

Kate Kühl (1899 - 1970) is the brash child of nature among the great divas of the Weimar era. She was discovered by Rosa Valetti for the Cabaret Megalomania (Größenwahn). The “red nightingale,” a female equivalent of Ernst Bush, appeared in all the important political cabarets, from the Wild Stage (Wilde Bühne) to the Cabaret of the Comedians (Kabarett der Komiker) and the Catacombs (Katakombe). This “Mother Courage of the literary cabaret,” in the words of Felix Joachimson, excelled as an interpreter of Tucholsky as well as in songs and texts by Brecht, Kästner, and Ringelnatz; she also performed on stage and in films. In 1933, she withdrew from Berlin and survived the Third Reich working for the provincial radio. But after 1945, Kate Kühl’s song programs memorialized the great authors of the twenties.

Kate Kühl

“Talent boils: Kate Kühl, with her dumpling cheeks and big, amusingly startled eyes, and with a voice that sounded like a scratchy clarion. She could trumpet straight into people’s hearts. She sounded so full of optimism, with a lovely, severe, and terse freshness... A queen with her hands on her hips.” (Friedrich Luft)

