



**Shakespeare: A critical analysis**

*Shakespeare: A cultural icon*

**Speaker:**

Why has Shakespeare become such a cultural icon? Jerry Brotton

**Jerry Brotton:**

I think that there's a long historical process, it's tied up with nationalism. I think that there's a need for a very big cultural national icon, that's happened to Shakespeare over several centuries, and I think that critics are arguing over is there an innate universal quality to Shakespeare, or is it actually a process by which that canonicity has been created for very specific social cultural aims

**Stephen Regan:**

Can we learn anything more about Shakespeare, what is there left to learn now?

**Jerry Brotton:**

I still think that there's probably quite a lot to learn from Shakespeare, I think every generation recreates a certain version of Shakespeare. I think we're probably quite a long way from saturation point, even though some critics argue very cogently that that might be the case.