

**Peter Ensikat** (1941-2013) is the master of East German satirists, a many-faceted virtuoso of subtleties and a brilliant, dialectical critic of narrow-mindedness. He began his career with the “Jesters’ Council” in Leipzig, which was soon banned, and since the late sixties, he has written for all the East German ensembles. The programs he wrote together with Wolfgang Schaller are a pinnacle of GDR cabaret and a milestone of modern Germany: contemplative reflections on the failure of socialist ideals. As the main author and artistic director of Berlin's "Thistle" from 1991 to 2004, this sensitive rationalist remained true to himself even in a market economy. Ensikat, a melancholy Cassandra, insists on the necessity of civic courage even in a democracy — or especially there.

"Playfully making the status quo dance, envisioning utopia as our future and not as a delusion, your creations, which continued in the new society, could have been accused of nostalgia. But you cannot abandon the Enlightenment—as if your Lessing Prize was the backpack you never take off." (Wolfgang Schaller)

