

Dieter Hildebrandt (1927-2013) is the popular icon of the political cabaret, and its best-known representative in the twentieth century. After his start with the Nameless Ones (Die Namenlosen), the angry moralist belonged to the ensemble of the Munich Lach- und Schießgesellschaft, which he co-founded, from 1956 to 1972. Six programs with Werner Schneyder followed, in which the duo of opposites revived the classic form of the double emcee act. Hildebrandt was the protagonist of the German satirical television series “Notes from the Provinces” (“Notizen aus der Provinz,” ZDF, 1973/79) and the television cabaret “Windshield Wipers” (“Scheibenwischer,” ARD, 1980-2003). Here the “king of the punch line” (Bruno Jonas) tested the limits of satire in the mass media over and over. As an intellectual Eulenspiegel and “funny trickster” (Ursula Herking), he enraged those in power and became the satirical conscience of the nation.

Dieter Hildebrandt

“A jester of quite bashful chutzpa... an improviser who trips up on ideas, who stammers around every double entendre so long that it becomes a triple entendre. This inimitable technique of leaving out the suggestiveness and suggesting the omissions, this way of completing his thoughts by swallowing his syllables—even from behind the glass of the TV screen, he can throttle you. (Ruprecht Skasa-Weiß)

