

Hugo Wiener (1904 - 1993) was the most popular and productive Austrian composer and an author of classic chansons. Starting in 1928, he wrote some 65 cabaret revues. As a composer and pianist, he worked in the Viennese cabarets Hell (Hölle), the Stage on the Bottom of the Alser (Brettl am Alsergund), ABC and Femina until 1938. After his emigration to South America, he was an entertainer in clubs and bars from Bogota to Caracas, together with his wife, Cissy Kraner, and other émigrés with their Viennese brand of nastiness called "Wiener Schmääh"—for, as the song went, "Nowak won't let me go to pot" ("Aber der Nowak lässt mich nicht verkommen"). Wiener returned to Vienna in 1949, where he co-wrote all the Simpl revues with Karl Farkas over sixteen years. He gave shape to the intelligent and spirited entertainment style of the essentially apolitical, traditional cabaret of the fifties and sixties. Tours of song programs with Cissy Kraner followed, as well as about twenty books of satirical short stories.

Hugo Wiener

"Merriness is decorated with a light, melancholy flair. Genuine Vienna, garnished with rhymed popular wit, is presented on stage as delightful satire, without sentimentality and kitsch and effects. It's cabaret in the cabaret, perfect miniature art." (Rudolf Weys, 1970)

