

# Cambridge Elements

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## ROBERT LEPAGE'S INTERCULTURAL ENCOUNTERS

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**ABSTRACT:** This study returns to the origins of Robert Lepage's directorial work and his first cross-cultural interaction with a Shakespearean text to provide some background for his later work. This early work is situated within the political and social context of Quebec and Canada in the 1980s. Constitutional wrangling and government policies of bilingualism, biculturalism and multiculturalism all had a profound impact on this director, helping to forge his priorities and working methods. In 2018 two of Lepage's productions were cancelled due to concerns about cultural appropriation. Lepage responded by stating his view that artists are above the concerns of political correctness. While this approach was deemed acceptable in the 1980s, this study looks at the dangers posed by approaching cross-cultural creation from this standpoint in the twenty-first century.

**KEYWORDS:** Shakespeare, Robert Lepage, Canadian theatre, Quebec theatre, Bilingual Shakespeare

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