

**Helen Vita** (1928 - 2001) was the last classic singer of the German cabaret, a nightingale of the small stage who masqueraded as a comic. She started out in the ensemble of Zurich's Cabaret Federal and Munich's Little Freedom (Kleine Freiheit), and in the mid-sixties she presented her own solo programs. With a generous musical talent, spirited acting, and impudent irony, she performed the best of the cabaret repertoire from Brecht to Tucholsky. She was a popular film actress in the fifties, the German answer to Marilyn Monroe, but she was famous, even infamous, for her so-called "Naughty Songs" ("Freche Chansons"): erotic folk songs from old France. According to the German courts, they threatened to bring about the "downfall of the West" with their "muddling of the moral order."

"Helen Vita is a master of the art of having a great effect with next to nothing. She can show a thousand faces, drone like a man, squeak lasciviously, and when things get downright direct, then she undermines it with a pure, solemn tremolo." (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 1990)

