

Trude Hesterberg (1892 – 1967) was among the first women to be involved not just on but also behind the cabaret stage in the roles of both cabaret director and performer. Acclaimed as a singer of lyrics by Kurt Tucholsky, Friedrich Hollaender, Klabund, and also Erich Kästner, she appeared in Sound and Smoke (Schall und Rauch), the Cabaret of the Comedians (Kabarett der Komiker), Carousel (Karussell) and various revues of Erik Charell. After 1945, she could be seen again in the Munich Onion (Zweibel) and the Berlin Tingeltangel. The "Frau Director with a weakness for extravagant hats" (Paul Graetz) founded and led the Wild Stage (Wilde Bühne), one of the first political cabarets, featuring Walter Mehring as house author in the years 1922-23. After her attempt to offer critical cabaret failed with her Muses' Swing (Musenschaukel) as late as 1933, she devoted her energies to film and theater roles until the end of the "thousand year Reich."

Trude Hesterberg

"Trude Hesterberg is a painter... She creates textures, sketches out grand contours, wipes away the shadows and now and then casts bright, sharp lights with her hands... A voice ranging from the cello's vulgarity to the pizzicato sweetness of a gypsy violin." (Film und Brettl, 1923)

