

# Before the *Sturm*: Cabaret, Circus, and Cinema in Herwarth Walden's *Das Theater*

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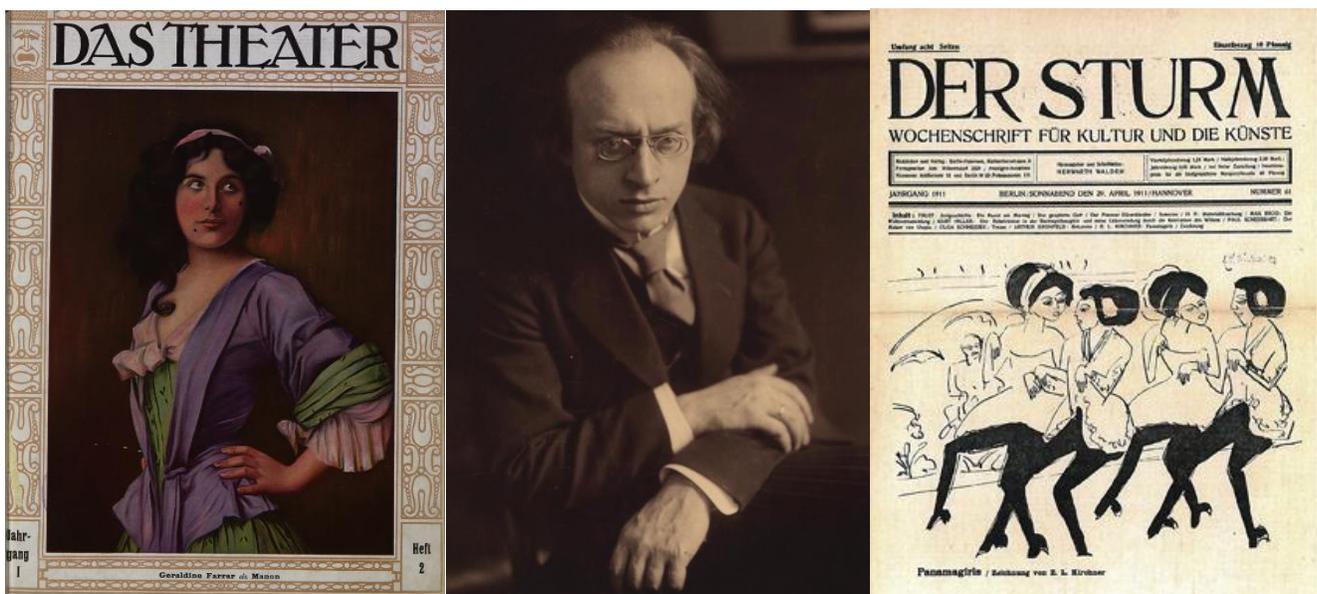
German Forum Talk

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Before Herwarth Walden launched his magazine *Der Sturm* in March 1910, which would become the most influential magazine in German Expressionism, he was chief editor of the luxurious and glossy journal *Das Theater*. During the six months of his editorship, Walden assembles an impressive group of writers: Rudolf Blümner, Max Brod, Alfred Döblin, Ferdinand Hardekopf, Karl Kraus, Else Lasker-Schüler, Ludwig Rubiner, Paul Scheerbar, René Schickele. Together they begin to explore peripheral theatrical models such as musical, variety show, circus, cabaret, panopticum, and early cinema. The emphasis on ephemeral artistic expressions in *Das Theater* provides the grounds for “expressionist” writing: Not only does this include the discovery of simultaneity, parataxis, and montage techniques but also of gender masquerade, pathos formulas, and anti-mimetic play.