



Acting Under the Circumstances: Variations on a Theme of Stanislavski (Career Development Series)

By Richard Brestoff

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From the author of *The Great Acting Teachers and Their Methods*, *Under the Circumstances* details a step-by-step approach to playing a part. Based on the work Constantine Stanislavski was using near the end of his life, we follow two actors as a teacher guides them through their parts in Henrik Ibsen's great play, *A Doll House*. Then we learn how techniques are used for monologues and cold readings. We learn how analysis stems from instinct, from experiencing the character's circumstances without becoming them or speaking their dialogue. Actors memorize "events" and not lines. This approach, never before so clearly explained or engagingly taught, gives actors, from novices to professionals, a reliable, creative, and innovative method for playing a part. *Under the Circumstances* is a book you will put to immediate use.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This book comes out of the author's own experience as an actor and teacher. As he rereads the works of Konstantin Stanislavski (the founder of "method" acting), Brestoff (The Camera Smart Actor, LJ 12/94) was struck by Stanislavski's approach, which calls upon actors to "experience the circumstances of a play before speaking any dialogue or trying to characterize." Brestoff has refined and expanded on Stanislavski's ideas, taking the reader through the process followed by two actors as they work on a scene from Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. Improvisation is a key to visualizing the roles actors are to play. An 18-point process review concludes this well-written and very useful book. Recommended for theater arts collections.

Howard E. Miller, MLS, St. Louis

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About the Author

Richard Brestoff is an Assistant Professor of Drama in the Claire Trevor School of the Arts at the University of California, Irvine. He is an actor with credits on Broadway, Off-Broadway, in regional theater, and in film, television and radio. He is the author of *The Camera Smart Actor*, *The Great Acting Teachers and Their Methods*, *Acting Under the Circumstances*, and most recently, *The Actor's Wheel of Connection*.

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