

Title: "My soul is on the threshold of great events": Vera Komissarzhevskaja and Stanislaw Przybyszewski
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Vera F. Komissarzhevskaja (1864-1910) has been called one of the greatest actresses of the Russian Silver Age. If we review Komissarzhevskaja's career from 1902-1910, we find that the name of Polish dramatist, novelist, and essayist Stanislaw Przybyszewski (1868-1927) appears and reappears as author of dramas (*Zolotoe runo*, *Sneg*, *Vechnaia skazka*, *Pir zhizni*) that the actress produced at several critical stages in her career. In fact, these works serve as bookends to her independent career. Previous biographers have chronicled Komissarzhevskaja's life (Turkin, 1910; Schuler, 1996; Borovsky, 2001, et al.), while theatre historian Andrei Moskvin (1998) has presented the public face of the Komissarzhevskaja-Przybyszewski relationship, that of an actress portraying conflicted, modern heroines, as reflected in the Russian press.

This paper, however, examines Komissarzhevskaja's personal affinity for Przybyszewski's aesthetics and drama. Special note is made of a letter written to Nikolai Khodotov in early April 1902, in which she thanks him for several booklets and confides that she is standing "on the threshold of the great events of my soul." One of these "great events" will be her decision to leave the Imperial service and to begin a new career as an independent actress-entrepreneur, eventually leading to the establishment of the Dramaticheskii Teatr and a brief collaboration with Vsevolod Meierkhol'd.

I propose that an important catalyst for this "great event" is Kursinskii's translation of Przybyszewski's essays, *Aforizmy i preliudy*. Through close textual analysis I suggest that Komissarzhevskaja paraphrases this booklet several times, at one time pointing directly to her source through the use of quotations.

Komissarzhevskaja, Vera. *Pis'ma aktrisy, vospominaniia o nei i materialy*. Red.-sost. A. Ia. Al'tshuller. Leningrad-Moskva: Izd. Iskusstvo, 1964. Letter #141, 115-116.

Moskvin, Andriej. [Moskvin, Andrei]. "Recepcja dramatów Stanisława Przybyszewskiego w teatrze rosyjskim początku XX wieku." *Pamiętnik Teatralny* 47, 3-4 (1998): 410-450.

Pshibyshevskii, S. *Aforizmy i preliudy*. Pervod s pol'skago A. Kursinskago. M: 1902.