

Wolfgang Neuss (1923 - 1989) was the enfant terrible of West German cabaret. After starting off in a front line cabaret for the troops, he toured through the Berlin cabarets in 1949 with his solos of "The Mann with the Drum" ("Der Mann mit der Pauke," written by Eckart Hachfeld). He also directed for the Porcupines (Stachelschweine) and presented several shows together with his partner Wolfgang Müller. In addition, the beloved satirical actor of satirical and political cabaret appeared in more than fifty films. In his three solo programs from 1963 to 1967, he rebelled against the saturated society of prosperity and its style of cabaret. With a cynical and sharp humor and high-speed patter, he attacked the left-of-center bourgeois audience. In 1970 he withdrew from the stage but celebrated a comeback as the idol of the underground cabaret and a "living legend" in the early eighties.

"He is a brilliant loudmouth, has something threateningly brilliant about him, and a natural foolhardiness... He explodes and improvises for over ninety minutes, does absurdist cabaret and takes aim at real conditions and injustices... He's Villon, Kästner, Ringelnatz, and Tucholsky, he's all of them rolled into one." (Theater heute, 1964)

