

Adventure Cabaret

War of the Words

[1:30]

Two actors enter, from opposite sides, striding toward each other, but both are preoccupied, looking at their phones. They collide mid-stage.

The other actors are waiting in the wings. For each word definition, and actor steps out just barely from the wings and states the definition in a loud, clear voice. These definitions are from alternate sides of the stage, first right, then left, then right, etc.

During each definition, the two actors fighting go into slow motion, and one throws a blow at the other in slow motion.

Actor 1: (shouting) Idiolect!

The actors go into slow motion, and actor 1 punches actor two hard in the stomach.

Screen + cast member: Idiolect: An individual's unique use of language

The actors return to real time speed.

Actor 2: Sphygmomanometer!

The actors go into slow motion, and actor 2 punches actor 1 hard in the jaw from upstage, such that the effect of the blow is shown to the audience.

Screen + Audio: Sphygmomanometer: That thing the doctor puts on your arm to measure your blood pressure

The actors return to real time speed.

Actor 1: Gaberlunzie!

The actors go into slow motion, and actor 1 punches actor 2 hard in the jaw from upstage, such that the effect of the blow is shown to the audience.

Screen + cast member: Gaberlunzie: An archaic Scottish term for a licensed beggar

The actors return to real time speed.

Actor 2: Prepostasaurus!

The actors go into slow motion, and actor 2 punches actor 1 hard in the chest, knocking the wind out of him.

Screen + Audio: Prepostasaurus: An invented word for a preposterous dinosaur

The actors return to real time speed.

Actor 1: Acousma!

The actors go into slow motion, and actor 1 punches actor 2 hard in the jaw from upstage, such that the effect of the blow is shown to the audience.

Screen + cast member: Acousma: An auditory hallucination

The actors return to real time speed.

Actor 2: Zoanthropy!

The actors go into slow motion, both raising an arm to strike each other.

Screen + Audio: Zoanthropy: The delusion that you are an animal

Suddenly, still in slow motion, both actors appear confused. They lower their raised arms, and return to real time speed. They turn away from each other, struggling to process their confusion. A great silence and stillness ensues. They look at each other with sudden, strange tenderness.

Actor 1: But we are animals, for better and for worse.

Actor 2: I know. I struggle with that too.

Regret fills the room. The two actors look away from each other in shame.

Actor 1: Look, some times my crocodile brain just gets the better of me.

Actor 2: Oh, man. Been there, done that shit so many times. I hate it.

Actor 1: Dude, I'm so sorry.

Actor 2: Me too. i should never have called you a sphymomanometer.
That was way out of line.

Actor 1: Hey, poop happens, y'know.

Awkward pause.

Actor 2: Hug?

Actor 1 puts his hands up in a defensive gesture.

Actor 1: Nah. I'm good.

*They both shrug, and continue on their way toward the sides of the stage.
Just as they are about to exit, Actor 2 turns.*

Actor 2: Bro, I love you.

Actor 1: *(over his shoulder)* I love you too!