

**Kurt Gerron** (1897-1944), an actor, cabaret performer and director, was the epitome of the border-crosser during the 1920s. He performed in the cabarets Sound and Smoke (Schall und Rauch), the Wild Stage (Wilde Bühne), Megalomania (Cabaret Größenwahn), the Rocket (Rakete), KüKa, the Cabaret of the Comedians (Kabarett der Komiker), the Wasps (Die Wespen), and in Nelson's and Hollaender's revues. He was also seen in over seventy films and was at home in all the Berlin theaters. He was compelling in the cabaret as a powerful singer who could also hit the softer notes, a master of all styles from Brecht to Hollaender. After emigrating to the Netherlands in 1933, he joined Willy Rosen's Theater of the Prominent Ones (Theater der Prominenten) and the Nelson Revues. He was deported to the concentration camp Theresienstadt in February 1944, where he directed the Carousel. In the macabre reality of this cabaret, which was founded to entertain the guards and the inmates, he played for his life. That same year, he was sent to Auschwitz and murdered.

*Kurt Gerron*

"The Paul Wegner of the small arts, he slaps his fellow man with manure shovels. ... The huge man, imposing as he is, is dripping at the end of every verse. With enthusiasm. Boiling. Rattling. Raging. He seizes the viewers who are sitting down there staring into the mirror. He captures them."  
(Film und Brettl, 1922)

