

Frank Wedekind (1864 - 1918) was the leading satirist of the German empire, a demonic street ballad singer on the cabaret stage before 1914, a show master who relentlessly attacked the bourgeois sexual morality of his time as an expression of the social and political misery, and an “uncomic comedian” (Robert Walser). Wedekind was a writer for the premiere satirical journal of the Wilhelmine era, the *Simplicissimus*, from 1896 on, and in 1898 he was sentenced to prison for insulting the Emperor. From 1901, the writer performed in various Munich cabarets. As a spiritual predecessor to the singer-songwriters, his performances of self-composed songs to the lute for the Eleven Executioners (Elf Scharfrichter, where scenes from his dramas were also performed) were a major reason for the Schwabing ensemble’s fame as the site of the most significant critical artists’ cabaret.

Frank Wedekind

“When he appeared on stage, a serious clown, a savagely mocking but also brooding and handsome satyr, immovably confronting the loudest laughter, then the captivating charm of true demonic power exuded from him.” (Hans Brandenburg)

