

THE ROLE OF THE AUTHOR  
THE ACTOR CREATES THE CHARACTER  
ATMOSPHERE

Hamlet

THE ROLE OF THE AUTHOR:

Find the first atmosphere in the play, increase it, and send it out into the room. The actor has the right to create everything he wishes. As actors, we must be free from the author's domination, but we must prepare ourselves to be free. We must have our own means of expression. The theatre of today is only a place where actors are speaking the words of the author - text, text, text. The fantasy of the people of the theatre is not too brilliant. When we will have found another means of expression, or a new composition of showing walls, windows, chairs, etc., then we will have the right not only to speak the words of the author but to understand and compose these words and settings and colors, etc., as we are able to feel them.

THE ACTOR CREATES THE CHARACTER:

Try to be free with the directions given by the author. Don't quarrel with him, but try to find, through your own individuality and taste, how much you will accept of the author's ideas, and how much your own imagination will dictate to you. The words we have to follow and how to follow the words I will tell you.

We must understand and create the atmosphere of the

first small piece. First step: We must change our image of the character when we know who is playing it. Second step: The person creating the role must change his or her image. We must feel what that person is acting and feeling, and we must take him or her into our imagination, and when we hear the words of the character, we must see the actor, and the actor must see the character. The actor must see himself or herself but changed. There are two possibilities.

For example, I am going to act Hamlet, although I am not at all like Hamlet. I may have an image of Hamlet which is not like me. I must work with myself, with my body, my voice, all my idiosyncrasies. I see myself very clearly, and I see Hamlet's image independently. Then I must try to put them together. Day after day I try more and more not to transform the outward things but to give them the possibility of combining themselves together. My activity is to see both of them and to ask or "wish" them to come together. Day after day, and then I notice gradually that this really happens. I find something in me personally and in the personality of the character, which are coming together.

Therefore, the actor must imagine the character and then himself, and then he must bring the two together. It is not right to overwhelm the image with one's own qualities. We must not carry our own personal habits and gestures into the character. It is right, however, that through knowing

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yourself very well, and through your imagination, you try to merge the two.

ATMOSPHERE:

We must do research into the atmosphere of each piece. We must find the jewels in each bit of it. We must assume the atmosphere of each piece and know it as if it were our home and our family. In that way you will never be able to make a mistake in intonation, movement, or in connection with each other; but without atmosphere, you will do only mistakes. How you will speak in the atmosphere, move in it, and be in it, that is what we are aiming for.