

STAGING AND THE USE OF LEVELS
Arts Council of Switzerland
by Adolphe Appia

"In the spring of 1909, Dalcroze asked me to attend a performance that he had carefully gotten ready, with original music, costumes, colored lighting, etc. I left the performance in sadness, and that decided me. I grabbed some paper and some pencils, and every day I feverishly drew two or three spaces meant for rhythmic movement. When I had twenty or so sketches, I sent them to Dalcroze, along with a letter in which I told him that his pupils, who were still moving on a plane surface, reminded me of mountaineers trying to climb the Matterhorn on a relief map lying flat on the ground !... His enthusiasm on seeing my drawings was very great, and I was convinced I had succeeded, as much for myself as for him. Henceforth, the style of space for bodily movement had a foundation. What remained was to try out

that style in practice and adapt it, flexibly and undogmatically, to the needs of each new day. That required a good measure of feeling one's way; and the staircase, which does so fine a job of aiding and abetting the body, became a reliable guide."

