



Script Sampler

Students will study a range of short scripts and explore Stanislavski's method of approach.

Who is he?

Constantin Stanislavski was a Russian stage actor and director who developed the naturalistic performance technique known as the "Stanislavski method," or method acting. Constantin Stanislavski Producer, Actor, Theatre Actor (1863–1938)

Born in 1863 in Moscow, Russia, Constantin Stanislavski started working in theatre as a teen, going on to become an acclaimed thespian and director of stage productions. He co-founded the Moscow Art Theatre in 1897 and developed a performance process allowing actors to use their personal histories to express authentic emotion and create rich characters.

Physical and Vocal skills

- Pitch
- Pace
- Tone
- Accent
- Volume
- Emphasis
- Facial Expressions
- Gestures
- Posture
- Mannerism
- Body Language



Units and Objectives

- Units are part of a scene or extract where there is one objective for your character.
- Every time there is a shift in the character's aim this becomes a new unit.
- Every time someone new comes in/ starts to talk this is a new unit.
- This will be different for each actor but may be collaboratively agreed.

The Given Circumstances

Stanislavski lists the circumstances as:

- The story of the play
- Its facts, events, epoch, time and place of action
- Conditions of life
- The actor's and director's interpretation
- The production, the sets, the costumes, the props
- Lighting and sound effects.

Magic 'If'

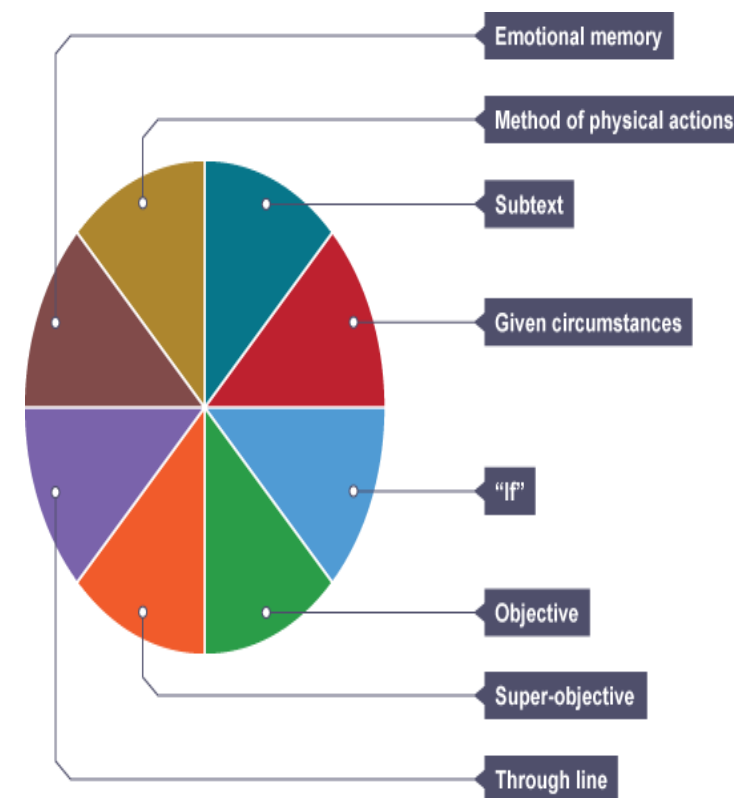
What would I do if I were in this situation? This helps to put you in the character's shoes; it acts as a lever lifting us into the world where it is possible to create – the world of imagination.

Emotional memory

Our lives are a rich source of memories, experiences and observations. Stanislavski suggests that the actor selects the "most absorbing memories" of feelings and sensations, and weaves the life of the character from them.

The System

This term refers to the methods used by Stanislavski to foster a good performance in his actors. It focuses mainly on helping an actor recall the emotions needed for a role. Don't confuse 'method acting' with the System. Method acting is how Stanislavski's work was interpreted by others, in particular, actors and directors in the film industry.



Glossary of key terms

Drama GCSE

Physical Skills

Interaction	Whether the characters react to one another, do they communicate physically even when they are not speaking.
Eye Contact (and its withdrawal)	Making and breaking eye contact can help to imply a wide range of emotions
Spatial Relationships/Proxemics	Space between the actors can help to indicate their relationship and thinking if a character moves away, turns away or follow a character can help to convey feelings
Use of the performance space	This can help to signify location and also importance
Movement/ stillness	Using words that describe the pace, manner and when movement takes place can help the actor convey information about their character/ stillness is also worth referencing if this would add extra information about the character's emotions
Gesture	A movement of story made by part of the body (E.g. arms, head) to convey a character's emotions.
Gait	A particular way or manner of moving on foot: a person who ran with a clumsy, hobbling gait
Mannerism	Small repeated gestures that bring out aspects of a character's personality
Facial Expressions	How parts of the face move to show the character's reactions and feelings
Body language/posture	How a person moves, sits, stands can help to indicate their emotions/ personality
Energy/dynamics	If an actor changes the energy a character displays, this can be to highlight a shocking/emotional event and will help the audience to see this and understand.

Vocal Skills

Pitch	How high or low an actor's voice is. This can be used as a feature of a character or to show a character's emotional state.
Pace	How quickly or slowly a line is delivered
Pause	Pauses can be used to create tension, can shape the delivery of an actor's lines and/or can add to the realism of a scene
Tone	How a line is delivered, adding emotional impact to spoken words
Volume	How loud or quiet a vocal performance is. This could be a feature of a character or how a character's emotions
Emphasis	How they give stress to some words, louder volume, pause before, quieter, said quickly or with a different vocal tone
Accent	Can signal to the audience where a character is from, social class or status
Timing	When are these lines delivered, does this timing have a purpose?
Phrasing	The way an actor breaks the lines into sections when delivering the line