

Wolfgang Gruner (1826-2002) was the West German cabaret's embodiment of the proverbial Berlin original with a snotty mouth and a warm heart. Whether appearing as the street sweeper "Otto Schruppke" in the Berlin evening news during the sixties, as the taxi driver "Fritze Fink" in the television quiz show "The Big Prize" ("Der große Preis") in the eighties, or in his countless solo acts with Berlin's Porcupines (Stachelschweine), the rapid-fire talker Gruner transformed himself into the "man on the street" with perfect punch lines and an alert sense of political relationships and personalities. As an author, performer and director, he influenced the populist style of traditional West Berlin cabaret, and as its symbol, he became the most popular cabaret star of the post-war era, alongside Dieter Hildebrandt. Appearing as a popular actor in films, on television and in the theater, all the roles he created have one thing in common:

Wolfgang

"It's always someone who's no idiot, cleaning up the mess of the times, stuffing it into his trashcan and commenting on it." (Gruner on Gruner)

