

Herbert Bonewitz (1933 - 2019) is the cunning fool in the tradition of the democratic carnival, satirically ridiculing all forms of authority, and a virtuoso of the margins. In his carnival roles as well as his sixteen cabaret shows since 1975, he was the populist but never pandering mouthpiece of the “little man,” lashing out at reactionary tendencies and bigotry with deceptive wit and dialectical humor. His solo performances as Prince Bibi, the Committee Servant, or Hofmatz made him as popular with the audience as he was feared by the bureaucrats of carnival television broadcasts. This “anarchist of humor” (as he called himself) revitalized the revolutionary and literary potential of the Rhenish carnival (Fastnacht) and in so doing, he opened up new perspectives for the cabaret as well.

Herbert Bonewitz

“A chronicler who packages all the discrepancies of everyday life in poetry and prose. An artist who argues vehemently in all directions for more tolerance and humanity. In the truest sense of the word, a ‘strange’ fool.”
(Günter Schenk)

