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RITUAL ON STAGE AS THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE

Summary

Authenticity of folklore performances depends upon context, not only on the way of performing. Rituals and customs appear on the stage (weddings, carnival etc.) in the villages, and it seems to be a spontaneous process, a symbolic action (behaviour) in order to reconstruct and to save in memory the traditional way of life, which becomes more and more extinct. Intrinsic changes in the structure and understanding of rituals and customs, which lead to staging, or which are caused by staging, deserve more attention both from the ethnological and dramaturgical point of view. Staging and dramatization of rituals and customs is a dual effort in preservation through adaptation – the result is a theatrical performance. Ritual on stage today is an independent theatrical genre, a branch (and very important one) of contemporary amateur theatricals. It is a kind of "peasant play" which has its precursors in similar stagings that took place in Zagreb and surroundings during the twenties and thirties.

(Translated by Ivan Lozica)