

October 2000

Dear Svetlana,

Thank you for letting me watch your acting class. It was inspiring and exciting.

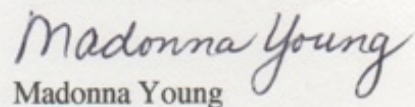
You are such an accomplished actress who *also* has a gift for teaching, a passion for Stanislavski and Chekhov *and* the desire to communicate this to the students. I can tell that you love what you do because you do it with commitment, passion and focus. What a valuable combination. You are such an asset to this Theatre Department! I hope everyone one appreciates the unique gift you have and your willingness to share *all* your knowledge and experience with our students.

They are *so* fortunate to have *you* introducing them to Chekhov and Stanislavski. You have a clear and active picture of Stanislavski's method. Most Americans have the wrong impression of both of these artists because they never had the opportunity to study with someone like you. I really appreciate what you are giving them. I learned so much from watching you working with them.

Stanislavski comes to life and is clearly articulated by you....without all the misconceptions that most Americans have. You really "get Chekhov" ...the students start to focus on their commitment to the "single objective" supporting a moment to moment struggle full of human contradictions and hopes and longings and humor... "the objective is *everything!*" ..instead of a group of moody complaining characters as most Americans interpret it. You are bringing the essence of the Russian culture to life in front of our students' eyes and, being a true artist, you are able to reveal, relive and teach them to tap into this passionate, honest, active behavior by themselves. You inspire your students to *be* full, honest, caring human beings and therefore find and reveal the artist in themselves. You *love* acting...you *love* Chekhovyou live, love and teach Stanislavski's method. When, in their lifetimes, will they ever have such an opportunity? Your insight into Chekhov is truly exciting and it makes your students hungry to find it in themselves. Thank you.

I love your teaching style. Each student knows where they stand and can go home and *do* something about it or decide that this noble profession is not for them. In *your* hands, Acting *is* a noble profession. You are a disciplined taskmaster and you push them to venture farther than they ever thought they could. As I watched you teach, it was obvious that your honest, strict, energized, precise style of teaching reflects a woman who is serious about this being a Professional Training Program. A teacher who cares about her students and is determined to prepare them to enter a profession that is extremely demanding, rigorous, challenging and competitive. You want your students to grow and to "get it" so that they can *do it on their own..* You don't teach students to be dependent on youyou expect them to do the work so they will truly become disciplined, dedicated artists. No student at CSUF wants to disappoint Svetlana*because you expect the best possible work from them they give you all they have.* Because you respect the actor as an artist and because you truly believe that the artist has an important role in this world and is obligated to contribute to this society, the students begin to see that this is the obligation of a professional actor.

Thank you again.


Madonna Young