

Abstract of doctoral dissertation

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Jan Machulski's method based on the role of Klara in the play *Magnetism of the Heart*, or *Maiden Vows* directed by Stefan Szmidt

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Jan Machulski was an actor and director associated with the Acting Department of the National Film, Television and Theatre School, where he was dean twice. He founded the Machulski Acting School and the Ochota Theatre in Warsaw, where he ran a theatre centre for children and teenagers. He created an original concept of teaching in theatre schools, he believed in the idea of theatre in the service of people. That is why I was so interested in his personal approach to the profession and what he thought about building a role. The aim of my work was therefore to explore and apply Jan Machulski's acting method in practice.

Reading interviews and books allowed me to outline the principles that Jan Machulski followed in his professional career. The picture was additionally complemented by interviews with prof. Bogusław Semotiuk, associate professor, Jan Machulski's assistant at the Film School in Łódź, and with Grażyna Zaczek, Jan Machulski's assistant at the Ochota Theater.

The next stage was preparing the role of Klara in the play *Magnetism of the Heart, or the Maidens' Vows* directed by Stefan Szmidt of Fundacja Kresy 2000. The diary I kept during rehearsals allowed me to recreate the role-building process using the principles I had outlined earlier. I assumed that I would deliberately carry out the research process and provoke the circumstances needed to apply Jan Machulski's method but it was exactly the opposite. It was these principles that allowed me to understand the character of Klara and make her a flesh and blood person for me, not a heroine of a book read when I was a school student.

Jan Machulski's acting method does not seem to be an innovative or pioneering but in fact it is a very original method. For me, it is unique because of the personal, methodical and constantly searching approach of the author. The principles that I decided to describe apply not only to the profession but also to the actor as a human being. They remind us that only by shaping these two aspects can we achieve completeness during the never-ending artistic journey. This method is a praise of honesty, above all with oneself, vigilance towards the surrounding world, the need to constantly stimulate the imagination and consciously experience everyday life.

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