeling of truth as well. If you have the truth in your psychological movements, the feeling of truth will grow from that.

The White Old Man is the saviour of Antin. Through the discovery of the feeling of truth, you will see how many possibilities each moment of the play holds for you. Each reaction must be true, but which one will be the right one for a given moment depends on the circumstance and all that has led up to the moment.

M. Chekhov

December 8, 1936

You must imagine each character from every angle, from every aspect, then you will be able to play the character. To act "nothing" in a character you must see this "nothing" as a big thing. For example, the emptiness in Paul's character; he represents the emptiness which can be found everywhere in life - an empty hole in the trunk of a tree or an empty person.

As an actor, you must take everything and feed your soul, and then you will be able to perform each part so that it will be a revelation because you know so many things through this part. You will be master of the theme of "emptiness," or the theme of the Guard, or the theme of the White Old man.

When you realize that you have done something good, you must go back in your psychology and find out why you did it, what made you do it. It is a germ, a seed which can be something to help you if you will pay attention to it. During the work you must realize what is good and what is bad in your work. Such attention must be paid.

Without truth we will never be able to go forward and create anything. Your desire and wish to find this truthful acting will make it possible for you to go ahead in your work.