

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.

Actor 1: (shouting) Idiolect!

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

Actor 2: Sphygmomanometer!

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

The actors begin to circle each other aggressively, wide stance, arms outspread. They rush together and grapple, in the style of sumo wrestlers. They suddenly break their grapple, pushing each other away.

Actor 1: Gaberlunzie!

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

Actor 2: Prepostasaurus!

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

The actors rush toward each other again, grappling even more intensely. Again, they suddenly both push each other away, and hurl words at each with the greatest vehemence and animosity.

Actor 1: Acousma!

Screen + Audio: Acousma: An auditory hallucination

Actor 2: Zoanthropy!

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

Suddenly, both actors appear confused. 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 sphygmomanometer. 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!