

Michael Chekhov

March 4, 1937

FEELING OF FORM
COMPOSITION OF CHARACTERS
FREEDOM ON THE STAGE

FEELING OF FORM: Balladina: Criticism:

Simplicity and clear form, this is so important for the director. It is important for the director and actors to have a concrete thing to do in which the director knows exactly what he is doing. This was absolutely clear in today's rehearsal. This is the point from which you can economize your time and get the right energy and make your work productive. This is more important than you think at the present time - this feeling of form. The director must know what he is aiming at just at this particular moment. This is one of the most important things for a professional rehearsal. Everyone must be attentive without being hysterical, as is often the case in theatre schools.

Today the mood was absolutely right - concentrated, quiet, no loss of time. The director has insisted on repeating the psychological gesture until the actors have understood that they must use the whole body as music. The words must come quite naturally on the psychological gesture. This is quite different from putting them on with force. These are the subtleties of our kind of work. The director must insist on reaching what he wants to reach. The word on the psychological gesture must come quite naturally. The gesture is a musical composition when two people are working in this way.

M. Chekhov

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COMPOSITION OF CHARACTERS:

Carnival: Criticism:

When the director begins to play with the Method as with balls, that is the right use of the Method. The composition of the characters in each play is a very difficult part of the Method, which will come later on. When two characters come together they give a spark. We must be able in the future to analyze how to get these sparks.

We must believe in the psychological gesture. This is absolutely necessary.

FREEDOM ON THE STAGE:

Balladina:

To escape the danger of melodrama, the actors must be original and deep in their characters. You will have not the slightest trace of melodrama if you are original and deep.

Freedom is so charming on the stage. It is such a deep point and must be awakened in your own mysterious depths. The Method will help you, but the moment when you will become free - that is your own secret. Each of you will find this freedom if you work with the Method, but without it you will become only more bound as time goes on.