SANFORD MEISNER

ON·ACTING

SANFORD MEISNER

AND

DENNIS LONGWELL

INTRODUCTION BY SYDNEY POLLACK

VINTAGE BOOKS

A DIVISION OF RANDOM HOUSE NEW YORK

Contents

Introduction by Sydney Pollack

Prologue

1. Setting the Scene: Duse's Blush	3
2. Building a Foundation: The Reality of Doing	16
3. The Pinch and the Ouch	26
4. The Knock on the Door	38
5. Beyond Repetition	57
6. Preparation: "In the Harem of My Head"	78
7. Improvisation	96

8. More on Preparation: "Quick As Flame"	115
9. The Magic As If: Particularization	136
10. "Making the Part Your Own"	148
11. Some Thoughts on Actors and on Acting	175
12. Final Scenes: "Instead of Merely the Truth"	193
Spring Awakening by Frank Wedekind	193
A Palm Tree in a Rose Garden by Meade Roberts	201
Golden Boy by Clifford Odets	210
The Seagull by Anton Chekhov	221
Summer and Smoke by Tennessee Williams	
(part 1, scene 6)	227
Summer and Smoke by Tennessee Williams	
(part 2, scene 11)	238