

Walter Westrupp – Profil

Walter Westrupp (*February 12, 1946) is a German singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, author, object artist and graphic artist who lives and works in Essen-Schönebeck. He was born as the 3rd child of his parents bombed out in Essen during the evacuation at the end of the 2nd World War in Krumbach/Bavaria.

Life

W. has lived in the Ruhr area since 1947 and grew up in Essen-Frohnhausen. He completed an apprenticeship as a concrete builder at HOCHTIEF in Essen. Afterwards he got by with various jobs in the gastronomic field (musician, disc jockey, waiter, zappes, program designer) and studied 2 semesters slidetrombone at the Musikhochschule Duisburg. In the years 1968 and 1969 he completed his military service as an ordonnance (soldier assigned to serve as a waiter in the officers' casino of the BW) in Essen. From 1973 to 1975 he became self-employed with his arts and crafts business "DABELJU". From 1976 to 2003 he worked as a technical employee at the RWTÜV in Essen and ended his career there as head of the "Graphic Services". He was married for 48 years, is father of a son and is still living since 1997 in his house in Essen-Schönebeck, where he devotes himself increasingly to gardening and his animals.

Work

He grew up in a musical family, played countless wind instruments at an early age and learned to play the guitar in the Jungschar. He played trombone in a school band, sang in a choir, played in various brass ensembles and imperial bass in a jazz band.

In 1964 he entered the lively Essen skiffle scene with his ukulele and a trumpet mouthpiece – through his preoccupation with jug and skiffle music – and became frontman and singer of the Night Reveller Skiffle Group from Essen-Frohnhausen.

From 1965 he also appeared as a folk singer and attended the festivals at Waldeck Castle. These and the visit to the International Songtage Essen in 1968 were key experiences in his musical development.

Witthüser & Westrupp: *Psychedelic Folk*

In 1967, while working as a disc jockey, Westrupp met the Essen singer-songwriter *Bernd Witthüser*, who sang texts by the Essen journalist *Thomas Rother* as the "protest singer of the Ruhr area". The two founded the "1st Essen Commune", moved through the city as the 1st Essen hippies, invented the tea bag lifting machine TEHOMA and attracted attention through all sorts of nonsense actions. At that time, W. created the experimental short film "Concert for Electric Coffee Grinder".

In 1969 W. began to make music together with Bernd Witthüser. Initially as *Bernd Witthüser Sing- und Spielgemeinschaft (SuSG)*, then as *W&Ws Pop-Cabaret* and from 1970 as *Duo Witthüser & Westrupp* they performed together until 1973. During this time they composed and played various LPs and singles and were frequent guests on television and radio. They have performed at various festivals (including Love & Peace Festival Fehmarn, Pop and Blues Festivals in Essen, Bremen, Frankfurt) and played there with the "who's who" of rock'n roll, gave the German stoners their own songs in the national language with their "Trips & Dreams" music and thus landed both in hit parades and the indices of the institutions, were voted 3rd place in the German-speaking singing duos at the German Music Polo in 1971 by music journalists, recorded artists' cellars, Songwriters' pubs, cabaret stages and completed with their "*Jesus Opera*" a tour through 100 German churches as well as a German tour together with the German hard rock band *Wallenstein*.

Westrupp's main instrument was the ukulele, but he also used other instruments such as guitars, wind chiming, psalter, piano, xylophone, mandolin, bongos, harmonium and countless wind instruments at the concerts. He was involved in productions by *Hölderlin*, *Jerry Berkers* and the Tarot project of *Walter Wegmüller* as a studio musician. In 1973 he took part in the electronic improvisation project „Lord Krishna von Goloka“ by the Swiss author and publicist *Sergius Golowin*, which also included *Klaus Schulze*, *Bernd Witthüser* and *Jürgen Dollase*.

In 1973 the duo separated and Westrupp went back to Essen.

Walter h.c. Meier Pumpe: Skiffle & Comedy

In 1973 Westrupp founded together with the Essen musicians *Heribert Horstig*, *Bernd "Curny" Roland* and *Wolfgang Klasmeyer* the cover band *Walter h.c. Meier Gang*, in which he played saxophone. After a short time he increasingly incorporated his own works with German lyrics and the music became more skiffy, and from this finally emerged the ensemble *Walter h.c. Meier Pumpe*, which distinguished itself throughout the Federal Republic until 1987 with a mix of skiffle music, comedy, interactions and German texts.. W. was a frontman and, in addition to the ukulele, used countless obscure and partly self-made instruments such as the duck call, the whistling air pump, Aunt Berta's flower vase, metallophone, sirens, flexaton, children's toys, bandonion, flutes, mobs and above all.m. As "the skiffers from the coal pot" they played in jazz clubs, pubs, in galleries and prisons, at city and park festivals, were house bands at the annual jazz festival in the RRZ Essen-Mülheim and at the Messe Düsseldorf (boat) as well as an integral part of the stages of the "Historical Fairs" organized by the Cologne *Harry Owens* (Traumtheater Salome) and *Bernhard Paul* (Zirkus Roncalli).

1999 startete W. mit seinen ehemaligen Mitstreitern ein Revival der *Pumpe*, das bis 2004 andauerte. In dieser Zeit bespielten sie auf ausgewählten Events auch mehrmals das Weltkulturerbe Zeche Zollverein, feierten ihr 30. Jubiläum mit ihren Fans in der Dampfbierbrauerei in Essen und beendeten ihre Zusammenarbeit endgültig mit einem letzten Konzert in der ausverkauften Essener Philharmonie.

Baier Westrupp: socially critical song-making

In 1973 - 74 Westrupp formed the duo *BaierWestrupp* together with the musician *Frank Baier*, whom he still knew from the skiffle scene of the early 60s and who played in the WhcMP in the early days. Both musicians composed and wrote socially critical lyrics and played several instruments during their performances. They released the LP *Dat muss doch auch wat Späßken bringen* and contributed children's songs to TV series such as *Sesame Street* and *Die Sendung mit der Maus*, as well as music for the TV series *Familie Zisch*.

Dabbelju Jugband: Old Folks Music

From 2007 to 2012 he fulfilled with the Essen musicians *Heribert Horstig* and *Detlef Ismael* with the founding of the *Walter Westrupp Dabbelju Jugband* the long-cherished wish of a jugband formation, in which he played old skiffle, jazz, blues and jugband compositions. He blew the jug, played the harmonica and also used obscure instruments such as the singing spatula, metallophone, washboard, kazzoo – and of course his ukulele – for this music.

Until the end of 2012, Westrupp also worked with *Frank Baier* and *Heri Horstig* as a personnel framework at the *Masters of Ukulele*.

Other creative activities

Picture objects with toys

In 1977, Westrupp began collecting discarded toys from his son and incorporating them into pictures, covering them with black silvery car paint and putting them in frames. From "Traffiziösen Inspirations" emerged works such as Andorra car chess, scrap yard, 5 to 12 or bleeding car: Ideas with an ulterior motive and a wink become food for thought.

Watches made from computer scrap

Since 1990, Westrupp has been collecting discarded computer boards, motherboards, sound and graphics cards, as well as mice and keyboards. He processes these - sprayed black and silvery and equipped with (radio) movements and selected hands - into timepieces, which are particularly sought after and in demand in the IT sector.

Online book project „68er nach Noten“

In 2000, Westrupp begins to write down his memories of the late 60s and early 70s, which continues to this day (as of July 2021). He uses the Internet and, in addition to his texts, also incorporates photos, videos and music into a multimedia testimony of the times.

Discography

Abbreviation: **W**=Walter Westrupp, **W&W**=Witthüser & Westrupp, **WhcMP**=Walter h.c. Meier Pumpe

- 1970 - *Lieder von Vampiren, Nonnen und Toten* (mit W), LP, OHR OMM 56.002
- 1970 - *Einst kommt die Nacht/Wer schwimmt dort* (W&W), Single, OHR OS 57 002
- 1970 - *OHRENSCHMAUS* (mit W&W), Sampler, Do-LP, OMM 2/56.006
- 1971 - *Trips und Träume* (W&W), LP, OHR OMM 556 016
- 1971 - *Nimm einen Joint, mein Freund/Lasst uns auf die Reise gehen* (W&W), Single, OHR 57004
- 1971 - *Mitten ins Ohr* (mit W&W), Sampler, Do-LP, OHR OMM 2/56018
- 1971 - *Der Jesuspilz* (W&W), LP, Pilz 2021098-7
- 1971 - *Die Erleuchtung/die Aussendung* (W&W), Single, PILZ 05 19041-7
- 1971 - *Magical Land/Crazy Inspiration* (W&W als „The Magic Group“), Single, BASF 05-15012-1
- 1972 - *Bauer Plath* (W&W), LP, PILZ 20 29115-4
- 1972 - *Bauer Plath/Lied der Liebe* (W&W), Single, PILZ 05 19 134-0
- 1972 - *Unterwegs* - Jerry Berkers (Mitwirkung W) LP, PILZ 20 29131-6
- 1972 - *Rapunzel* (Mitwirkung W&W) Sampler, LP, PILZ 2029116-2
- 1972 - *Hölderlins Traum* (Mitwirkung W), LP, PILZ 20 21314-5
- 1973 - *Lord Krishna von Goloka* - Sergius Golowin (Mitwirkung W), LP, Kosmische Kuriere KK 58002
- 1973 - *TAROT* von Walter Wegmüller (Mitwirkung W), Do-LP, Kosmische Kuriere KK 2/58.003
- 1973 - *Live 68-73* (W&W), Do-LP, Kosmische Musik KM 2/58.004
- 1974 - *Deutsche Liedermacher* - Songfestival Ingelheim, Live-Mitschnitt (Mitwirkung BaierWestrupP), LP, Songbird/EMI Electrola 1 C 148-31 124/25
- 1976 - *Dat muß doch auch wat Späßken bringen* (BaierWestrupP), LP, Pläne S 666 01
- 1976 - *Walter h. c. Meier Pumpe* (WhcMP), LP, Songbird/Electrola 1C062-31 140
- 1976 - *Steamboat Bill/Liebeslied* (WhcMP), Single, Songbird 1C 006-31 146
- 1977 - *Unterwegs* (WhcMP), LP, Hansa 25 795 IT
- 1977 - *Ahoi, wie saufen langsam ab/Dodge City* (WhcMP), Single, Hansa/Der andere Song 11908 at
- 1978 - *Verkehrshinweise* (WhcMP) , LP, Pumpenproduktion, Eigenvertrieb 8001
- 1979 - *Delikatessen* (Mitwirkung WhcMP) Sampler, LP, Stadt Essen 0157 B
- 1980 - *Komm mal nach Krefeld/Quer durch USA* (WhcMP), Single, Pumpenproduktion IDK 101
- 1980 - *Witthüser & Westrupp* - ZXY Box 1 (W&W), 3 LPs, ZYX-BOX 1
- 1982 - *M.I.S.T.*(Meiers International Show Time), (WhcMP), LP, Eigenvertrieb, XX4
- 1995 - *Die Witthüser & Westrupp CD-Collection* (W&W), CD, ZYX MUSIC, ZYX CD 80.026
- 2000 - *Krautrockzeit* (mit W&W), Sampler, 2 CDs, ZYX 81282-2
- 2003 - *Musik machen ist nicht schwer* (WhcMP), DVD, Eigenvertrieb, WhcMP-DVD XXXL 1
- 2004 - *Macht das Ohr nochmal auf...* (mit W&W), CD, ZYX, OHR 70050-2
- 2004 - *...als wäre es gestern erst gewesen* (W&W), DVD, Eigenregie u. -vertrieb, WWDVD1
- 2008 - *Für wen wir singen* - Liedermacher in D (mit BaierWestrupP), Verlag Bear Family, div. CDs, auf CD 5 (BCD 16906-5 CP) und CD 7 (BCD 16907-7)
- 2008 - *Music with a jazzbeat* (Old Folks Music/Dabbelju Jugband), CD, Eigenvertrieb (mit W)
- 2008 - *Krautrock – music for your brain* (mit W&W), div. CDs, Target Music 06024 9831762
- 2018 - *Der Jesuspilz Live* (W&W), LP, Sireena Records, SIR 4045
- 2020 - *Innovative Jahre des Krautrock* (mit W&W) 4 Do-CDs, Verlag Bear Family, BCD17622 [361141]
- 2020 - *Experimental German Rock 71-83* (mit W&W), 3 LPs, Soul Jazz Records SJR LP459
- 2021 - *KRAUTROCK 2* - (mit W), 2 DVD, Romantic Warriors USA, progdocs.com

Articles about/with Walter Westrupp in electronic media

Radio

- 1977 - *Walter h.c. Meier Pumpe* im Superclub, Radio Luxemburg
- 1978 - *Walter h.c. Meier Pumpe* bei Ulf Poseé, WDR – Radiothek
- 1979 - *Rosenmontagsball live*, WDR II, mit WhcMP
- 1982 - *Live von der Burg Altena* – Echo West, WDR, mit WhcMP

- 1983 - *Treffpunkt Bahnhof* - Coburg, DLF, mit WhcMP
- 2008 - *Das Interview* (German Rock Radio –) mit W über W&W und WhcMP
- 2010 - Dr. Lutz Neitzert: *Krautrock*, SWR 2, mit W über W&W
- 2013 - Dr. Lutz Neitzert: *Von der APO zum LSD*, WDR III, mit W über W&W
- 2013 - Dr. Lutz Neitzert: *Rolf Ulrich Kaiser - ein entschwendener wird 70*, WDR 3
- 2018 - Volker Hein: *50 Jahre Krautrock*, WDR5 / Musikbonus
- 2018 - German Rock Radio - Interview mit W über W&W
- 2021 - Volker Hein: *Witthüser & Westrupp* - Lasst uns auf die Reise gehen, WDR 5

Television

- 1967 - *Essens 1. Hippies*, WDR III - Hier und Heute, W&W
- 1969 - *Kinderlied für Erwachsene* – Kurze Nacht der langen Haare, BW, mit W&W
- 1969 - *OKIDOKI* – Magazinsendung, ARD, mit W&W
- 1969 - *Portrait W&W*, WDR
- 1970 - *Galerie der Entertainer / über Trips und Träume*, WDR, W&W
- 1970 - *W&W-Portait*, ORF
- 1971 - *Fortifeif – Mit Liebe und netter Musik / W&W - Der Jesuspilz*, ARD
- 1972 - *POP in Deutschland*, VIVA, mit W&W
- 1974 - *Kölner Treff* – Talkshow, WDR, mit WhcMP
- 1975 - *Mittwochs in...* Schmallenberg, WDR, mit WhcMP
- 1978 - *Mittwochs in...* Essen, WDR, mit WhcMP
- 1978 - *Mittwochs in...* D´dorf, WDR, mit WhcMP
- 1984 - *Michael Schanze Show*, ZDF, mit WhcMP
- 2000 - *POP 2000 – 50 Jahre Popmusik*, WDR, Mitwirkung W&W
- 2008 - *Neues - Uhren aus Computerschrott*, 3Sat, mit W
- 2015 - *Kraut und Rüben* – Anfänge der deutschen Rockmusik, WDR, mit W&W
- 2017 - *50 Jahre Hippie* - Lokalzeit Ruhr, WDR, W
- 2019 - *Kopfüber in die 60er*, WDR, mit W

Literature

- Julian Scope: *Krautrock Sampler* (1996 Werner Piper, ISBN 3925817867) mit W&W, S. 155 f.
- Holger Lührig: *Deutsche Skiffle-Gruppen* (Eigenverlag 2000), 14 Seiten unter WhcMP
- *Folk & Liedermacher an Rhein und Ruhr*. Robert v. Zahn (Hrsg.), Agende Verlag 2003, ISBN 3_89688-125-6, S. 129–152, mit W&W u. WhcMP
- Detlev Mahner u. Klaus Stürmer: *Zappa, Zoff und Zwischentöne* - Klartext Verlag, Essen, 2008, ISBN 978-3-89861-936-3.) mit W, S. 281 ff
- Christoph Wagner: *Der Klang der Revolte*, 2013, Schott Music, ISBN 978-3-7957-0842-9, Register W&W
- Walter Wandtke: *Aufgewachsen in Essen in den 60er und 70er Jahren*, Wartberg Verlag 2013, ISBN 978-3-8313-1862-9) mit W&W
- German Rock e.V. : *Die W&W-Story* (Rock News 35/2007)
- Wolfgang Golz-Frank J. Schmitz: *Menschen und ihre Projekte*, Verlag Villa Vogelsang 2004, ISBN: 3-9809343-0-6 mit W S. 40
- Frank Baier, Jochen Wiegandt (Hrsg.): *Glück auf – Liederbuch Ruhr*. Lieder und Lexikon 2013, Klartext Verlag, ISBN 978-3-8375-0645-7, S. 429, 435, 440, 441 mit W, W&W u. WhcMP

Weblinks

- Walter Westrupps pers. homepage www.westrupp.de
- [Walter Westrupp bei Discogs](#)
- NRW-Tourismus-Seite: [Sound of Ruhrgebiet](#)
- Westrupps Onlinebuch „[68er nach Noten](#)“: personal memories of the time 68-73