

Liesl Karlstadt (1892 - 1960) was the affable female comic at the side of Karl Valentin. In the creative collaboration of their sketches and dialogues, her virtuosic acting and refined clowning channeled the “quiet, deadly nonsense traveling toward the unreal” (Weltbühne) back into bearable and conciliatory directions. Born as Elisabeth Wellano, she started out as a soubrette, but for thirty years, this chameleon-lady of the cabaret put her brilliant ability to transform herself to the test in the symbiotic partnership with the improvisational genius of Karl Valentin, who always portrayed himself. Karlstadt countered that notorious grouch’s surrealistic ecstasies of nonsense with Svejk-like slyness and pragmatic realism. “A small, round person with huge talent” (as Monika Dimpfl called her), this “peerless queen of the trouser role” (Carl Niessen) made her mark after Valentin’s death as a character actress in plays by Ludwig Thoma, and was a sensation on the radio in the role of Mother Brandl, creating a timeless monument of the unique Munich philosophy.

Liesl Karlstadt.

“If you never saw Karlstadt, if you missed her, then you should be ashamed!” (Roda Roda)

