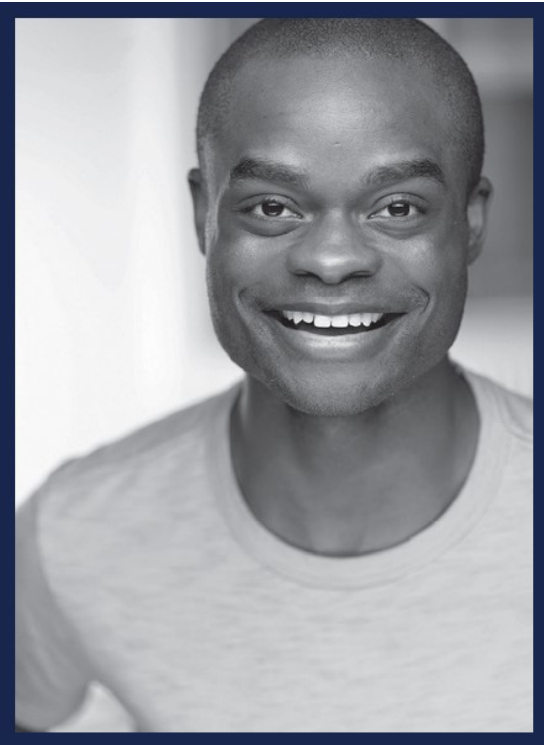


An Alaskan's Journey - from the Iceberg to Broadway



CorBen Williams
Beetlejuice - Ensemble

CorBen Williams grew up in the snow-covered town of North Pole, Fairbanks, Alaska, where the magic of the holiday season was a part of everyday life. His journey into the world of performing began when he was just a child, captivated by a production of “The Lion King” at the wonderful Alaska Performing Arts Center in Anchorage. The vibrant colors, powerful music, and breathtaking performances ignited a fire within him—he was bitten by the acting bug.

Recognizing their son's passion, CorBen's parents saw something special in him and became his biggest supporters. They encouraged him to explore his talents, driving him to local theater productions and nurturing his dreams. As he began to take on roles in school plays, his love for the stage blossomed with every performance.

However, CorBen often faced curious questions during auditions. “Do you live in an igloo?” or “Does Santa Claus live down the street from you?” were common inquiries. People would even ask, “What are you doing in Alaska? How did you get all the way here?” But instead of feeling discouraged, CorBen embraced these questions as part of his unique identity. He expressed how coming from Alaska made him stand out at

auditions, believing that his background opened doors and set him apart as a special individual.

Determined to pursue his dreams, CorBen applied to the New York Film Academy (NYFA) and was accepted into the 2-Year Certificate program in Musical Theatre. In 2016, he moved to New York City, embracing the hustle and bustle of the theater scene. The rigorous training at NYFA honed his skills, and he soon found himself immersed in the vibrant world of musical theatre.

CorBen's dedication paid off. He amassed an impressive portfolio, starring in notable productions such as “Cinderella,” “Sister Act,” and “Beauty & The Beast.” His recent role as part of the ensemble cast in the hit musical “Beetlejuice” marked a significant milestone in his career, showcasing his talent to a broader audience.

Now, as he prepares to return to his hometown to perform in “Beetlejuice,” emotions swirl within him. The excitement of performing on a Broadway stage is tempered by the pressure of returning as a success story. CorBen is determined to show the community that dreams can come true, no matter where you start. He hopes to inspire young performers in North Pole, just as he was inspired all those years ago.

Story by Marcus Sanders, Stakeholder Relationship Manager