



Stanislavski Fact Sheet

Key Beliefs and Principles

- ✓ Believed that there should be a 'grammar' for acting.
- ✓ 'Outer life' of character should be communicated using excellent vocal and physical skills on the part of the actor. The actor must train extensively to develop these skills.
- ✓ 'Inner life' of a character needs to be developed.
- ✓ 'What if' should be used to ignite the actor's imagination.
- ✓ Truth and belief on stage is paramount.
- ✓ His approaches shifted from 'If I feel it, I do it' to 'If I do it, I feel it' in the second half of his career.

Style/ Genre

- ✓ Pioneer of Naturalistic Theatre.
- ✓ Reacted against melodramatic drama- the dominant form of theatre when Stanislavski was growing up.
- ✓ His approaches impacted on the evolution of stage design.

Key Facts

- ✓ BORN: 1863 to one of the richest families in Russia.
- ✓ DIED: 1938
- ✓ Called the 'father of modern theatre'.
- ✓ Trained as an actor but later became a Director.
- ✓ Collaborated with playwrights Anton Chekhov and Henrik Ibsen throughout his life.
- ✓ He suffered from stage fright as an actor, influencing some of the approaches he developed, such as the 'fourth wall'.
- ✓ Seminal work- directed *The Cherry Orchard* (1903) & *The Seagull* (1898)
- ✓ Wrote *An Actor Prepares*, *Building a Character* and *Creating a Role*.

