

Theatre I (Period  
1)

A central black hole with a bright, glowing accretion disk. The disk is surrounded by a field of stars, with some stars appearing as streaks, suggesting motion or a long exposure. The overall scene is set against a dark, starry background.

**Jake's APJ**

# Unit 1 Introduction

★ In the first section, we looked at who Konstantin Stanislavski is, why is he important in Theatre, and circles of attention. I learned that the 3 circles are myself, objects near me, and the room/world I'm in. Then, in the second section, I learned how an actor should prepare to act, regarding voice, body, movement, gesture, and facial expressions. In the third section, I learned about the character elements and how to apply them. In section 4, I learned about units, objectives, and super-objectives. Finally, in section 5, I studied how to memorize the lines of the script effectively.

★ For the rest of the unit, I expect to learn more elements that could make me a better actor in theatre.

# Notes for this Unit



**Important Thing #1: Konstantin Stanislavski, Circles of Attention**



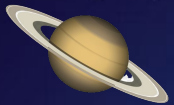
**Important Thing #2: Actor's Toolbox, Gertrude Stein  
(Concentration of Attention, Relaxation, Imagination,  
Communication)**



**Important Thing #3: Unit, Objective, Super-Objective, Tactics**



**Important Thing #4: Sense Memory, Emotion Memory, Magic IF**



**Important Thing #5: Method of Physical Actions**

# My Character's Objective



**Super-Objective:**

**I am trying to ask for Jane's forgiveness of my past actions.**



**Objectives:**

- 1) To communicate with Jane about the relationship**
  - 1.5) persuade Jane of getting back together**
- 2) To manipulate Jane**
- 3) To appeal to Jane's emotion of yearning**
- 4) To confess my feelings to Jane**

# Given Circumstances

Ron is one of the two main characters in the play. The other one is Jane, Ron's ex-girlfriend. Both seem to be in the middle class of society, meaning they have similar social statuses. Ron seems to be a teenage (approximately 17~19) boy, presumably tall (over 180cm) and handsome. It is possible to speculate that Jane liked and missed Ron even after the breakup due to his good-looking appearance. He would have refined hair and skin. The play begins with Ron visiting Jane's house unexpectedly. When Jane asks why he visited, he says he simply wanted to say hi. Ron is feeling a sense of embarrassment and awkwardness in the situation because he unilaterally broke their relationship in the past. He seems to regret his past behavior of breaking the relationship with Jane without any communication. Ron generally appears to be a respectful and kind gentleman. It is because Ron tries not to be anxious about Jane throughout the play. He begins the conversation with Jane slowly and softly. On the other hand, he is also very romantic since he is trying to reunite with Jane by appealing to her emotions and telling Jane that he misses her. He even brings Jane's favorite chocolate as a present to make her glad. As a result, Ron and Jane eventually reconcile and become a couple again.



# Character Trait 1

The first quality of Ron I want to act out is his gentle, friendly, emotionally appealing tone. Throughout the play, Ron always speaks in a gentle and peaceful tone to Jane. He does not speak fast or in a high voice. Instead, Ron maintains a serious but emotionally appealing tone that makes him sound very gentle and friendly. In this way, Ron makes Jane feel a sense of yearning just as he does. I think acting out this tone is very significant because the tone of a character strongly depicts his personality. I will act this out by changing my voice to a very low-pitch, soft voice with a less strong accent. This way, I will achieve a serious, emotionally appealing tone that allows me to depict the character's personality appropriately.



# Character Trait 2

The second quality of Ron I want to act out is his romantic trait. This is because the romantic trait of Ron is essential to the play. The story would totally change if Ron were a curt and unkind character. Jane would be upset about Ron again and wouldn't feel a sense of yearning for him again. Then this would worsen the conflict and may eventually lead Jane to avoid Ron. However, since Ron is a romantic man, Jane feels a sense of happiness about the fact that Ron was actually caring about her. Significantly, the present that Ron prepared was clear evidence that Ron cared about her since it was her favorite chocolate which is only sold in Europe. I will act this out by having a firm but soft voice. The firm voice depicts that Ron is definitely in love with Jane, without a doubt. The soft voice would contribute to the formation of a romantic mood too. Furthermore, I will act with hand gestures and eye contact that shows love toward a girl.



# Character Trait 3

The third quality of Ron I want to act out is his extrovert trait. In the play, Ron displays a sense of activeness. He visits Jane's house with a single present without even notifying Jane. Jane might not have been home at the time, or she might have avoided him, but Ron just visited with courage. He did not care about the potential risks or hardships that he might face. Also, he was very active in that he actually climbed the window of Jane's house to give her the present and fell to the floor. This scene shows that Ron is a very active and aggressive person. I would act this out by actually acting out the climbing scene. Furthermore, I would work with strong gestures to show the trait of activeness of Ron's character.





# Ron - Use of Sense Memory

You will each be asked to recreate a moment from your life when you were exceptionally emotional. Note as many details as you can remember, both sensually and emotionally.

Result:

The experience of asking for redemption after a severe conflict with my friend due to a difference of opinion in class would be a useful emotional experience for helping me how to act out the emotions while asking for redemption.

## Emotion Memory

- Feeling a sense of regret for past behaviors
- Feeling sorrow
- Desperate emotion

## Sense Memory

- Directly eye-contacting to the other person (vision)
- Quiet and calm environment (not much sound/noise heard)
- Put arms around each other's shoulders (touch)
- Having dry mouth due to anxiousness (taste)

# Ron - Use of The Magic IF

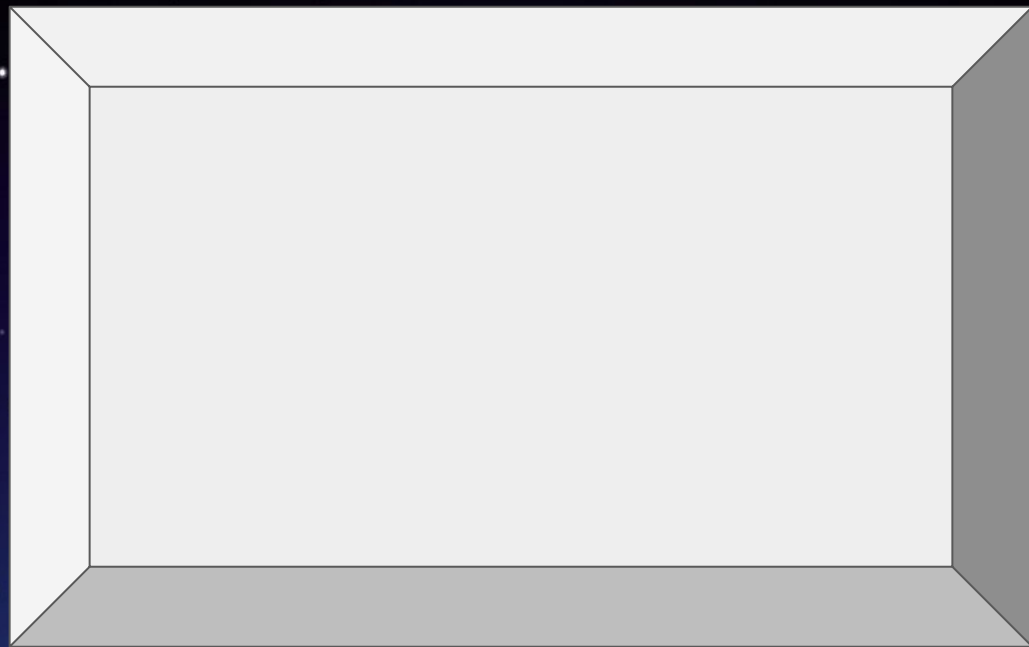
If I were in Ron's situation, I would first have been hesitant to ask for forgiveness when visiting Jane's house. This is because the last date with Jane and me ended badly, primarily because I intentionally behaved poorly toward Jane in order to break up with her. However, even though I would have a hesitant footstep when visiting Jane, I would also attempt to be confident enough to request a reunion as a couple. While asking for redemption, I would speak with a regretful but earnest tone, which would portray the remorse of my past actions of unilaterally breaking the relationship as well as a strong desire for reconciliation. Furthermore, when handing the present (Jane's favorite chocolates) to Jane for reconciliation, I would talk as if it is no big deal to hinder the embarrassment of the fact that I put so much effort into this request for a reunion. Thus, these actions, based on my character's emotions, would eventually lead to an ending to successfully reuniting with Jane.



# Impressive Homework Assignment & photos/gifs of rehearsals



# Video Journal



# Unit Review

- ☾ Final Observations
- ☾ Analysis of Unit / Performance



# Unit 2 Introduction



# Photo Collage



# Phrases

**There are no absolute rules of conduct, either in peace or war. Everything depends on circumstances.**

**The historic ascent of humanity, taken as a whole, may be summarized as a succession of victories of consciousness over blind forces - in nature, in society, in man himself.**

**The dynamic of revolutionary events is directly determined by swift, intense, and passionate changes in the psychology of classes which have already formed themselves before the revolution.**



# Notes for this Unit



## Process of learning sounds and lights

The process of the sounds is simpler. First, turn on the power. Then, turn up the master fader. After that, connect a computer to the aux cable. Finally, play some music.

The process for the lights is more complex. First, turn on the power. Then, turn up the master fader. Attempt each of the top faders (labelled 1-20) on the board by sliding them up and down. Press the white button labelled '3' under the 'page' control group. Try faders 1-4 in random combination.



## What could make the sounds go wrong?

Sound crash or disorder might occur due to errors of sound machinery. Wrong control of channels can also direct the sound in a wrong way.

# Notes for this Unit



## What could make the lights go wrong?

Lights could go wrong if power is suddenly turned off or if the lights are not directed in the right direction (position).

# Technical Skills Assignment (Lights)

At the start of the play, lights would cue from the darkness (0:04), and the spotlight would be shed on Trotsky, who would presumably appear from stage right. By shedding a focused spotlight to Trotsky from darkness, the audience would be able to concentrate on the main character, Trotsky, at the beginning of the play.

Then, when Mrs. Trotsky starts talking, we would cue for the rest of the lights on stage to be turned on (light illumination). This would eventually allow the audience to notice that the conversation and the main event has now begun.

After the Variation One is completed (as soon as Trotsky dies and falls on the desk), the stage would be in blackout, and the spotlight would be on the dead Trotsky. The spotlight among the dark (blackout) background would portray Trotsky's preposterous death after his inquiry of whether Ramon reported to work at the day.

The lighting would slightly be adjusted at Variation Two. At the beginning, the light would again shed Trotsky, and colored lights (blue) would illuminate, which expresses Trotsky's emerging fear of death. Then, by the end of the variation, blackout would happen, and blue spotlight would be shed to Trotsky's dead body.

At the start of Variation Three, red and orange light would be shed, as Trotsky "funny" in a slightly delightful and comic manner. The color of the light would portray that the mood of the play has changed from slight fear to comic for a moment. However, Trotsky would soon die again, and the red spotlight would be shed on Trotsky, symbolizing the violent death of Trotsky by the mountain-climber's axe.

# Technical Skills Assignment (Lights) Continued

Then, the Variation Four begins. The green light would be shed on stage to portray the serious mood of Trotsky at the beginning. Then, at the end, when Trotsky dies again, green spotlight is shed on Trotsky instead of the stage light.

When Variation Five begins, normal stage light is shed on Trotsky because it is the most appropriate lighting for the restart of the conversation. When the variation ends by Trotsky's death, the shutter spotlight (slow shutter) would be shed in order to represent Trotsky's bafflement and confusion right before his death.

Then, Variation Six begins with purple lights shed on the stage. The purple light symbolizes the dire situation of Trotsky calling Ramon to figure out the mystery of his death. Then, the purple spotlight is shed on Trotsky to express his shock after knowing that Ramon and Mrs. Trotsky were in love, and he was killed as a result of that.

Variation Seven only has one light setting: flashy lights. The reason for this is because the variation is short, and Trotsky is feeling as though the situation is a nightmare. To express nightmare, flashy lights would be appropriate.

Finally, Variation Eight would start with the blue light on stage to make the audience acknowledge that Trotsky gained his calmness again, and the bright lights are shed after Trotsky dies in this variation since it is the end of the play.

# Technical Skills Assignment (Soundscape)

I used three kinds of sounds in the soundscaping for the Variations on the Death of Trotsky in order to produce the right sounds for our play.

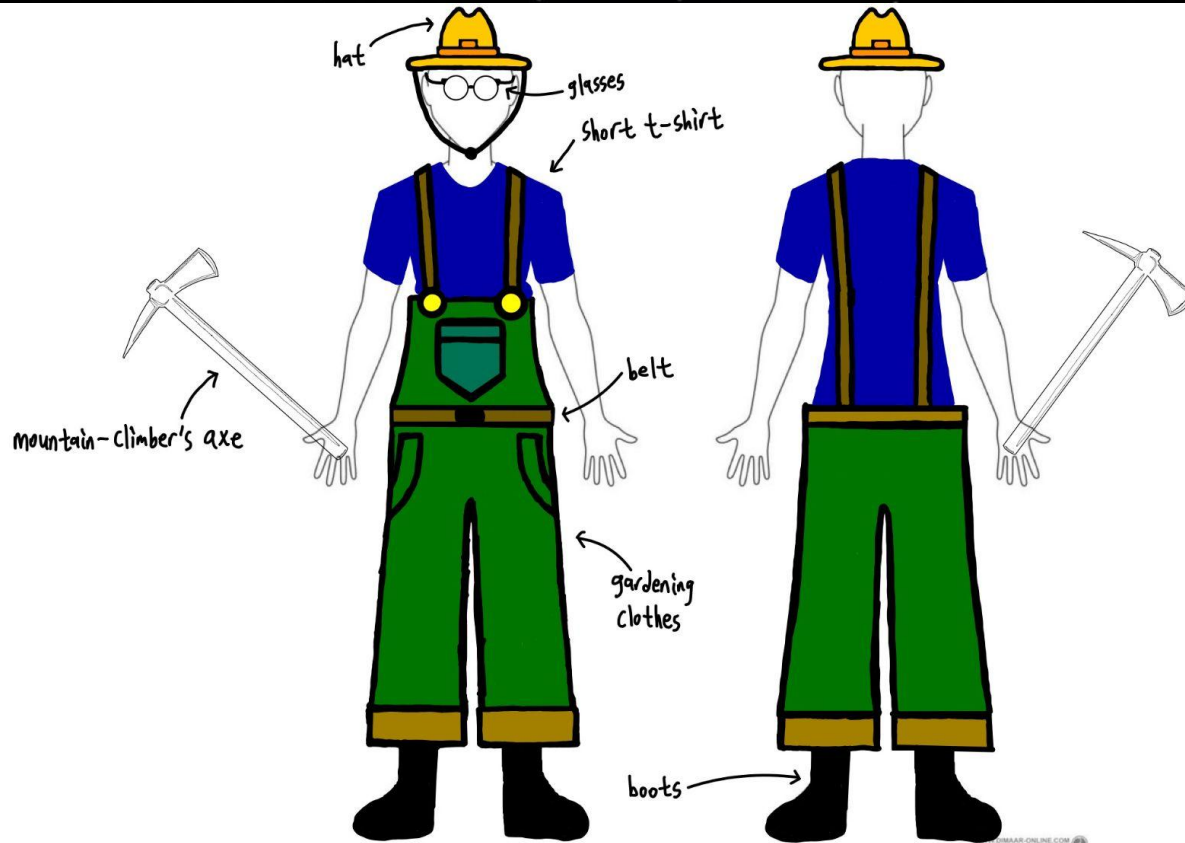
First of all, I used the suspension sound in order to create a dire and tense mood throughout the play. This play's main event is Trotsky's repeated death throughout multiple variations. By inserting a sound of suspension as a background sound throughout the play, I addressed the theme of the inevitability of human faith – no matter what action an individual takes, the course of nature (in this case, death) would not change – which was also embedded in our Stage Enchanted's mission statement. Furthermore, through this sound of suspension, I successfully expressed the horror, or innate fear, of death which is fundamentally in the nature of human minds.

Moreover, I used the subtropical climate natural sound. I adopted this sound because the place where Trotsky actually died was his house in the suburban area of Mexico City, Mexico, which has a subtropical climate. Therefore, this natural sound is used to vividly demonstrate the actual background in which Trotsky lived in Mexico, which is also the background of this whole play. The noises of winds and birds chirping successfully and accurately contribute to portraying the play's background.

Finally, I adopted the calming and relaxing sound that is often used to help people sleep. I used this soothing sound in my soundscaping because there are scenes where Trotsky is acting calm and prudent, guessing rationally about the weird situation he is experiencing. Therefore, to represent Trotsky's prudent and calm actions and moods during the play, I adopted the calming and relaxing sound to the soundscaping, especially more during (00:40~00:55), which approximately reflects Variation Four and Five in the actual play.

Combining these three sounds, I created a unique and appropriate background sound that accomplishes the mission statement of Stage Enchanted.

# Costume and Make-up Design Assignment (1) - Drawing



# Costume and Make-up Design Assignment (2)

## Context:

This character is Ramon Mercader. He is a Spanish Communist and an NKVD agent of the Soviet Union who disguised himself as a gardener in order to assassinate Leon Trotsky, the Russian Marxist politician and revolutionary who politically competed with Stalin. In this play, Ramon kills Trotsky in every variation by smashing a mountain climber's axe in Trotsky's skull, and in one variations his reason for killing Trotsky was due to his love of Mrs. Trotsky, the wife of Trotsky whom he was in an affair with.

## Shape/Fit:

He would wear a short t-shirt and gardening clothes that are appropriate for his job as a gardener in Mexico City, an environment with a subtropical climate. The shape of the short t-shirt would be normal, and the gardening clothes would be an integrated one-piece cloth so that he could move efficiently in a hot climate.

The fit of the t-shirt and the gardening clothes would be loose as well as voluminous since the character of Ramon requires actions with large movements, considering his gardening in a subtropical region and the assassination of Trotsky throughout the play.

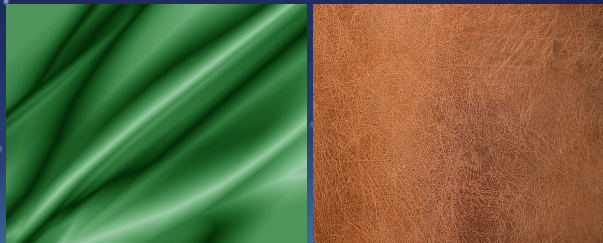
# Costume and Make-up Design Assignment (3)

## Color:

The main color of the costume would be green, which is used in gardening clothes. The character of Ramon is contrasting. Even though he is a murderer who kills Leon Trotsky, he is also a gardener who grows life (plants). So, the color green contrasts Ramon's character as he kills Trotsky for a new life and love with Mrs. Trotsky. Furthermore, green symbolizes renewal and resurrection, which could also represent the repeated variations throughout the play every time Trotsky dies.

## Texture:

The texture of the gardening clothes would be similar to satin so that it could protect Ramon from the thorns of the plants as well as the sunlight of the subtropical climate of Mexico City when working outside as a gardener. Furthermore, as he should have an agile, swift, and efficient movement when working or assassinating Trotsky, he wears accessories like a belt to fasten his clothes strictly to himself. The belt would be a rough leather texture.





# Costume and Make-up Design Assignment (4)

## Movement:

The costume of a gardener allows Ramon to be well-disguised as an employee in Trotsky's house. Since Ramon's primary goal is to assassinate Trotsky without being caught, he should have a costume that could trick Trotsky over. Furthermore, Ramon wears a short t-shirt in order to have easy and agile maneuverability when killing Trotsky by smashing a mountain-picker's axe on his skull.

## Accessories:

The accessories that Ramon would have is a hat, glasses, a mountain climber's axe, and boots. The hat has two purposes. First, Ramon could prevent sunlight while working in the garden, which is the original purpose of a hat. Second, Ramon could disguise from Leon Trotsky, Ramon's assassination target. The glasses are a point of detail that increases the historical accuracy of the play, as Ramon Mercader actually wore glasses. The mountain climber's axe is Ramon's murder tool, and the boots protect Ramon's feet from his harsh movement while working as a gardener and assassinating Trotsky.

**The End!**