

# the first impression is a lasting impression:

observations on life, competition, and professional advancement

## John Bandler

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McMaster University

1280 Main Street West, Hamilton

Information Technology Building

**Room ITB AB102**

Admission free



Subtext—an underlying and often distinct theme in a piece of writing or conversation (*Oxford Dictionaries Online*)—is for artists, merchants, and fiction writers. Right? Think again. Mastering subtext may be key to landing a job, getting promoted, being inducted into an exclusive club, and more. In certain situations, understanding subtext might even spell the difference between life and death.

Job interviews, auditions, performances, meetings, presentations, indeed all types of interactions are fraught with traps and hidden agendas. Issues include respect, believability, conflicts of interest, plagiarism, politics, jealousy, even simple attribution of the contributions of others; the list goes on. Violate protocol, be politically incorrect (or even correct), express yourself as you will, but be aware that others will make life-altering decisions about you, of which you may forever be unaware.

This presentation acknowledges ideas by figures such as Malcolm Gladwell and Robert McKee. Self-consciously rife with its own subtext (**how does subtext figure into a “first” impression, anyway?**), it draws on personal contributions and experiences in both the technical and non-technical domains.



**John Bandler**—professor, engineer, entrepreneur, artist, and fiction writer—continues to reinvent himself. As well as four stage plays, his fiction includes a novel and a screenplay about Cyprus’s 1950’s historical struggle for liberation. He is a member of Theatre Aquarius’s Playwrights’ Circle, which recently completed a fractured adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*. His play [Christmas Eve at the Julibee Motel](#) was performed at the 2010 Hamilton Fringe Festival. His [59 Minutes in the Maxwell Suite](#) will be seen at this year’s Festival. He studied Electrical Engineering at Imperial College, London, UK. In 1997, his company Optimization Systems Associates Inc. was acquired by Hewlett-Packard. He has published more than 450 papers, and delivered hundreds of international presentations. Currently he is a professor emeritus at McMaster University.