

The course is scheduled for three years and may be entered upon between the ages of eighteen and twenty-six years. The three-year course consists of two years of theoretical subjects and one year of practical training. The practical training is undertaken outside of Moscow—that is, in other cities, and, upon return to the headquarters school, students undergo examinations for the purpose of getting their diplomas. Examinations include history of theater and history of circus, plus examination in the student's own field of specialization.

Former circus performers are teachers. Acrobats and gymnasts retire after twenty years of active work regardless of age. The Circus School is thirty-two years old, has two hundred and fifty students, a general faculty of forty-five and a specialized faculty of thirty.

Institute of Art Education

ANOTHER important educational establishment in the Soviet Union is the Institute of Art Education begun in 1947 under the general auspices of the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences. This is mainly a research institute whose principal task has been dedicated to aesthetics pertaining to children of school age and preschool age. In the Institute are several divisions: (1) music, (2) fine arts, (3) literature, (4) dancing, (5) theater and the cinema, (6) aesthetics in general education. The research program of the Institute is considered an important factor in the training of the teachers.

Also identified with the work of the Institute is the Editorial Office, which is concerned with the preparation of textbooks for all of the heretofore mentioned fields. Allied with the work of the Institute, which, as stated above, is concerned with research in all fields of the arts, is the preparation of books on music appreciation and choral singing, as well as with projects of the pedagogical faculties at Conservatories. To further this work of the Institute, testing groups are used by the teachers. To the Institute itself also belongs a chorus (which meets after school), involving changed voices of boys from sixteen to eighteen years old.