

Apps, movies, podcasts, songs and books in Zurich dialect

1 Apps

Dictionaries

«Swiss German» (Swiss-German – English and vice versa)

iTunes App Store <https://apps.apple.com/app/id1037579642>

Google Play <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ch.schorn.swissgerman>

«Schweizerdeutsch» (Schweizerdeutsch – Hochdeutsch und umgekehrt)

iTunes App Store <https://apps.apple.com/app/id1590726206>

Google Play <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ch.schorn.schweizerdeutsch>

Number trainer

«Weli Zahl?» (Swiss German, High German, English, Chinese)

iTunes App Store <https://apps.apple.com/app/id1151039399>

Google Play <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ch.schorn.welizahl>

2 Movies

Platzspitzbaby (2020) Regie: Pierre Monard

Platzspitzbaby is a Swiss feature film based on the autobiography of the same name by Michelle Halbheer. The film tells the story of eleven-year-old Mia, who, after the open drug scenes in Zurich disappears, moved with her mother to the Zürcher Oberland. A DVD is available from Ex-Libris.

Nine short films on the background of the drug policy of the time.

Swiss television broadcast nine short films with background information under «myschool». They contain various interviews with the decision-makers of the time.

<https://www.srf.ch/sendungen/myschool/platzspitzbaby-im-unterricht>

Zwingli – der Reformator (2019), Regie: Maximilian Simonischek

A feature film celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in Switzerland. The film is set in Zurich. A DVD is available from Ex-Libris.

Schällen-Ursli (2015), Regie: Xavier Koller

The latest film adaptation of the famous children's book by Selina Chönz. The film is also very popular with adults. Spoken in Graubünden dialect. DVD available. Click here for the trailer on youtube: <https://youtu.be/hL4N0F6u7GA>

Heidi (2015), Regie: Alain Gsponer

The latest film adaptation of the famous book for children by Johanna Spyri.
The film also has a lot to offer adults. DVD available.
Click here for the trailer on youtube: https://youtu.be/_0ecsWf6rX0

3 Podcasts, Radio and TV

9 Zürcher – der Züri-Podcast der NZZ (NZZ, 2019)

The NZZ has portrayed exciting personalities from nine regions of the Canton of Zurich.
<https://www.nzz.ch/zuerich/9-zuercher-der-nzz-podcast-ld.1353194?reduced=true>

acht schumpfo Züri, (Dominic Oppliger, 2018)

A melancholy novella about a young Zurich man.

One of the very few books from recent times written in the Zurich dialect.
The spelling is radically phonetic, exactly as spoken.
Published in edition spoken script. Volume 26

SRF 1 has realized the novella as a radio play. The four episodes were broadcast in summer 2018 in the program «Schnabelweid».

<https://www.srf.ch/kultur/literatur/schweizer-mundartliteratur-ich-muss-in-meiner-eigenen-sprache-schreiben>

Interview with the author in the program «Schnabelweid», SRF 1, July 5, 2018.

<https://m.srf.ch/audio/dini-mundart-schnabelweid/acht-schtumpfo-zueri-empfernt-von-dominic-oppliger?id=11349281>

Radio «Focus» SRF-3 (Radio, 2020)

In this series, young Swiss people with a migration background talk about their experiences in Switzerland.
The part with Marash Pulaj is spoken in the Zurich dialect.

Marash Pulaj, TV presenter/rapper: «Ich bin der Vorzeige Shqippi», 16.03.2020, 20:03 hrs.

Marash Pulaj (26) knew Kosovo only from vacations, in his circle of friends he was the only Albanian and Lucerne dialect was the language in which he spoke and thought. Until he became the presenter of the best-known TV program in Kosovo.

<https://www.srf.ch/play/radio/focus/audio/marash-pulaj-tv-moderatorrapper-ich-bin-der-vorzeige-shqippi?id=83f0d8ee-23f4-4908-b120-eee9af7fa971>

Radio SRF Virus

On Radio Virus you can always find videos about interesting young people.

In the series "gay-lesbian" the presenter Dominique Rinderknecht talks about her coming out.

<https://www.srf.ch/radio-srf-virus/schlussendlich-schwul-lesbisch/schlussendlich-lesbisch-mein-grosi-sagte-das-ist-ja-total-normal-heute>

Mona mittendrin

Every month on Wednesday evening, Mona Vetsch comes to visit. She meets people on the street, top chefs, children with rare diseases or is on the Geissalp. Mona is not prepared for anything, but ready for everything and comes to the stop every now and then.

<https://www.srf.ch/play/tv/sendung/mona-mittendrin?id=c4cc1736-da30-4563-ab01-42a3b07231d1>

Zoo Zürich

The Zurich Zoo podcasts provide a behind-the-scenes look at a modern zoo.

<https://www.zoo.ch/de/podcast-zoo-zuerich-backstage>

4 Artists

Big Zis (musician, hip hop)

Big Zis, actually Franziska Schläpfer, is a hip hopper and rapper from Winterthur.

On her homepage and on youtube you can listen to various dialect songs. <https://bigzis.com/>

Bligg (musician, rapp)

Bligg, actually Marco Bliggendorfer, sings and raps in the Zurich dialect every now and then. One example is his famous song «Rosalie».

On his homepage there are some videos with dialect songs: <https://bligg.ch/>

A longer interview together with Marc Sway can be found on Tele Top from September 8, 2020.

<https://www.toponline.ch/tele-top/sendungen/top-talk/news/top-talk-mit-bligg-und-marc-sway-00141045/>

Carmen Fenk (muscian)

Carmen Fenk was the first winner of the Swiss casting show MusicStar in 2004.

Her album "Leaves and branches" (2016) contains English and Swiss German songs.

She partly writes the lyrics and composes her songs herself.

Samples of the songs are available on her homepage: <https://www.carmenfenk.ch/musik/>

Dodo (musician, reggae)

Dodo was born in 1977 in Nairobi and grew up in Kenya and Switzerland.

Many of his songs are recorded in the Zurich dialect.

On his homepage you can get a first impression: <https://www.dodomusic.ch>

Fabienne Louves (Sängerin, pop music)

Fabienne Louves was the winner in the Swiss casting show MusicStar in 2007 and has made a name for herself in various musicals (see Otside Story).

The albums of Fabienne Louves contain exclusively hits in the Lucerne dialect: <https://www.fabiennelouves.ch>

Hazel Brugger (comedian, television presenter, author)

Hazel Brugger is a slam poet, comedian, cabaret artist und television presenter.

She received the 2017 Salzburger Stier for cabaret and already twice the German Comedy Award.

Most of her performances are spoken in High German.

But here is an interview with Roger Schawinski in the Zurich dialect: <https://youtu.be/n5pOdSHhnQ>

And here is her homepage: <https://hazelbrugger.com/>

Patty Basler (stage poet, comedian, author)

The Aargau stage poet, Patty Basler, was originally a teacher and then switched to art. She received the Salzburger Stier in 2019 as an award for her plays. On youtube you can find some videos with short excerpts from her plays.

Here you can go to her homepage: http://www.pattibasler.ch/veranstaltungen_neu/

Priya Ragu (singer)

Soul singer Priya Ragu unites cultures.

<https://www.srf.ch/news/schweiz/musikerfolg-dank-zwei-kulturen-soulsaengerin-priya-ragu-vereint-kulturen>

Silvio Kretschmer (actor)

The actor Silvio Kretschmer was born in Zurich in 1995. He speaks Zurich dialect and accent-free High German, as his parents are from Germany.

Kretschmer became known through the series «Rehmann - S.O.S Sick of Silence». In it, he gives a voice to people who do not dare to speak in front of the microphone themselves. Silvio condenses the life stories of these people and brings them before the camera in a monologue.

<https://www.srf.ch/play/radio/rehmann/audio/daniel-25-stress-loest-bei-mir-epilepsie-anfaelle-aus?id=1b25cbb4-1987-44a9-8e6a-b2b28c072525>

About Silvio: <https://www.srf.ch/sendungen/die-schauspielschueler/silvio-kretschmer-der-extreme>

Simon Chen (spoken word artist, poetry slam, comedian)

On his homepage Simon Chen gives an insight into his wide range of work. Under the heading «audio samples» you can listen to some of his works. <https://www.simonchen.ch/>

Also on youtube you can find various videos of his programs. <https://youtu.be/40WV3FqLLbE>

Skor (singer)

Skor is a rapper from Zurich. Or should we rather call him a «singer»? Anyway, on his albums you can find songs of different styles always with musical quality and depth. Find here two examples:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpSmHh6zljM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gf7GQyBI7Nw>

Skor's website is: <https://www.skor.ch>

Ursus und Nadeschkin (comedians)

Probably the most famous cabaret couple combines pantomime, acumen and humor.

Video example: <https://youtu.be/IL9w7txRyFs>

Here's to their homepage: <https://www.ursusnadeschkin.ch>

About their life and about their artistic collaboration: <https://youtu.be/3iZG-OoEK-4>

Several DVDs are available at Orell Füessli and Ex-Libris.

5 Learning material

Grammarbook

Verena Schorn (2021), Schweizerdeutsch leicht gemacht – S Schwiizerdüütsch vo Züri.
Everything you need to know about Swiss German grammar, clearly arranged in 17 lessons.

<https://tredition.de/autoren/verena-schorn-39488/schweizerdeutsch-leicht-gemacht-paperback-162840/>

Webpage

www.schweizerdeutsch.info

Impressum

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Exceptions are the apps «Schweizerdeutsch», «Swiss German» and «Weli Zahl» as well as the grammar book «Schweizerdeutsch leicht gemacht».

The list was compiled by Verena Schorn. It may be shared with credit to www.schweizerdeutsch.info