

Edgar Külow (1925 - 2012) was the most courageous cabaret artist of the German Democratic Republic and a central figure in the ascent of the Leipzig Peppermill (Pfeffermühle) as it became the country's best cabaret at the beginning of the 1960s. Born in Westfalen, he had already gained notoriety for his pranks and rebelliousness as a schoolboy. Starting in 1959, he was a performer, author, and director, and from 1962 on, he ran the Peppermill, where he created the style of the ensemble that constantly crossed the borders of permissible satire. He was fired in 1964 for his "ideological diversions" in the banned show "Let's Be Honest" ("Woll'n wir doch mal ehrlich sein"), but being beloved by audiences, he found refuge as an actor for East German television. And as the artistic director of the Tactless Ones (Die Taktlosen) in Halle, an author for the satirical magazine Eulenspiegel, and as a "chairperson" at the authors' programs of the Thistle (Distel), Külow continued to be a provocative critic of the communist state, especially of the all-powerful unity party. Until today, he stubbornly stands by his life's motto, which also resurfaces in his programs from the eighties on, revolving around the cantankerous street philosopher Willi Koslowski:

Edgar Külow

"With all the blows I've received, I believe you have to be a leftist in this world."

