

ABSTRACT

This thesis deals with the life and work of Erika Mann and her political cabaret *Die Pfeffermühle* in the context of the German cabaret scene at that time. The aim of this work is to present Erika Mann's life and the four-year existence of her cabaret, while reflecting on their significance in the present day. The rise of the German cabaret scene at that time is presented through examples of the most significant cabarets such as *Die Katakombe*, *Kabarett der Komiker*, or *Schall und Rauch*. These had a substantial influence on the appearance of Erika Mann's cabaret, which operated as an artistic opposition against National Socialism from 1933 to 1937. A part of this work also includes the interpretation of selected texts from *Die Pfeffermühle*, providing an authentic insight into the political and societal situation of that time, with themes such as tolerance, justice, or equality that still remain relevant today.

Both Erika Mann and the form of political cabaret have something to offer to society even today. This is demonstrated through the presentation of the performance *Erika Mann?* by the German-Czech cabaret *Das Thema*, which was introduced in 2021. Based on an interview with one of the performers, the production is analyzed in detail. The result of this analysis provides a complex portrait of Erika Mann, whose personal charisma and timeless cabaret work can contribute to a better understanding, not only of the era in which she lived, but also of our own time.

KEYWORDS

cabaret, Erika Mann, Pfeffermühle, political satire, cabaret stages