

KONSTANTIN STANISLAVSKI

The Father of Method Acting



FUN FACTS:

- Born in 1863 in Moscow.
 - Began acting at age 14 with his family's theatre troupe.
 - He was an actor and a director.
 - During the course of his career, he collaborated with famous figures such as Leo Tolstoy and Anton Chekov.
 - Inspired many famous acting teachers, including Stella Adler, Harold Clurman, Lee Strasburg, and Sanford Meisner.
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Stanislavski & the Moscow Art Theatre

- Stanislavski founded the Moscow Art Theatre in 1897, along with the Russian playwright Vladimir Nemirovich-Danchenko.
- Their first performance was Tolstoy's *Tsar Fyodor Ioannovich*. It premiered on October 14, 1898.
- A 1903 production of *Julius Caesar* led Stanislavski into an artistic crisis.
- In 1906, he took a holiday in Finland. During this time away, he developed his system of acting.



THE STANISLAVSKI SYSTEM OF ACTING

- Believable Truth
- The Magic If
- Sense Memory
- Emotional Memory
- An actor's main responsibility is to be believed, as opposed to being recognized or understood.
- What would I do if I were in the same situation as my character?
- Recalling a sensory experience to evoke an emotional reaction appropriate to the scene.
- Recalling a situation that evokes the appropriate emotional response.

"One must not confuse the 'theatrical' with what is truly theatrical. The theatre undoubtedly demands something special that is not to be found in life. So the task is: to bring life to the stage, while avoiding the 'theatrical' (which destroys life) but at the same time respecting the nature of the stage itself."

THE BOTTOM LINE...

Modern Acting is about realizing an organic experience.

"If you know your character's thoughts, the proper vocal and bodily expressions will naturally follow."



"Put life into the imagined circumstances and actions until you have completely satisfied your sense of truth."