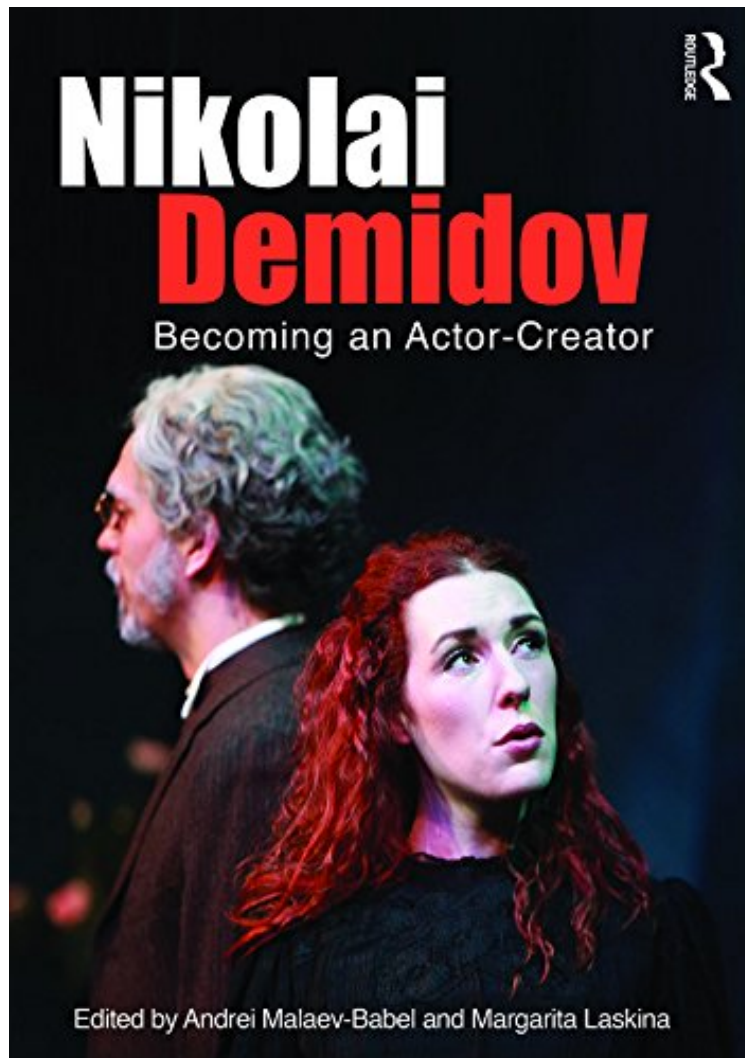


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Nikolai Demidov : Nikolai Demidov before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nikolai Demidov:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very few people understood Stanislavsky's System. Demidov is one ...By Dr. David Krasner Very few people understood Stanislavsky's System. Demidov is one of the few. Far too many people hijacked the System for political or personal reasons: promoting their own theories, or, as in the case of Communist Russia, distorted Stanislavsky in order to conform to the collectivist ideology. The Communists denied sense and emotion memory, viewing it as too subjective and thus too individualistic for their socialist agenda. American academia followed blindly along. The fact, however, is that Stanislavsky NEVER abandoned sense-emotion memory; rather, he incorporated it into action analysis (physical action) as the next step in the creative process.

Demidov understood this: his book is a testament to the fundamental structure of Stanislavsky's ideas. To truly grasp Stanislavsky's method of training one needs to read this book, along with Strasberg AND Adler. Yes -- both had it right, and both engaged in silly feuds. If you combine Strasberg and Adler, you come up with Demidov. Yes, the book is expensive, and yes, it's long, but it's worth it if one wants to understand acting.

At the time of his death, Stanislavsky considered Nikolai Demidov to be his only student, who understands the System's incredibly forward-thinking processes not only continued his teacher's pioneering work, but also solved the problems of an actor's creativity that Stanislavsky never conquered. This book brings together Demidov's five volumes on actor training. Supplementary materials, including transcriptions of Demidov's classes, and notes and correspondence from the author make this the definitive collection on one of Russian theater's most important figures.

"Deserves to become the backbone of every actor's library." - Stanislavsky Studies "Andrei Malaev-Babel and Margarita Laskina have taken on the formidable but necessary task of introducing Nikolai Demidov to the English-speaking world; and it is a major achievement. These pages are fresh, conversational, and, at times, provocatively categorical. Stimulating reading, they are illuminated by Malaev-Babel's impeccable research." - Professor Maria Shevtsova, Goldsmith, University of London "Long repressed, Demidov's radical ideas about acting are now being re-discovered and implemented in Russia. Now, through this extraordinary volume, we who read English over Russian can begin the exploration of these critical insights and lessons, and add a new name to the roster of Stanislavsky's rebellious sons: Nikolai Demidov. I believe this book may ultimately alter the course of actor training in the west." - Professor David Chambers, Harvard University and Yale School of Drama "Demidov, and in turn Malaev-Babel, invite us to enter into a larger system, one that purports to articulate a pathway to creative psychology that complements and enlarges Stanislavsky's System. Given the years Demidov spent challenging and expanding Stanislavsky's System, the subsequent decades of suppression by the Soviet regime, and the increasing globalization of Stanislavsky as the actor's foundation, such an invitation is more than welcome." - Dr. Bryan Brown, University of Exeter