



A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO GERMAN HUMOUR!

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A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO GERMAN HUMOUR is a meticulously scripted and precisely executed guide that has been developed especially for British audiences to explain to them the basics of German humour.

If you ever thought that there must be more to humour than Del Boy falling through the bar than this is the show for you.

In little steps Herr Wehn and Herr Kuhnle will guide even the most British humour damaged course participants to the jolliness that comes from real (German) humour.

The two lecturers have 87.687 min of stage-time between them and can draw on their experience from years of intercultural field studies. (Herr Kuhnle once toured Mongolia and was shocked to find out that even their unsophisticated humour is superior to its British counterpart.)

This guide is for beginners with no previous experience of German humour. Herr Wehn and Herr Kuhnle achieved a 100% success rate during the Edinburgh Festival. They guarantee to be able to explain the basics of German humour to every participant. Jawohl!





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Henning Wehn arrived on this shores in 2002 to implement Customer Satisfaction Indices at Wycombe Wanderers FC having worked in a similar role for former German cup winner KFC Uerdingen. He initially planned to stay for only one year but the good weather, the tasty food and the beautiful women made him stay.

In order to blend in with the locals he decided to get extremely lazy, to spend money he didn't have and most importantly: to unjustifiably bang on about his great sense of humour.

He therefore took office as German Comedy Ambassador to the United Kingdom in October 2003. This turned out to be not the easiest of jobs because Germans allegedly do not have a sense of humour. Herr Wehn does not find that funny but thrives on the low expectations. You must know that Henning never did stand-up back home. He simply isn't good enough to cut it in the Fatherland.

Henning Wehn



Otto Kuhnle



Berlin-based **Otto Kuhnle** on the other hand is a prime example of a versatile German entertainer and actor. He sings, dances, juggles, plays several instruments, does magic tricks and, despite his old age, is a real looker (or so he thinks). The quality of his set pieces which he performs up and down Germany varies between funny and very funny.

Unlike Herr Wehn, Herr Kuhnle insists in mentioning that he has a profound and serious side to his professional life. He has worked as an actor in movies such as *Der Himmel über Berlin* (*Wings of Desire*) or *Die Brüder Skladanowsky* (*The Skladanowsky Brothers*), both directed by Wim Wenders.

Back in 2005 Herr Kuhnle donned his finest socks and sandals and decided to inspect London's comedy circuit.

In order to impress the simple-minded people of Britain he added stereotypical German props such as *Lederhosen* (short leather trousers), *Maßkrug* (beer stein), *Gartenzwerge* (garden gnomes) to his props.



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It was on this trip that Herr Kuhnle and Herr Wehn met by chance at Pearshaped, a small London comedy club. The comedy night both turned up for got cancelled but Herr Wehn and Herr Kuhnle got their steins out and after much thigh-slapping they decided to meet the next day outside London Eye to sing German folk songs.

The rest is, if not history, at least the beginning of a beautiful friendship that greatly benefits Anglo-German relations.



Since then they have appeared at several corporate gigs, had two successful shows at the Edinburgh Festival, *Four World Cups and One World Pope* (2006) and *A Beginner's Guide to German Humour* (2007), and two successful runs at New End Theatre Hampstead (both in 2006). They also presented *Tourism Guide to Germany* on Channel 4.

In addition to a one-month run at a London theatre early next year they plan a tour of Blighty in the first quarter 2008.

**Yodeling, wurst-eating,
gnome-juggling.**

Teutonic jolliness at its best.



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THE SCOTSMAN

A Beginner's Guide to German Humour!

I HAD very low expectations of this show, I have to confess. How wrong I was. This is a genuine gigglefest from start to finish. Who knew that German humour could be witty, ironic, dry, satirical and utterly charming?

OK, it has to be admitted there is also accordion playing, sausage nibbling, community singing, lederhosen, yodelling and an Alpine horn. But in the hands of Henning Wehn and Otto Kuhnle they develop new depths of cross-cultural comic potential.

This is one of the cleverest shows in Edinburgh. The two comedy ambassadors combine great observational stuff with glorious physical moments. Kuhnle's version of The Birdcatchers Song from The Magic Flute is a moment of joyful genius. And his performing gnomes are something you really should not leave Edinburgh without enjoying. Henning's deadpan delivery is deceptively wobbly at the start. But there is some great stand-up here.

The show is, of course, seamlessly efficient in its execution. As Henning exits to prepare for his next section of the performance, Kuhnle takes over. "I do the het!" he announces. The 'het' is another not-to-be missed moment.

Lest we miss what German humour is all about, Wehn makes a useful list. And to help us understand, for example, the comedic complexity of the song about the farmer and the decapitated goat, we are shown some explanatory cartoons. My favourite German word is Sehenswürdigkeiten - "things worth seeing". Like this show.



Kate Copstick, 14 August 2007
<http://www.scotsman.com/>





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STAGE

A Beginner's Guide to German Humour

There is a precision to the observational comedy perpetrated by the German duo of self-styled Comedy Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Henning Wehn, and TV entertainer, Otto Kuhnle.

In the midst of brilliantly conceived and executed sight gags involving gnomes and hats, the pair send up British stand-up with the sort of attention to detail that indicates they know and understand everything about the form.

They deliver in style, using the sort of deliberately hesitant manner that demands real skill if it is not to appear as plain inept.

Wehn delivers his stand-up deadpan, ensuring every nuance is understood as he looks up with a twinkle in his eye to subvert the innocence he seems to radiate.

Kuhnle has a much more visual style. His are the gnomes and their fantastic feats. And his is the unique and perfectly pitched (in both senses) version of The Birdcatcher's aria from The Magic Flute - complete with bird flying around his head.

This succeeds because they work well as a team. On their own, either would be too much on the same level to fill an hour without adding an extra dimension. Together, there is more than enough as they finish in time to leave you wanting more. Brilliant.



Thom Dibdin, 23 Aug 07

<http://www.thestage.co.uk/edinburgh/reviews/review.php/18055/a-beginners-guide-to-german-humour>



A Beginner's Guide To German Humour



ThreeWeeks

A Beginner's Guide To German Humour

Henning Wehn/Otto Kuhnle

As a latecomer tries to shuffle in at the back, Henning Wehn looks at the stopwatch round his neck and announces: "You have missed three minutes and twenty seconds".

Deliciously playing up to every stereotype imaginable, his autocratic tour of German humour is painfully funny. With each misconception that was turned back against us 'Britishers', I found myself laughing louder and louder.

Otto Kuhnle offers up some surreal interludes, and one can't help be charmed by the enthusiasm of his slapstick. Strangely, the best bits were the few awkward silences, upon which Herr Wehn would start to patiently and methodically explain the joke.

Hilarious. Or maybe you shouldn't trust my opinion - I haven't taken the advanced class.



Peter Moorby, August 2007

http://edinburgh.threeweeks.co.uk/detail_review.asp?id=4853





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Auf Wiedersehen!