

Wilhelm Bendow and Paul Morgan, “A Conversation at the Races” (1926)

Abstract

Technical advances in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries led to an increase in the production and distribution of phonographic records and recording devices, with the new medium offering a range of entertainment, from music and literature to comedy. As an example, the following sound recording, “*Rennbahngespräche*” [A Conversation at the Racetrack], presented a humorous encounter between two men at the horse races, one of whom has absolutely no clue about what happens at a racecourse, while the other grows increasingly annoyed with his simple-minded interlocutor. Performed by veteran comedians and cabaret artists Paul Morgan (born Georg Morgenstern) and Wilhelm Bendow in Berlin in April 1926, and recorded by the German-British label Parlophone, this classic sketch enjoyed a very long afterlife. Bendow and Franz-Otto Krüger revived it with a new recording in 1946, and the German humorist Loriot (born Vicco von Bülow) gave it yet another life in 1972, in the form of the animated film “*Wo laufen sie denn?*” [But where are they running?]. Morgan did not live to see any of those later revivals. The Nazi regime arrested him in March 1938, and he died in the Buchenwald concentration camp nine months later.

Source

Source: “*Rennbahngespräche*,” Originalvortrag von Paul Morgan und Wilhelm Bendow, April 23, 1926. Österreichische Mediathek,
<https://www.mediathek.at/atom/0C9B689C-2C8-0005A-00003690-0C9ACB80>

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