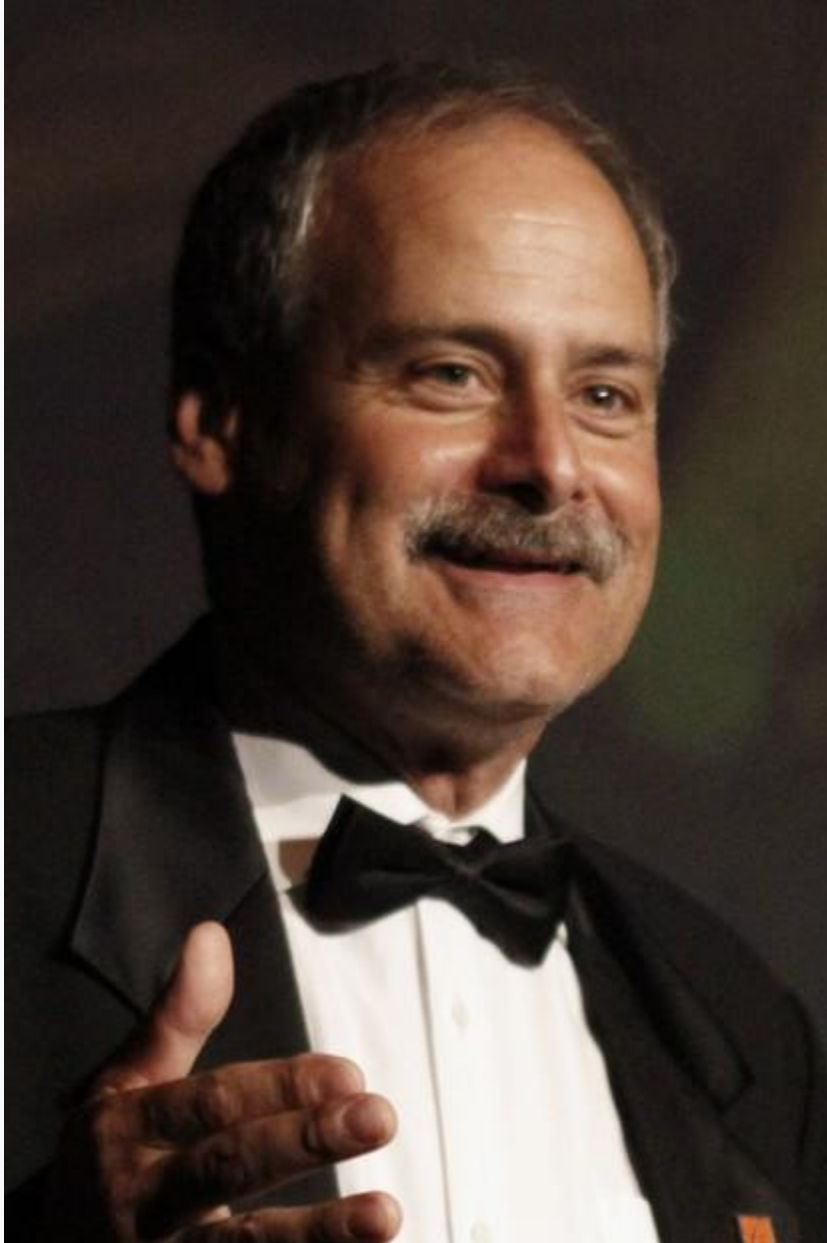


Q&A: Marshall Button

STAFF Telegraph-Journal

November 13, 2015



Marshall Button.

Photo: Submitted

Marshall Button – also known as his stage persona **Lucien** – is a New Brunswick actor, comedian and playwright who is currently the artist-in-residence at the Capitol Theatre in Moncton. Button is performing his show *Lucien's Labour Lost* at the BMO Studio Theatre in Saint John on Friday, Nov. 20 and Saturday, Nov. 21.

Who were your heroes growing up?

My parents. I was fortunate to grow up with one set of parents who were positive, loving and a little doting. My other heroes were those people who worked in blue collar jobs without complaint while raising their families and contributing to their communities.

What do you treasure most about New Brunswick?

The variety of beautiful places and equally beautiful people.

Which living New Brunswicker do you admire most?

Larry Nelson, president of Lounsbury Group. He is a very successful CEO, a recent inductee into the New Brunswick Business Hall of Fame, a strong benefactor to many great causes, and a down-to-earth, humble, nice guy.

Which deceased New Brunswicker do you admire most?

The recently deceased Thea Borlase – a lifetime arts promoter and genuine war hero.

What's the toughest job you've had?

Working in the mill in a place we lovingly called "The Pig," or perhaps not so lovingly. It was a place where you had to climb down a ladder into a pit with water and pulp stock dripping down your neck, and you had to shovel wet wood chips onto a conveyor belt. You were completely by yourself for eight hours and you were told that if the power went out, it would start to fill up with stock and you only had 30 seconds to get out by yourself in the dark.

If you could go back in time, when would you go?

Elizabethan England. I am told it was the golden age of language, communication and clever word play.

Is there one particular place on Earth that you enjoy the most?

I'm sure it is a place I haven't had a chance to visit yet, but for now I will have to be predictable and pick the north shore of New Brunswick.

How do you relax?

I relax by moving. I enjoy running and golf especially.

What's your biggest disappointment?

I hurt my knee last month. I don't tend to have many disappointments, so I thought I would pick something fairly trivial. I can still run, but it hurts. Everybody has things that disappoint them I suppose, but I tend to forget about most of them.

What trait do you admire most about yourself?

Humour – not so much the sense thereof, but embracing the power and effectiveness of humour. It is so important in day-to-day life, yet it is not taught in schools, but sadly suppressed in most cases.

What trait do you despise most in others?

Selfishness.

What bothers you most about New Brunswick?

The fact that it seems that every time a federal politician comes our way to make a promise or pledge it has to do with employment insurance, and we seem to be happy with that.

What's your favourite food?

Most things that can be acquired within miles of where I live: lobster, fiddleheads, clams, blueberries and wild strawberries.

What is your favourite New Brunswick city: Fredericton, Saint John or Moncton?

Saint Frederic the Monk – am I a coward or what? Maybe I want to keep my options open. If you really need an answer, I'll say Miramichi City.

What's the greatest misconception people have about you?

That I am fun to be with. Or that I am always funny.

What's your most embarrassing moment?

Peeing my pants in front of 285 people one afternoon on stage. I was doing a matinée of Lucien at the Upper Canada Playhouse in Morrisburg, Ont. It was the show where I stay on stage pretending to sleep during the intermission. It was a great crowd and the show lasted over two hours and 15 minutes. I had been in rehearsal for another show that morning and had drunk way too many cups of coffee. The last 45 minutes was a great struggle and about halfway through my final monologue, I just decided it would be best to pee my pants, although I suppose I really did not have a choice at that point. You haven't lived until you have died in front of a packed house. It was oddly liberating.

What's your happiest moment?

The birth of our three children.

When is it OK to tell a lie?

On stage. I do it every day, it is part of the job. Like one day, I stood on stage and said, 'You know that really just didn't happen, I didn't really pee my pants.' Acting is one of those jobs where really good lying is praiseworthy.

How would you like to be remembered?

As a family man and someone who cared for and contributed to his community.

Please share a secret with us.

Well, I guess I already used the peeing the pants one. Quite often it may look like I am in complete control of things, but really I mostly am completely flying by the seat of my pants. There, I used "pants" in both parts of that answer.