

Beispiel C – Mediation Jg. 13

Global Shakespeare

Why Shakespeare Still Stands on German Stages

Shakespeare, in our society, is considered to be the Michelangelo of theatre and poetry. His works have been performed on stage for centuries, also in Germany. But how come that producers there still decide to stage Shakespeare?

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The very utmost important aspect is the sheer modernity and relevance in his works even though Shakespeare has been dead for almost 400 years. The reason for this is that he was able to portray human emotions clearly and describe love, for example, in a relatable way, thus showing his audience the complexities of life. Exactly this is what connects humans nowadays to the people centuries ago: Our emotions and feelings are still the same. No new invention or discovery could fundamentally change us over the years.

Consequently, this illustrates how by speaking to our emotions, Shakespeare was and still is able to move the wide audience his plays are directed at. He especially achieves this effect by including tragic scenes in comedies or entertaining

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scenes in tragedies. Hence, everybody may find something enjoyable or moving in his play.

Additionally, society has discovered new ways to read Shakespeare each century by studying his works in ways such as translating in over 100 languages and creating new editions of translation with time. As a consequence, Shakespeare's writing has been well-known in Germany for a long time and even influenced German literature. Therefore, his works are also performed in Germany.

Moreover, it is possible to discuss and direct the material Shakespeare provided us with in contemporary times.^{*2}

Finally, the amount of plays and poetry simply makes it practically impossible not to be confronted with any Shakespearean work, especially on stage, in one's lifetime.

In short, the modernity and accuracy in illustration of human emotions is what draws us towards Shakespeare whereas dealing with his works for centuries is what kept him so present.

For these reasons, Shakespearean works are indeed still performed on stage, also in Germany.

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*² as his portrayal of characters and
life is continuously interesting for us.

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Inspired by an interview with ~~Theater~~
Theater producer from Brandenburg,
a German state, I have decided to
outline the most considerable reasons.