

# Taven Blanke

AEA

HEIGHT: 5'7"

WEIGHT: 145 lbs.

HAIR: Brown

EYES: Blue

Voice: Baritone

DOB: 8/14/2007

Nancy Carson

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## Theater

|                         |                                |                                                                     |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| West Side Story         | A'Rab – u/s Baby John          | Paper Mill Playhouse / director: Mark S. Hoebee                     |
| The Music Man           | Winthrop - understudy/ensemble | Broadway - (prior to COVID shutdown)                                |
| Billy Elliot            | Billy                          | Goodspeed Musicals at Goodspeed Opera House/director: Gabriel Barre |
| Newsies                 | Race                           | Musical Theater West/director: Jeffry Denman                        |
| Mary Poppins            | Chimney sweep / Neleus         | Rose Center Theater/director: Tim Nelson                            |
| 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street | Featured dancer / ensemble     | Rose Center Theater/director: Tim Nelson                            |
| Crazy For You           | Bobby Child                    | Academy of the Performing Arts (APA) / director: Tim Nelson         |
| Singin' in the Rain     | Cosmo Brown                    | Academy of the Performing Arts (APA) / director: Tim Nelson         |
| Les Misérables          | Marius Pontmercy               | Academy of the Performing Arts (APA) / director: Tim Nelson         |
| Chorus Line             | Mike                           | Academy of the Performing Arts (APA) / director: Tim Nelson         |
| Secret Garden           | Dickon                         | Academy of the Performing Arts (APA) / director: Tim Nelson         |

## Concerts / Live Performances / Virtual Performances

|                                                                                          |                         |                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| The Music Man in concert – Pacific Symphony                                              | Ensemble (song & dance) | Seegerstrom Concert Hall |
| Songs for a New World – The New World                                                    | Youth Singer            | Virtual Cover            |
| (featuring: Kara Lindsay, Isabelle McCalla, and Alex Newell – directed by: Jimmy Larkin) |                         |                          |
| The Rose Outdoor Concert Series – The Music Man                                          | Soloist                 | Rose Center Theater      |
| Boys & Girls Club National Gala – Tap Dogs                                               | Tapper                  | Beverly Hilton           |
| Songs of the Season – Believe (Polar Express)                                            | Soloist                 | Seegerstrom Concert Hall |

## Additional Training

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Voice            | Trained with music director Michael O'Flaherty on Billy Elliot at Goodspeed Opera House (East Haddam, CT)<br>Trained with music director Ben McNaboe on West Side Story at Paper Mill Playhouse (Millburn, NJ)<br>Broadway Artists Alliance – BAA Jr. Session – Voice major 2019 – (New York, NY)<br>Fountain Valley High School Choir – directed by Kevin Tison (Fountain Valley, CA)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Dance            | Trained with choreographer Alex Sanchez on West Side Story at Paper Mill Playhouse (Millburn, NJ)<br>Trained with choreographer Marc Kimelman on Billy Elliot at Goodspeed Opera House (East Haddam, CT)<br>Broadway Artists Alliance (BAA) – Dance Legend Series dance intensive 2021 – training with Sarah Meahl<br>Broadway Artists Alliance (BAA) – Session 4 – dance major 2019, 2021 with Andi Hopkins (New York, NY)<br>Tapfest at Chapman University – Master Tap classes with Chloe Arnold and Syncopated Ladies<br>Clubhouse Academy – directed by Allison Horner (Fountain Valley, CA)<br>Ballet, Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary, Hip hop, Acro-jazz, Musical Theater, and Tap (advanced in all) |
| Musical Theater: | OCSA (Orange County School of the Arts) (Santa Ana, CA)<br>Academy for the Performing Arts (Huntington Beach, CA)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## Special Skills

Gymnastics and tumbling training – side aerial, front aerial, front tuck, back tuck, back-handspring, front and back walkover, cartwheel, Valdez, splits, round-off back handspring, back handspring step-out, back layout, some parkour / stunts (e.g. - “flipping” off a wall as Cosmo Brown in Singin’ in the Rain, assisted back-tuck as Race in Newsies, back-handspring with newspaper between calves as Race in Newsies). British accents - Posh, BBC, and Geordie. baseball player and photographer.

## Awards

**Best Actor in a Musical or Revue (Equity)** – 2019 BroadwayWorld Connecticut Regional Awards – Billy Elliot/Goodspeed Musicals

**Dancer of the Year** – 2023 JRAY (John Raitt Awards for Youth) Best Male Dancer – APA “Newsies”, 2024 JRAY (John Raitt Awards for Youth) Best Male Dancer – APA “A Chorus Line”, 2024 Spirit of the MACY Awards Best Male Dancer – APA “Singin’ in the Rain”, 2025 Spirit of the MACY Awards Best Male Dancer – APA “Crazy for You”.

**Outstanding Vocalist** – 2019 Music in the Parks – Outstanding Vocalist (soloist) (Pinkzebra, “Amazing”) – Knott’s Berry Farm

**Performer of the Year** – 2024 & 2025 Performer of the Year – finalist – Spirit of the Macy’s Award