

Jura Soyfer (1912 - 1939) is the most important political and satirical author of the Austrian cabaret until 1945. He was one of the leaders during the golden years of Viennese cabaret during the thirties, as house author of the Political Cabaret (Politisches Kabarett) and the "ABC," and as a writer for the Literature on Naschmarkt and various agitprop troupes. With the satirical parables of his "Mittelstücke" or "in-between plays" (short dramas performed between variety-style show segments), he developed the tradition of the Viennese popular theater. The recurring theme of these sketches blending skeptical satire, revolutionary pathos, and elegiac lyricism was mankind before the apocalypse, together with the utopia of a "humane humankind." Soyfer was arrested after the German invasion and sent to Dachau, where he wrote the "Dachau Song" and died the following year.

Jura Soyfer

"He joined the ranks of the artists of gallows humor during those years of absolute hopelessness and helplessness. While the rest of us were more or less talented, he was a genius, no imitator or copy-cat; he was a legitimate heir to the tradition of Johann Nestroy. Jura Soyfer was an unfinished masterpiece." (Hans Weigel)

