



To the Actor

Michael Chekhov , Simon Callow

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How does an actor learn to:

- * Call up emotion?
- * Develop a character?
- * Strengthen awareness?

These are essential techniques for every actor, and Michael Chekhov's classic work *To the Actor* explains, clearly and concisely, how to develop them. Chekhov's simple and practical method - successfully used by professional actors all over the world - trains the actor's imagination and body to fulfil its potential.

This handbook for actors (and directors) has been revised and expanded by Mala Powers. It includes: a previously unpublished chapter on 'Psychological Gesture', translated into English by the celebrated director Andrei Malaev - Babel; a new biographical overview by Mala Powers; and a foreword by Simon Callow.

To the Actor Details

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Author : Michael Chekhov , Simon Callow

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Britt says

Theatre pedagogy, if you will. Although I don't agree with the 'Method' philosophy, this was an incredibly insightful book. I knew about annoying improv exercises (which pale in comparison to actually performing), but I never knew theatre technique could be so physical and complex. I definitely learned a lot, and this book promotes hard work and resourcefulness in artists; looking within and using one's present atmosphere instead of looking to the past. Ultimately, this book teaches us to be in the present and remove our ego so we can be ready instruments of interpretation. Not easy to do, but necessary.

I have never approached an operatic role without also thinking, "How would this make me feel? What would I do?" It would be an interesting risk to take some time.

Good art isn't over analyzed and overthought. That is done by people without integral ability. These techniques are wonderful and certainly help with discipline, but you either have it or you don't.

Nicole Fairbairn says

Did not resonate. Very technical.

Luisalex Delarosa says

I thought acting is just pretending to be someone your not was a good enough method. It's the Sir Ian McKellen way. Went very slow with this book because there was much highlightable material. Great read for actors or those who want to understand the craft of acting

Danny says

Probably the best book I ever read on acting. This book avoids overthinking, avoids trying to bring down the actor, and avoids being unrealistic . The book gives many exercises to help clear up what it talks about, and it gives very clear details of its techniques. It is unlike any other acting book I've ever read. If someone's a theatre actor doing it for fun or as a career, please give this book a read. It is a very underrated book that teaches an acting method that is very under appreciated.

Justin says

One of the most creative and innovative alternatives to pure Stanislavski technique. Perhaps not the best place to delve into acting theory, but certainly one of the most mind-broadening experiences you can have in the area -- like diving into the deep end after dipping your toes.

Natasha says

Holy Shit. Seriously, holy shit.

I picked up this book on a whim, because I sortof recognized the name and thought, why not, its been a while since I read an acting text.

This book relates the craft of acting in such a way that it rediscovers it as an artform, at least for me. It draws parallels with every other type of art, and relies on the actor's existing talent and imagination as the basis for a successful acting experience, rather than just saying "remember how you felt when your dog died, and feel like that here." It describes the unconcious process I have been using since I was a child, but with ways to deepen and enrich the experience and actually understand each step of what you are doing. Fucking life changing!

Carolyn says

The BEST acting book I have ever read!

Andrea Draper says

A must read.

Viktoras Mic says

Turb?t geriausia mano skaityta knyga apie aktorin? meistriškum?. Pradžioje ji gali pasirodyti kiek ezoteriška, bet vis tik joje aprašyta vaizduote paremta prietis prie niuansuoto, gyvybe pulsuojan?io vaidmens nustebina mane kaskart, kai v?l paskaitau ši? knyg?. Labai rekomenduoju.

Maggie says

Cannot wait to implement some new tricks of the trade!

Jeffrey says

delicious discoveries from the greatest teacher in technique for the actor.

Aly Zhang says

Incredible. Absolutely elucidating, motivating and technically inspiring. The best book on acting I've read, full of actual usable exercises and explanations.

Paul Kelman says

An essential read for the performer. Indispensable understanding of what the art form is and how to discover its essence. One of the original thinkers in the modern theatre whose ideas changed and deepened the art form changing theatre itself.

Nika says

I own the hardcover its been so long since I read it so I probably should again. However I recall liking it.He was reknown for being awesome.

Serge Mandeville says

wonderfull!
