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ena is a petite, fivefoot-four brunette bombshell. She's a German singer and lives in Germany. I'm a writer and my rent is due. So I interviewed her.

Red balloons, red balloons, red balloons. Her apartment is full of them. Red is a nice colour, and it's probably one of Nena's favourites, although I didn't ask her.

Germany was once involved in a war with just about the whole rest of the world. They lost. Germany is just east of France. Sex is very important, and Nena has plenty of it. That is, she's sexy. I don't know how often she has sex, and I didn't ask her.

Balloons, balloons, balloons. And more balloons. The significance of these can't be downplayed. Her apartment is full of them, and that's also where I interviewed her. Time has changed Nena. She's older now than she was, for example, a year ago. She's still the same person, but different, older. She's still quite young, though. In fact, she's younger than I am. I don't know how old she is because I didn't ask her.

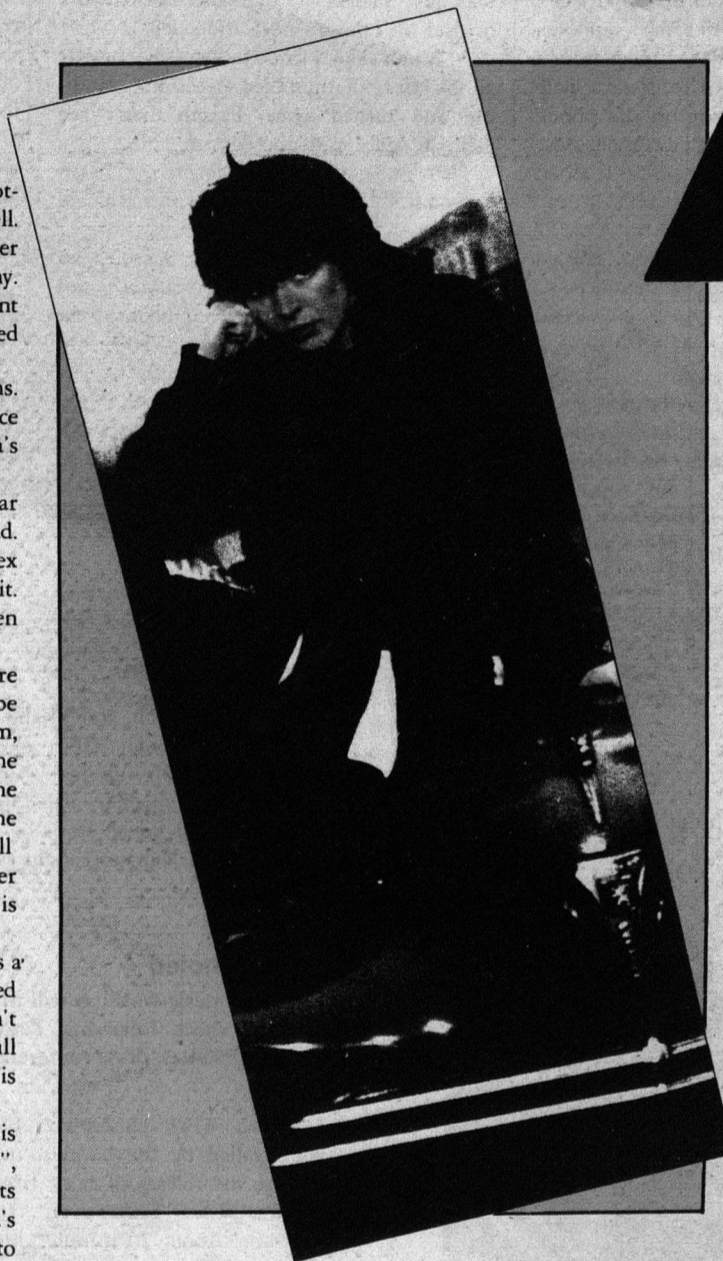
Imagine ninety-nine red balloons. That's a lot of stretched rubber and air. Freud liked red. The endless fascination of this colour can't be underemphasized. Her apartment is full of it. The symbolic brilliance of this image is obvious.

Nena lives in Dusseldorf. "Dusseldorf" is almost as funny a name as "brussel sprout", or "cheese whiz". Neither brussel sprouts nor cheese whiz were evident in Nena's Dusseldorf apartment when I went to interview her. Balloons are her life. Red ones in the number ninety-nine. Nena shrewdly knew that a song titled "Ninety-nine red brussel sprouts" would never sell, and that's what makes her a star.

Dusseldorf is in West Germany, by the way, and on a different continent than is the United States of America, of which George Washington was the first president, and McDonald's a major fast-food outlet.

But hamburgers are not the topic of discussion here, although the Earl of Hamburg, who was a German, did invent hamburger. If Nena lived in Frankfurt we could talk about reconstituted chicken by-products, or as they're more commonly known, hot dogs, or frankfurters. But she lives in Dusseldorf.

Dusseldorfers are not very friendly to tourists, as I discovered when I journeyed



# Nena!

Das letzte ist er noch in einem viel tieferen Sinne als bis jetzt angedeutet werden konnte?

I beg your pardon?

Du bist ein werden konnte?

I'm certainly *not* a werden konnte. What's the meaning of this?

Bei derausserordentlichen Flachheit und Durftigkeit des ethischen, ganzlich unentwickelten Denkens erscheint nur zu oft der ethisch dialektisierende Held als der Herold der sittlichen Trivialitat und Philisterei.

I'm sorry. Won't you tell us then about your latest album and your touring plans and whose music has influenced you the most and how do you cope with fame and what was your childhood like and how has success changed you?

Die Tragodie gieng an einer optimistischen Dialektik und Ehpkkzu Grunde; das will ebenso viel sagen als: das Musik-drama gieng an einem Mangel an Musik zu Grunde. Der eingedrungne 'okratismus in der Tragodie hat es verhindert, dass die Musik sich nicht mit dem Dialog und onolog verschmozen hat: ob sie gleich in der aschyleischen Tragodie den erfolgreichsten Anfang dazu gemacht hatte. Das ihm eigenthumliche element der dialektik hat sich bereits lange zeit vor Sokrates in das musik-drama eigenschlecken und verheerend in dem schonen Korper gewirkt. Das verderben namh seinen ausgangspunkt vom dialog. Der dialog ist bekanntlich nicht ursprunglich in der tragodie: erst seitdem es zwei schauspieler gab, also verhaltnissmassig spat, entwickelte sich der dialog.

I see. Why then, are there ninety-nine red balloons, and not, for example, ninety-eight, or a hundred, or for that matter, why not a baker's dozen?

Fuckinzie offinzie.

Yes. And would you say your writing draws heavily from your many and varies sexual experiences?

Auf wiedersehen.

Of course. And how do you see North American music being influenced by the Europeans?

there to interview Nena, the German singing sensation. Her apartment was filled with close to a hundred red balloons. She seems fascinated, almost fixated with the floating and stationary red orbs of air-filled rubber.

These are some of the things I asked her:

You've differed significantly from your colleagues, Nena, in placing a great deal of significance on the so-called "chimp language" learning experiments of the seventies. What for you is the meaning of this research?

Wass is das?

The chimp language learning experiments. What do they mean?

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LIFE  
BATTION

By Kut Loder