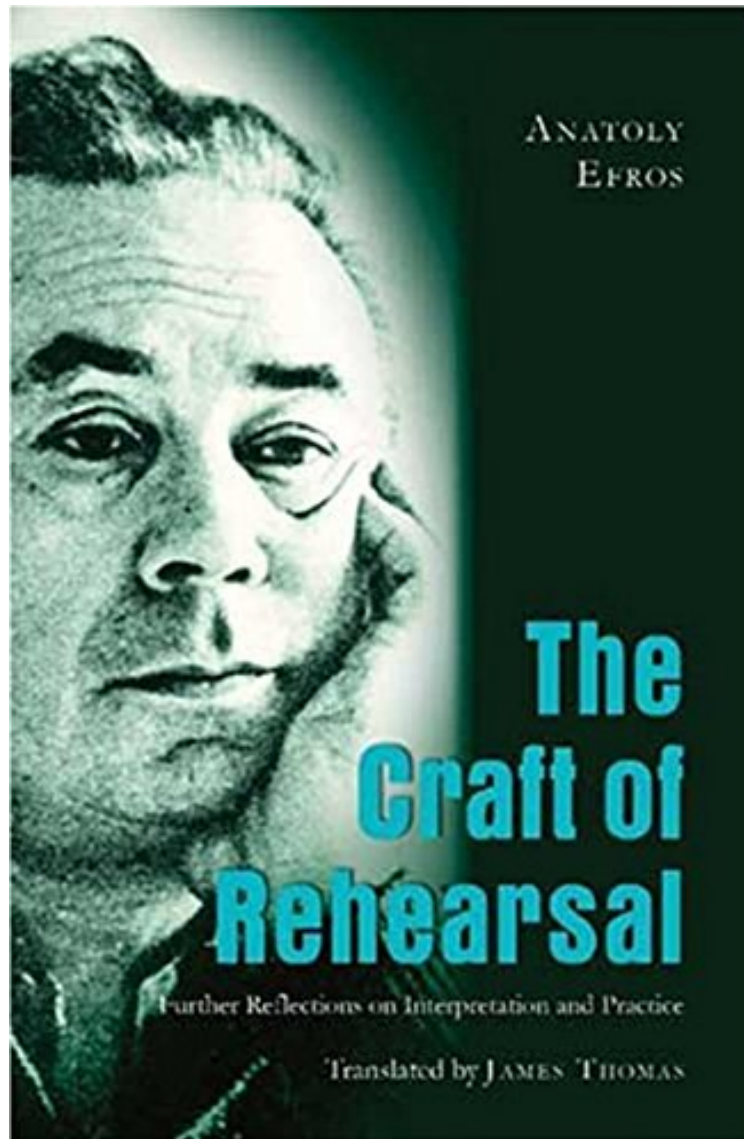


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The Craft of Rehearsal: Further Reflections on Interpretation and Practice

James Thomas

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James Thomas : The Craft of Rehearsal: Further Reflections on Interpretation and Practice before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Craft of Rehearsal: Further Reflections on Interpretation and Practice:

Anatoly Efros (1925-1987), one of the most admired and original directors of post-war Russia, directed at the Central Childrens Theatre, Malaya Bronnaya Theatre, Lenkom Theatre, Moscow Art Theatre, Taganka Theatre, and elsewhere including the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis and the Toen Theatre in Tokyo. He taught directing at the State Institute for Theatre Training and wrote several influential books. His productions received numerous awards for creative excellence. In *The Craft of Rehearsal*, his second work, Efros further illuminates the dynamics of the directors creative work introduced in his first work, *The Joy of Rehearsal* (Peter Lang, 2006). He discusses the process of considering future plays, rehearsing them, and evaluating the results. Devoted to the principles of Konstantin Stanislavsky and Michael Chekhov, and inspired by the ideas of Bertolt Brecht. Additionally, Efros provides detailed examples of how he developed modern literary reconstructions from classic works, *Othello* and Turgenevs masterpiece *A Month in the Country*. His productions of Shakespeare, Moliere, Chekhov, and other classics were major events for those who looked to the theatre for social significance as well as aesthetic experience. Theatre students and professionals will benefit from the insights gained as Efros writes about his unique vision for the modern theatre.

I remember well what an event the publication was of Anatoly Efross first book, *Rehearsal Is My Love* (in English, *The Joy of Rehearsal*) at the end of the 70s. Other than Michael Chekhov, I think that no one in Russia wrote so freely, unrestrainedly, and intelligently about the essence of theatre. This was theatre seen from within, from the viewpoint of a director, who, during his lifetime as well as now, is esteemed the most outstanding master of the post-war Russian stage. After several years, Efros published a second book, *Profession: Director* (in English, *The Craft of Rehearsal*), in which he established the very possibility of a free literary reconstruction of important stage works. His writing was a new kind of directors literature: No day without writing a line. In this fashion he created books in which the shrewd observations of an experienced director are allied with the fleeting day-by-day insights of an artist, and he addressed it to everyone in the world of theatre. Efross books (all four of them) stand on my shelf next to those of Stanislavsky, Tairov, Meyerhold, and Brook. They are classics of the twentieth century, which is the century of the director in the theatre. It is wonderful that James Thomas has translated Anatoly Efros skillfully and sequentially, book after book, giving English-language readers the opportunity to share a special pleasure that we in Russia have already had for several decades. (Anatoly Smeliansky, Rector, Moscow Art Theatre School; Associate Artistic Director, Moscow Art Theatre) The impact of Anatoly Efross work in Russia is indisputable, and the manner in which James Thomas has brought this influence directly into the English language forum is invaluable and timely. *The Craft of Rehearsal* is a marvellous contribution to acting processes and theatre studies, showing the way for the application of Stanislavskys ideas in the present day and even into the future. (Bella Merlin, Lecturer in Drama, University of Exeter) About the Author The Translator: James Thomas is Professor and Director of the Ph.D. Program in Theatre at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, and Director of the Study Abroad Program with the Moscow Art Theatre School. He received his Ph.D. in theatre history and criticism from the University of Texas. He is the translator of *The Joy of Rehearsal* by Anatoly Efros and the author of *The Art of the Actor-Manager: Wilson Barrett and the Victorian Theatre* (1984), and *Script Analysis for Actors, Directors, and Designers* (2005).