

Gerhard Polt (1942) is the unsettling master of real-life satire and a linguistically brilliant grumbler. Since 1975, this earthy "word-juggler in the corner of the soul" (taz) has been presenting the socio-pathology of the average German through the person of the Bavarian. He is a formidable actor and a compelling ear-witness of everyday experience, and both on stage and in his films, plays, and television series (which he co-authored with Christian Müller), he presents the mindset of the eternal philistine who lurks inside all of us. With frightening credibility, Polt embodies his discovery of the "homo sapiens perfidis," an upright monster whose stammering chatter reveals the intellectual biotopes of prehistoric times.

"From the upper floors of this demolished society, Polt explores the downright phony Fifties, down to the smallest details of their deformed, crumbling and nonetheless carefree grammar and semantics, slightly tipsy with nonsense. And he pays special attention to the failures, the outcasts, the impoverished and the exploited... Polt is the passion for reality and what we could call a great love for its follies, foibles, jests, and monstrous delusions." (Jürgen Roth)

