

ON GUARD!

A Humorous Reading for Duet

by
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PERCY: Although many activities are called “sport”, the participants decide what is really a sport and what is not.
MARTY: Percy believes he is as athletic as Marty the football player, but Marty can’t see where fencing offers any physical empowerment.
PERCY: At the same time, Marty is totally ignorant of the fine art of fencing. The only French he knows has to do with these little fried potato sticks.
MARTY: On Guard!
PERCY: By Peg Ratliff

(Percy stands erect, putting on gloves in the best fencing tradition. Marty comes in flexing and growling.)

PERCY: What are you doing?
MARTY: Practicin’ being tough. I’m a linebacker.
PERCY: (Pointing his sword in different directions) Oh yes, (sniffing condescendingly) the football team.
MARTY: Hey, we’re a brotherhood.
PERCY: Yea, gorillas do travel in groups.
MARTY: (Looking him up and down) What are you--the Good Humor Man?
PERCY: I’m wearing the traditional outfit of the fencer.
MARTY: A what?!
PERCY: A fencer. A sword fighter.
MARTY: Real swords?
PERCY: Of course they are real swords. We are men.
MARTY: The guys on the team would not agree with that.
PERCY: You and your primate buddies can take a walk. It takes talent to practice this time-honored sport.
MARTY: (Snorting) Huh! Even I could sword fight.
PERCY: Ha! That would be funny!
MARTY: Could too! I’ll take you on.
PERCY: You actually want to fence?
MARTY: Whatever it’s called. Let’s go.

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