

# BEN TOPPING

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Eye color: blue  
Height: 6' 3"  
Weight: 196

The I-Group  
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[www.therightcast.net/bentopping](http://www.therightcast.net/bentopping)  
Service: EMC/Equity Candidate  
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## Awards

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(RESUME below)

## **EMMY NOMINATED!!!**

### **VOICES OF A NEVER-ENDING DAWN**

I'm thrilled to announce the EMMY NOMINATION of award-winning Hollywood Director/Producer Pamela Peak's World War I PBS documentary "Voices of a Never-Ending Dawn" in which I portray Corporal John Toornman. The film follows a handful of resourceful Michigan troops dubbed "The Polar Bears", where we see friendships form and sacrifices made as they face horrific hardships after being sent unprepared into the frigid Russian winter to guard a non-existent supply line, only to be forgotten after the end of the war.

(NOTE: Hold down your Ctrl/Control key and click links below to open a new tab.)

**See the 5-minute film preview at:** <http://www.polarbeardocumentary.com/preview.html>

**PBS TV Nov 8th Premiere-The Oakland Press:**

<http://content.nextcat.com/Content/content/bentopping/content/257817/Film-Voices-OaklandPress01Nov09?content>

**See film set and film red-carpet event photos at:** [www.imdb.com/name/nm3333623](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm3333623)

**Newspaper article at:**

[www.thenewsherald.com/articles/2009/05/24/entertainment/doc4a143862a5e6a442981724.txt?viewmode=fullstory](http://www.thenewsherald.com/articles/2009/05/24/entertainment/doc4a143862a5e6a442981724.txt?viewmode=fullstory)

**Film's official website:** [www.polarbeardocumentary.com/screen\\_actors.html](http://www.polarbeardocumentary.com/screen_actors.html)

**Orange County (OC) Register, West Coast premiere:**

[www.ocregister.com/entertainment/-212718-.html?pic=1](http://www.ocregister.com/entertainment/-212718-.html?pic=1)

## **BEN'S ALTERNATIVE WEBSITES**

**Ben's Now Casting website:** [www.nowcasting.com/bentopping](http://www.nowcasting.com/bentopping)

**Ben's Casting Call Pro website:** <http://www.us.castingcallpro.com/view.php?uid=43986>

**Ben's Nextcat.com (many photos!):** [www.nextcat.com/bentopping](http://www.nextcat.com/bentopping)

## **Resume:**

### **Regional Theatre**

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THE TENDER LAND (staged scenes)	Martin (lead)	Detroit Opera House (symposium) – Mainstage
WEST SIDE STORY	Riff (Jet's Leader)	Colorado Summer Festival of the Arts
HAMLET (AEA / Equity)	Francisco, Player, Fencer	John Neville-Andrews, Dir./MI Shakespeare Co.
A MIDSUMMER'S NIGHT DREAM (AEA / Equity)	Philostrate	David Ivers, Dir./MI Shakespeare Co.
GIANNI SCHICCHI (staged scenes)	Maestro Spinellocchio	Colorado Summer Festival of the Arts
GIANNI SCHICCHI (staged scenes)	Pinellino (undertaker)	Colorado Summer Festival of the Arts
LA RONDINE (opera scenes- <i>The Swallow</i> )	Perichaud	Colorado Summer Festival of the Arts

LA CENERENTOLA (opera– <i>Cinderella</i> )	Royal Steward – Featured Super	Mark Streshinsky, Dir./Detroit Opera House–Mainstage
LA SONNAMBULA (opera– <i>The Sleepwalker</i> )	Count's Servant/Villager–Super	Renata Scotto, Dir./Detroit Opera House–Mainstage
DEATH BY ARIA + SALUTE TO DISNEY	(Soloist: Two Recitals)	Colorado Summer Festival of the Arts
Recital	(Vocal Soloist)	Detroit Opera House – Black Box Theatre
Recital	(Soloist: Two Seasons)	Ann Arbor Festival of Songs/Kerrytown Concert Hall
LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR, + LA GIOCONDA	(Two Chorus productions)	Colorado Summer Festival of the Arts
BALLAD OF BABY DOE, + VA PENSIERO	(Two Chorus productions)	Detroit Opera House (symposium) – Mainstage

### ***Film and Television***

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VOICES OF A NEVER–ENDING DAWN	Cpl. John Toornman	Pamela Peak Productions / P.B.S.
DYING TO MAKE A CHANGE	Trevor	Clifford Scott, Dir. (Indie Feature)
ONE DAY, ONE LIFE	Ben Howard	Derrick Mullins, Dir. (Indie Feature)
OUT OF DARKNESS(national series 2005–07)	Eddie Fetgetter	Alex Michaels / Prelude2Cinema
FOX 2 NEWS	(Guest)	FOX Television
MEGA QUIZ BOWL (2004–2008)	Contestant/Captain	TV / Comcast Productions

### ***Musicals***

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INTO THE WOODS	Cinderella's Prince	Showbiz Starz Theater Co.
DO...PATENT LEATHER SHOES...REFLECT UP?	Father O'Reilly	Trenton Performing Arts
GUYS AND DOLLS	Society Max & Cuban Dancer	Trenton Performing Arts

### ***Theatre***

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TELLING TALES AGAIN SAM? (BIG BAD WOLF!)	Wolf	Trenton Performing Arts
ROBIN HOOD (interactive + stunts/swords)	Will Scarlett	Ring Of Steel @ Shiabruck Medieval Faire
MANSFIELD PARK	Yates	Trenton Performing Arts
RENAISSANCE FESTIVALS (interact/swords)	(multiple roles)	Ring Of Steel @ MI Renaissance Festival
ALCYONE CEYX ( <i>Greek Folktale</i> )	God of Sleep	Mosaic Theatre Co.
THE PINK GUITAR CAPER ( <i>interactive</i> )	Billy Dalton	Sandy's Mystery Parties
CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY	Mr. Teevee	Showbiz Starz Theater Co.
ROMEO AND JULIET	1st Watchman	Showbiz Starz Theater Co.

### ***Comedy and Stand up***

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DUDE, WHERE'S MY SARS! (improv showcase), Co–Star, Second City  
 Improvisational Showcase, Supporting, Second City  
 Improvisational Showcase, Co–Star, Stage Right Players  
 TV SHOPPING NETWORK (showcase), 'William Hung', Blue Lake Fine Arts Institute  
 Improvisational Show–Fundraiser, Co–Star/Co–Organizer, (for) Habitat for Humanity  
 Napoleon Dynamite Improv, as 'Napoleon Dynamite' (interactive)

### ***Commercials***

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(Contact for updates/conflicts)

## ***Modeling***

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Holiday Magic in Royal Oak	Runway Fashion Model	Peggy Goodwin, The Goodwin Co.
Friends of Belle Isle	Runway Fashion Model	Dorothy Buckman, Director
Eating for Life	Print Model	University Of Michigan
Spectacular Smile–Photo Winner	Photo Contest Winner	Heather's Photo Contests
Mr. Personality–Photo Winner	Photo Contest Winner	Heather's Photo Contests

## ***Training and Education***

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Performance/Vocal Music (ongoing)	U of Michigan (UM); Conservatory/School of Music, Theatre & Dance (2008–2012)
Singing Instruction (ongoing @ UM)	<u>Prof. Stephen West</u> (previous: Dr. Linda Meehan & Dr. Christopher Roselli)
Scene Study	<u>Stratford Festival of Canada</u> (Detroit workshops)
Vocal, Dramatic, Theatre Performance	<u>Candace de Lattre</u> , Detroit Opera House workshops
Vocal, Dramatic, Theatre Performance	<u>Opera Theatre of the Rockies, Vocal Arts Symposium</u> (intensive)
Theater, Acting, Improv, Pantomime	<u>Michael Lomas: Second City / Stage Right Players</u>
Alexander Technique (ongoing)	<u>Director Jane Heirich</u> MA–Harvard; STAT, AmSAT (former NASTST)
Theatrical Combat/Martial Arts/Swords	<u>The Ring of Steel</u> 25+ workshops (Performance & Training Ctr.)
Audition/Cold Reads; Shakespeare	<u>Timm Richardson</u>
Acting for the Camera (CD training).	<u>Linda Fionte–Zerne</u> , Casting Director Miami, FL
Choral/Chamber Singing	<u>Professor Paul Rardin</u> , Associate Director of Choirs, U–MI
Dance: Intro Ballet / Intro Latin	<u>Seth Miller</u> , Great Techniques / <u>Deliz Dance–Sport Studio</u>
Musicianship I and II (courses)	<u>Timothy Sullivan</u> , University of Michigan (two years)
Advanced Elec Media/TV (Camera/Dir/Tech)	<u>Dennis Hamilton</u>
Singing Coach (ongoing–private)	<u>Jean Schneider</u> , BA, MM; U–MI

## ***Special Skills***

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS 2008–09: A Top recruit to Harvard, Yale, Johns Hopkins, University of Southern California, Northwestern, University of Michigan, and more (Engineering AND School/Conservatory of Music for Vocal Performance).**

### **Special Skills:**

\* Voice/Singing: (see below) \* Piano, Keyboards, Trumpet, Coronet, Bugle, \* Concert, Pep, and Marching Band Experience, \* Physical Comedy, \* Public Speaking, \* Humorous/Character voices (awards), \* Green Screen Experience, \* Excellent/Quick Memorization, \* Script and Character Analysis \* Theatrical Combat/Sword experience, \* Deadline Oriented/Reliable.

### **Voice:**

\* Tenor (Note: Complete singing credits not listed on this website), \* Sight reads music, \* Experienced as featured solo artist and group member in multiple languages (English, Italian, German, Latin, Spanish, African dialects, more), Member: Previous: University of Michigan YE Chamber Singers.

### **Production/Producing/Tech:**

\* Experienced Producer, Director, DP, Camera work, Script Writing/Editing, Graphics/Editing of multiple student films and documentaries.

### **Sports:**

\* Fencing (USFA), \* Tennis (USTA), \* Basketball, \* Baseball (Trained with ret. American League pro–pitcher, Jeff Kaiser), \* In–Line & Ice Skating/Hockey, \* Rifle Shooting, \* Archery, \* Canoeing, Hiking, Camping, \* Table Tennis, \* Bowling (leagues/Capt.) \* Glider Experience (full–size motorless plane–5000+ feet), \* Bicycling, \* Horseback Riding, \* Rappelling.

### **Misc Information:**

- \* Selected 1 of 77 Worldwide for the Research Science Institute at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT–RSI).
  - \* Developed a new procedure at MIT Nuclear Engineering in the homogenizing process of solid particles and optimized the conductor to increase efficiency 2.5 fold, which helped double capacity in nuclear waste canisters. Cited by name in multiple research reports.
  - \* Worked directly with Rommel Sagana, MD, Pulmonary and Critical Care, as part of a five–member Biomedical Engineering student team that designed a pre–symptomatic genetic screening test (on a microchip) for risk factors of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (COPD). The test is projected to increase quality of life of those with high risk for COPD by 10.5 QALY at a small cost of \$12.50/QALY and be easily accessible in physicians offices in the future.
  - \* 2007–2008 National Merit Scholar Finalist.
  - \* 2007–2008 National Presidential Scholar candidate.
  - \* 2007–2008 Siemens Westinghouse Science and Technology Competition: National Semifinalist.
  - \* 2004 National Music Directors' Award (individual recipient),
  - \* University of Michigan YE Chamber Singer,
  - \* Boy Scouts of America\Order of the Arrow,
  - \* Boy Scouts of America\Eagle Scout,
  - \* Thomas Edison "Grand Award Winner" in Science &Engineering,
  - \* Discovery Channel National Young Scientist of the Year candidate,
  - \* MOTVA (Michigan Opera Theatre Volunteer Association) – active member,
  - \* Fine with Heights,
  - \* Can grow sideburns &facial hair,
  - \* Flexible with cutting\coloring hair,
  - \* Passport: Current, can Travel.
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#### **Summer 2010 Announcements:**

- \* Engineering Internship: Security–level Homeland Security and NASA Research and Development projects.
- \* Performance studies, auditions, and work.

#### **Summer 2009 Announcements:**

- \* May 12: Speaker, UM–Downriver Alumni Scholarship/Recruitment Dinner.
- \* May 23–25: Film, ***Voices of a Never–Ending Dawn***, premiers at White Chapel Memorial in Troy, MI. (More MI screening dates and locations outlined above.)
- \* July 17, 12:00pm/noon, Recital Vocal Soloist in the 16th annual ***Ann Arbor Festival of Songs*** (aka: *Art Fair Song Fest*) at **Kerrytown Concert Hall** during the Ann Arbor (MI) Art Fair, <http://www.a2fos.org>
- \* July 29: Recital Vocal Soloist, **Detroit Opera House** (times TBD).
- \* August 02: Staged opera scenes, as Martin in *The Tender Land*, **Detroit Opera House** (times TBD).
- \* Sept. 2009 (Dates/Times–TBD): Film, ***Voices of a Never–Ending Dawn***, Los Angeles Red Carpet premier.

#### **Summer 2008 Announcements:**

- \* Taking part in the Vocal Arts Symposium/Colorado Summer Festival of Arts (Opera/Musical Theatre), Colorado Springs, CO. Cast to perform in four operas, West Side Story, and two large recitals (detailed in credits–above).
- \* Historically the youngest featured guest soloist, opened the 15th annual *Ann Arbor Festival of Songs @ Kerrytown Concert Hall* during the Ann Arbor (MI) Art Fair, a huge festival that draws close to half a million visitors over four days.  
<http://www.a2fos.org>  
[http://blog.mlive.com/encorea2/2008/07/weekend\\_alternatives\\_to\\_the\\_ar.html](http://blog.mlive.com/encorea2/2008/07/weekend_alternatives_to_the_ar.html)  
[http://www.annarborsummerfestival.org/index.php/aasf/pages/about\\_us](http://www.annarborsummerfestival.org/index.php/aasf/pages/about_us)

#### **Summer 2007 Announcements:**

- \* 1 of 77 selected world–wide to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)–Research Science Institute, and 1 of 8 (the only USA–based student) selected into the Nuclear Engineering Intern program (Boston, MA).
- \* Accepted w/Merit Scholarship to University of Michigan (Ann Arbor)–Conservatory/School of Music, MPulse program (voice).
- \* Michigan Renaissance Festival (Aug–Sept).
- \* Continued Member/Performer: University of Michigan YE Chamber Singers.

**Summer 2006 Announcements:**

- \* Member/Performer: University of Michigan YE Chamber Singers.
- \* Booked with [Michigan Shakespeare Company!](#) Scheduled in all performances of "Hamlet" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (July–August). For most current schedule, access: <http://www.michshakefest.org/schedule.php>
- \* Michigan Renaissance Festival w/Ring of Steel.

**Summer 2005 Announcements:**

- \* Awarded full scholarship: Only 1 of 8 selected in USA to participate in [University of Michigan](#) Scholars PHYSICS program,
  - \* Playing 'WILL SCARLETT' in [ROBIN HOOD](#) (interactive + stunts, swords) with The Ring Of Steel @ Shiabrock Medieval Faire,
  - \* Performing with The Ring Of Steel @ Michigan Renaissance Festival.
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**OUTSIDE LINKS:**

READ – *Disclaimer: The links below are offered in good faith. However, there is no way that I have the means to investigate aspects of a company, its associates, its practices, true resources and/or legitimacy, or its persons. Therefore, all visitors/users must take responsibility and care to confirm beyond doubt the legitimacy/appropriate business practices of any company, services, persons, and/or affiliations offered or implied, and TheRightCast.com and/or I am not responsible, nor do we endorse any company or persons associated with the links, persons, or companies outlined on this website.*

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