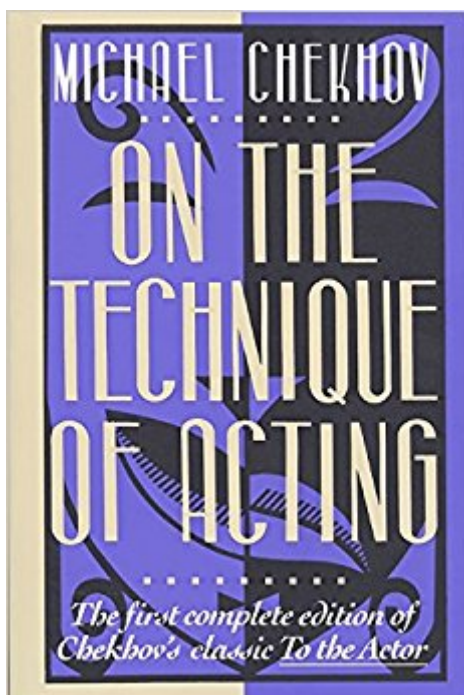


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# On The Technique Of Acting



## Synopsis

The most authoritative, authentic text of a classic guide to acting. In the four decades since its first publication, Michael Chekhov's *To the Actor* has become a standard text for students of the theater. But *To the Actor* is a shortened, heavily modified version of the great director/actor/teacher's original manuscript, and *On the Technique of Acting* is the first and only book ever to incorporate the complete text of that brilliant manuscript. Scholars and teachers of Chekhov's technique have hailed *On the Technique of Acting* as the clearest, most accurate presentation of the principles he taught Yul Brynner, Gregory Peck, Marilyn Monroe, Anthony Quinn, Beatrice Straight, and Mala Powers, among others. This new, definitive edition of Chekhov's masterful work clarifies the principles outlined in *To the Actor* concerning the pivotal role of the imagination in actors' understanding of themselves and the roles they play. *On the Technique of Acting* also expands on Chekhov's previously published work with many unique features, including: Thirty additional exercises; A chapter devoted to screen acting; More thorough explanations of the Psychological Gesture, inner tempo vs. outer tempo, and other key concepts of Chekhov's approach. For actors, directors, and anyone interested in the theater, *On the Technique of Acting* is an essential handbook.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Michael Chekhov, nephew to the Russian playwright and student of Stanislavski, left Russia and his mentor behind to pursue a career as an actor, director, and teacher in Europe and America. While he was an early advocate of Stanislavski, Chekhov differed from the great teacher in important respects, particularly in his insistence on the use of imagination as opposed to memory in creating a

role. (In a famous anecdote, Chekhov once performed a "sense memory" exercise in which he broke down over the tragic death of his aunt. When complimented on the truthfulness of his emotion, he admitted that his "aunt" was entirely imaginary.) One of Chekhov's innovations of technique is the "psychological gesture," in which a repeated external action leads to an internal revelation. Due to his insistence on the importance of the physical rather than the simply intellectual, Chekhov's book is as focused on following its series of exercises as it is in study; acting, he would remind us, is always fundamentally a verb. For actors who feel "hemmed in" by an overinsistence on "feeling" a part or in drawing from their own experiences to feed a role, Chekhov's focus on the primal and limitless nature of imagination is tremendously liberating. --John Longenbaugh

I Hear great things about Chekhov and His performance as an actor. And can tell you that this is all true after reading this book...His concerns on truth, concentration and attention are extremely necessary for an actor to read about and learn to distinguish between each one. His comments on criticism are spot on. And Much of this understanding I have come to myself through another approach, but anyone that attends to truth knows that we can all see it, it is no ones property. There is so much to discover in this book and it will give you the fundamentals that you need. As an actor do not disregard fundamentals as it may be the only thing you need to learn from anyone. I know it has been that way for me. To be a great actor you have to study on your own as well. Michael Chekhov has Just added so much value and appreciation to my work, and alone knowing that we relate is enough to spark my passion for the craft. I have read other books and most of them serve as methods, I however know that methods have their limits. Creativity does not, and a strong emphasis on truth and true creativity without involving the intellectual part of your brain in the moment of acting will allow you to create without the constraints of realism which sometimes is not how life ought to be. To create the right kind of character for each given situation. Right kind does not imply a sense of strictness. Anyway enjoy the book and have fun. Sincerely Sky Watersend

A must read and reread and DO! For all actors, teachers and directors. This 1991 published book contains the final additions to Michael Chekhov's amazing body-mind-spirit approach to actor/human development. Easier to understand and apply than To The Actor and it has The Chart For Inspired Acting that provides a concept the the whole approach. This was drawn for Mala Powers who was later, the executrix of his estate and a noted speaker/master teacher. She includes special tips on film techniques that he gave her in private coaching.

Was a gift and the person loved it

Loved it

Interesting

Insightful and refreshing. Though written last century, it is refreshing and modern. Many exercises to keep you busy and developing new capacities.

As far as I'm concerned, it's the ultimate of where a lot of this started.

Book was in better condition than stated. Good price. Thanks.

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