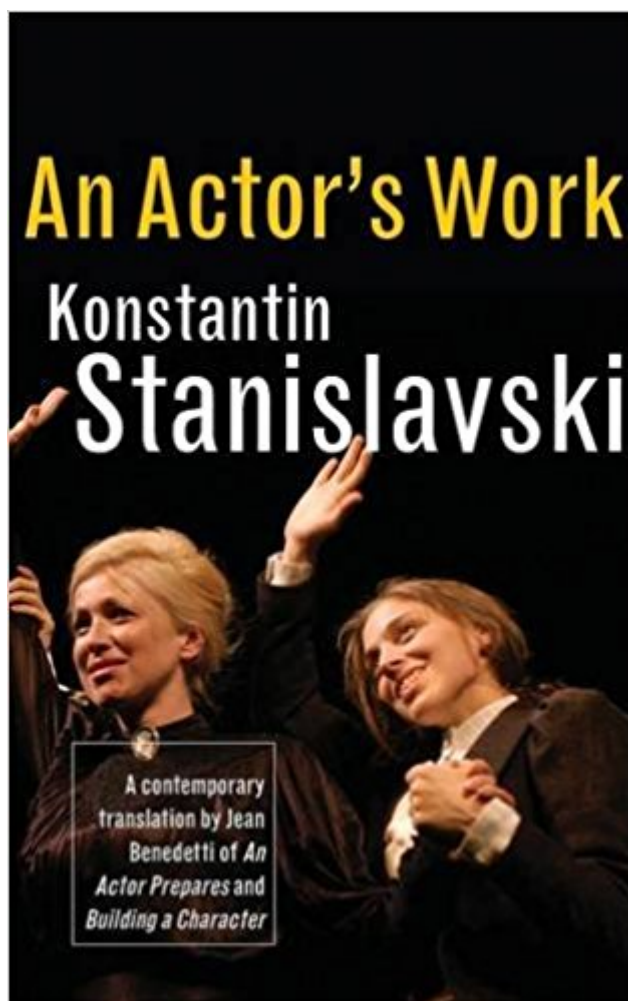


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# An Actor's Work: A Student's Diary



## Synopsis

Stanislavski's system has dominated actor-training in the West since his writings were first translated into English in the 1920s and 30s. His systematic attempt to outline a psycho-physical technique for acting single-handedly revolutionized standards of acting in the theatre. Until now, readers and students have had to contend with inaccurate, misleading and difficult-to-read English-language versions. Some of the mistranslations have resulted in profound distortions in the way his system has been interpreted and taught. At last, Jean Benedetti has succeeded in translating Stanislavski's huge manual into a lively, fascinating and accurate text in English. He has remained faithful to the author's original intentions, putting the two books previously known as *An Actor Prepares* and *Building A Character* back together into one volume, and in a colloquial and readable style for today's actors. The result is a major contribution to the theatre, and a service to one of the great innovators of the twentieth century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'A lively new translation by Jean Benedetti ... Stanislavski was provocative, controversial and, as *An Actor's Work* confirms, a genius.' The Times of London 'A volume that clearly communicates the entire system ... it should be made required reading. - The Guardian 'Benedetti has done an excellent job... an elegantly presented and valuable volume... This volume is essential reading for anyone interested in acting, practically or academically, at all levels from schools to the industry.' - Times Higher Education 'A landmark

achievement in Stanislavski studies ... essential reading for anyone interested in acting, practically or academically, at all levels from schools to the industry.' - Times Higher Educational Supplement  
'Scrupulously precise.' - Marie-Christine Autant-Mathieu, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris  
'A far more authentic Stanislavsky - A valuable new translation, which is fuller and more readable than anything else previously attempted.'  
- Laurence Senelick, Tufts University, Boston, USA  
'Very readable - A vast improvement.'  
- Bella Merlin, University of Exeter, UK  
'Jean Benedetti has brought his usual extensive scholarship and thorough knowledge of Russian to provide a version that is more complete, much more accurate, and more readable [than the previous translation].'  
- Richard Hornby, University of California, Riverside, USA  
'Benedetti, the author of several previous books on Stanislavski, has both improved and expanded upon the Hapgood editions, and the result is a longer yet much more readable text.'  
- Libray Journal  
'The twin bibles of acting books, Stanislavsky's *An Actor Prepares* and *Building a Character*, which have been recently re-translated into a single tome.'  
- American Theatre  
'This volume is a must for theater collections... Essential. All readers, all levels.' - CHOICE

Konstantin Stanislavski created the foundation of contemporary acting. Anyone serious about the craft of acting should read his work. And this update/translation feels absolutely crystal clear while remaining true to his intent. Five stars.

Got this for my son's 14th birthday. It looks large and "academic" but is a very accessible, fun, translation. He loves it!

This is an extraordinarily well-done translation of an actor-training mainstay. There is no studying theatre in the western world without studying this book.

This was a required textbook for my freshman-level acting course, and with a bit of close-reading paired with classroom work, it's value really shows. This book, while the language can be a bit obfuscating, is a good companion tool to help young actors understand the mechanics of the skills taught in low-level collegiate acting courses.

Perfect condition upon arrival, good read, especially if you are an acting major!

Very insightful

Seminal.

books were shipped to my kid at college. As I have not heard complaints, I assume they are fine.

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