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Ich bin ein Antistar I Am an Anti-Star

1976. Color. 1.33 format. 60 min. In German and English

Producer-Director-Screenwriter-Editor: Rosa von Praunheim / Cinematographers: Ed Lieber, Eckehard Heinrich / Music-Principal Cast: Evelyn Künneke, Angele Durand, Nicoli Rhein, Christine and Dietmar Kracht / Production Company: Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR) / Print Source: Rosa von Praunheim

Berlin, London Film Festivals 1977

Evelyn Künneke is "the woman your mother warned you about," according to Philip Oakes writing in The Sunday Times. "She's blonde, busty, and sings songs like 'Ich war ein Sexbombe' to the delight of the bisexual underground in Berlin." She is also the star of this marvellous documentary portrait by her closest friend and most enthusiastic promoter, Rosa von Praunheim. Miss Kunneke was a top German singing, dancing and cinema star in the 30's, 40's and 50's (one song sold six million copies). Her star faded, but she has just recently made a startling comback. Von Praunheim's film lovingly presents her past and present with glamor and admiration but also with honesty using film clips, old records, photos, interviews with friends and current cabaret performances, which are truly amazing. As she told Philip Oakes, "At 53 I don't have to pretend to be young and beautiful. I appear just as I am. I have a terrible voice, but everyone recognizes it. In Germany I am very, very famous." Von Praunheim very properly allows his star to shine very much as she is. The illumination is delightful.—Ken Wlaschin

