

Michael Chekhov

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STYLE

Improvisation: 1. Scene with an actress, a reporter, and a train - for timing - the feeling of time. 2. Scene from The Fishing Scene for atmosphere and characterization. 3. Scene in a waiting room in a hospital - atmosphere of fearful anticipation.

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There are five main categories of style. Tragedy - either above human or below human. Drama - everything is very human - without gods or devils. Comedy - everything is rational, reasonable. Vaudeville - everything is unreasonable, improbable. Clown - nothing human about it - opposite to tragedy - no longer human - the devil in heaven or the angel in hell. In comedy everything is true and rational. Funny but absolutely serious. It has a great deal of implication in it. In vaudeville it is a wrong psychology. The result of the action is never rational or reasonable.

In the scene, The Stronger, (Strindberg) the atmospheres are: 1. Friendliness. 2. Growing suspicion. 3. Jealousy. The objective for one character is "I want to hide my real feelings," and for the other woman "I want to know the truth."