

## TOP FIVE BOCK-ISMS

Adam Bock's playwriting is both startlingly lean and enormously intricate. With an uncanny ability to tap not only into the rhythms, but the soul of human speech, he somehow manages to articulate the hidden profundities of otherwise inarticulate characters. Here are five examples of Bock's ability to create electricity in everyday language, offering us an unexpected glimpse into a person's inner-workings.

### from **THE THUGS** (2006)

"In Brunswick in Maine in Brunswick ok maybe every five years or so maybe ok, something would happen and the whole town would. And it could be terrible. But in this. But. But. But in this city there's so much... And then TV and the news the news the news again and again and the papers and the internet and I'm it's everywhere all the time. We're not supposed to hear all this. We're not. We're not. Not all this. All these disasters from close and from far away. We're always. Everybody's always always always on edge. And maybe nothing. But my heart is always in. It's always in. In my throat."

### from **THE FLOWERS** (2007)

RYAN: So he's like uh huh and I'm like nuh uh and he's like uh huh and I'm like nuh uh and he's like uh huh uh huh and I'm like huh.

AMBER: No way.

RYAN: Uh huh! Course then I was like forget about it.

### from **THE RECEPTIONIST** (2007)

"I have a philosophy when it comes to a caught fish. If you catch a fish if it's snagged or it's got a hook in its gills you can't put it back in the stream because it'll die. So if that happens I think you should prepare the fish to be killed. What I do I bleed the fish. It seems a bit gruesome but I cut the gills and I hold it in the water of the stream and bleed it out. It's the humane way to kill a fish. ... My wife doesn't fish. She spends her time thinking about the war. Which I understand. She sees pictures of the people over there and what we're doing to them and she cries. I keep telling her, "Don't look at those pictures." We have friends whose kids are over there. So it gets confusing. We gotta believe we're doing the right thing. I don't like thinking about it. It makes me sad. It's like we're all trapped in a -- when things are hard I think about fly fishing."

### from **SWIMMING IN THE SHALLOWS** (2000)

The SHARK (*in an aquarium*): swim swim swim swim swim swim swim swim OH GLASS GLASS WATCH OUT FOR THE GLASS swim swim swim swim swim swim swim swim OH GLASS GLASS WATCH OUT FOR THE GLASS swim swim swim swim swim swim swim swim swim swim OH GLASS GLASS WATCH OUT FOR THE GLASS swim swim swim

### from **THURSDAY** (2003)

MARCY: I was in a rehab

GEORGE: For what?

MARCY: What do you mean for what?

GEORGE: For what? for drugs?

MARCY: Not for drugs

GEORGE: For what then?

MARCY: Not for drugs like you think drugs

GEORGE: But for drugs like

MARCY: Well. Drugs. ☐