

**Valeska Gert** (1892-1978) was the great performance artist of the German cabaret and of crucial importance for the development of the modern dance theater. Her guest performances ranged from the cabarets Sound and Smoke (Schall und Rauch) to the Catacombs (Die Katakombe), alongside solo programs, films, and theater appearances. In 1932, she opened her own cabaret in Berlin, the Cabbage-Head (Kohlkopp). After her emigration to the US in 1939, this was followed by her Beggar Bar in New York, and then by the Witches' Kitchen (Hexenküche) in Berlin in 1950, and finally, from 1956 on, the Goat-Stall (Ziegenstall) on the island of Sylt. The expressive, grotesque pantomimes and poems of the "girl from the mummies' cellar" rank among the most unusual creations ever seen on the cabaret stage.

Valeska Gert

"Glorious as on the last day of Sodom and of incomparable spirit... It is an èpater le bourgeois of cunning maliciousness. Gert destroys every erotic and sentimental swindle; she has a sovereign and elementary lasciviousness. She destroys the Tiller-Girl racket and the pseudo-Parisian allure of the Diseuse with the power of Daumier. (Max Herrmann-Neiße, 1927)

