



1 Sketch by Štěpán Pollak of a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Terezin ghetto

translations (of which other plays may have more) but in cultural translation into many social contexts and theatrical idioms. Its varied, segmented and open-ended structure has made it richly meaningful for utterly different nations and cultures. A particular adaptation might foreground one or other component, or explore the interaction of two or more, according to the myths, values and practices of the host culture. The plot might be tilted in one or other direction for ideological or simply theatrical reasons. *Dream* has equally enthused Western and non-Western, dominant and subaltern cultures, across nations and within them. Its productions and interpretations have taken diverse, imaginative, sometimes bizarre forms. Postmodern Shakespeare is a socially complex and multicultural construction. *Dream* has amply met its demands.

Hence the stage history of *Dream* across the world might be the best means of entry to its themes and structure. The assorted productions and adaptations bring out the relations between the

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