

**Emil Steinberger** (1933) is a humanitarian cult comedian, the wily, charming Everyman who raised Swiss cabaret to a peak of popularity with slightly grotesque miniatures of everyday themes. He began in the cabarets Guggürüggü and Cabaradise, and in 1964, he launched his solo shows that revolved around the authentic fictional character “Emil.” He has appeared throughout the German-speaking world with these programs since the 1970s. “Terribly funny,” the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* wrote of him, “but funny in that dimension where jokes, satire, irony, and higher significance join hands.” This earthy tightrope-walker of the mundane created a wide range of timeless figures whose monologues in dialogue form became masterpieces of the grand art of seemingly off-the-cuff improvisation.

Emil Steinberger

“It’s the confident hopelessness that makes these characters so astonishing. The confidence of their insecurity strikes the viewer. What Emil does is so essentially human that everyone identifies with it in some way. It’s something few have accomplished—Charles Chaplin, for instance, or Karl Valentin. You always laugh *with* Emil, not *at* him.” (Franz Hohler)

