

# Ben Platt

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**Benjamin Schiff Platt** (born September 24, 1993)<sup>[1]</sup> is an American actor, singer and songwriter. He began his career in theater as a child and has appeared in Broadway productions of *The Music Man* (2002), *The Book of Mormon* (2012–2013), and *Dear Evan Hansen* (2015–2017), receiving multiple accolades for his performance as the title character in the latter, including the Tony Award for Best Actor in a Musical.<sup>[2][3]</sup> Platt's film credits include roles in *Pitch Perfect* (2012), *Pitch Perfect 2* (2015), and *Ricki and the Flash* (2015).

Platt signed with Atlantic Records in 2017 and released his debut studio album, *Sing to Me Instead*, in March 2019.

## Early life and education

Platt was born in Los Angeles, the fourth of five children of Julie (née Beren) and Marc Platt. His father is a film, television, and theater producer whose credits include *Legally Blonde*, *Into The Woods*, *La La Land*, *Mary Poppins Returns*, and the musicals *Dear Evan Hansen*, and *Wicked*.<sup>[4]</sup> He and his family are Jewish.<sup>[5][6][7]</sup>

He attended the Adderley School for Performing Arts in Pacific Palisades, performing in productions like *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Into the Woods*. Platt attended Harvard-Westlake School in Los Angeles, graduating in 2011. He then enrolled

**Ben Platt**



Platt in 2017

<b>Born</b>	Benjamin Schiff Platt <div>September 24, 1993</div> <div><u>Los Angeles, California, U.S.</u></div>
<b>Occupations</b>	Actor · singer
<b>Years active</b>	2002–present
<b>Parent</b>	<u>Marc Platt</u>
<b>Musical career</b>	
<b>Genres</b>	<u>Broadway</u> · <u>pop</u>
<b>Labels</b>	<u>Atlantic</u>

at Columbia University in New York but dropped out after six weeks to fulfil his contract with *The Book of Mormon*. During his time at Columbia, he was a member of the campus a cappella musical group *Nonsequitur*.<sup>[4][8]</sup>

## Career

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### 2002–2014: Early stage work and *The Book of Mormon*

At 9 years old, Platt played Winthrop Paroo in *The Music Man* at the Hollywood Bowl alongside Kristin Chenoweth.<sup>[9]</sup> At 11, he appeared in a brief national tour of *Caroline, or Change*, by Jeanine Tesori and Tony Kushner. At 17, he played Jean Valjean in Kidz Theater's production of *Les Misérables*. His other early roles include the role of Claude Bukowski in Columbia University's production of *Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical*.<sup>[10]</sup> He has also collaborated on a workshop of *Alice by Heart*, by Duncan Sheik and Steven Sater, a new take on *Alice in Wonderland*.

In 2012, Platt was cast as Elder Arnold Cunningham in the Chicago production of *The Book of Mormon*. The show premiered at the Bank of America Theatre on December 19, 2012, after a week of previews.<sup>[11]</sup> The production was well received and closed on October 6, 2013.<sup>[12]</sup> Critics lauded Platt's performance, calling him a "true revelation in this brand new Chicago production...He really leans into this part, throwing himself out there with the abandonment of youth".<sup>[13]</sup> Platt later reprised his role as Elder Cunningham on Broadway at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre from January 7, 2014 to January 6, 2015.<sup>[14]</sup>

### 2015–2017: Film career and *Dear Evan Hansen*

In 2012, Platt had a supporting role in the musical comedy *Pitch Perfect*, loosely based on the non-fiction book *Pitch Perfect: The Quest for Collegiate A Cappella Glory*. Platt played the magic-obsessed Benji Applebaum, alongside an ensemble cast comprising Anna Kendrick, Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Adam DeVine, Anna Camp, and Brittany Snow. The film emerged as a major commercial success and received mostly positive reviews from critics. He was subsequently nominated at a Teen Choice Awards in the category Choice Movie: Male Scene Stealer for his work.<sup>[15]</sup> In 2015, Platt reprised his role as Benji Applebaum in the sequel, *Pitch Perfect 2*. He has since made film appearances in *Ricki and the Flash* and *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*.

Platt became attached to Pasek and Paul's then *Untitled P&P Project* in 2014, participating in early read-throughs and workshops.<sup>[16]</sup> By 2015, the musical, titled *Dear Evan Hansen*, had begun production in Washington, D.C. at the Arena Stage with Platt originating the titular role. The show premiered on July 9, 2015 and closed August 23, 2015.<sup>[17]</sup> The overwhelming positive reception toward the production and Platt's performance resulted in the show being transferred to Off-Broadway.<sup>[18]</sup>

In 2016, Platt once again originated the role of Evan Hansen at Second Stage Theatre. Platt and the cast played a month of previews, beginning on March 26, 2016, before premiering on May 1, 2016. The limited engagement sold out its entire run with Platt playing his last performance on May 26, 2016.<sup>[19][20][21]</sup>

In December 2016, Platt originated the title role in *Dear Evan Hansen* on Broadway at the Music Box Theatre. Critics hailed his work, calling it "historic" and "one of the greatest leading male performances ever seen in a musical".<sup>[22][23][24]</sup> For his performance, Platt won numerous awards including the Tony Award for Best Actor

in a Musical. Platt played his final performance on November 19, 2017.<sup>[25]</sup>

On November 29, 2018, it was announced that Universal Pictures and Platt's father, Marc Platt, secured the film rights to the musical.<sup>[26][27]</sup>

## 2017–present: Music and *Sing to Me Instead*

In 2017, Platt signed a record deal with Atlantic Records.<sup>[28]</sup> On January 28, 2018, Platt performed Leonard Bernstein's "Somewhere" live at the 60th Annual Grammy Awards accompanied by Justin Goldner and Adele Stein and arranged by Alex Lacamoire.<sup>[29][30]</sup>



Ben Platt in 2017

On March 19, 2018, Platt and *Hamilton* creator Lin-Manuel Miranda released "Found/Tonight", a mashup of the *Hamilton* song "The Story of Tonight" and the *Dear Evan Hansen* song "You Will Be Found".<sup>[31]</sup> Platt donated a portion of the proceeds to support the March for Our Lives anti-gun-violence initiative, and also performed on stage with Miranda at the rally in Washington, D.C. on March 24, 2018.<sup>[32][33][34]</sup> Platt is set to star opposite Damian Lewis, Nina Dobrev, and Mena Massoud in the Rob Ford historical fiction thriller *Run this Town*.<sup>[35][36]</sup> The casting of Platt caused minor controversy, over allegations that the filmmakers were appropriating the story of female reporter Robyn Doolittle.<sup>[37]</sup>

In January 2019, Platt announced that his debut studio album *Sing to Me Instead* is scheduled for release on March 29, 2019, and was made available for pre-order along with the songs "Bad Habit" and "Ease My Mind" a few days later. Following the release of his debut album, Platt will embark on his first North American tour, beginning in May 2019.<sup>[38][39]</sup>

## Personal life

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Platt is openly gay; he came out to his family at 12 years old and publicly in 2019, through the music video for his song "Ease My Mind".<sup>[40]</sup>

## Theatre credits

Year	Production	Role	Venue	Notes
2002	<i>The Music Man</i>	Winthrop Paroo	<u>Hollywood Bowl</u>	Los Angeles
2004	<i>Caroline, or Change</i>	Noah Gellman	<u>Ahmanson Theatre</u>	National tour
2005	<i>Dead End</i>	Philip Griswald	<u>Ahmanson Theatre</u>	Regional
2012	<i>The Power of Duff</i>	Ricky Duff	<u>Powerhouse Theatre</u>	Regional
	<i>The Black Suits</i>	Chris Thurser	<u>Center Theatre Group</u>	Regional
2012–2013	<i>The Book of Mormon</i>	Elder Arnold Cunningham	<u>PrivateBank Theatre</u>	Chicago
2014–2015			<u>Eugene O'Neill Theatre</u>	<u>Broadway</u>
2015	<i>Dear Evan Hansen</i>	Evan Hansen	<u>Arena Stage</u>	Washington, D.C.
2016	<i>The Secret Garden</i>	Dickon	<u>David Geffen Hall</u>	25th anniversary concert
	<i>Dear Evan Hansen</i>	Evan Hansen	<u>Second Stage Theatre</u>	Off-Broadway
2016–2017			<u>Music Box Theatre</u>	Broadway
2018	<i>Parade</i>	<u>Leo Frank</u>		Workshop

## Filmography

### Film

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2006	<i>Red Riding Hood</i>	Boy Scout #1	
2012	<i>Pitch Perfect</i>	Benji Applebaum	
2015	<i>Pitch Perfect 2</i>		
	<i>Ricki and the Flash</i>	Daniel	
2016	<i>Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk</i>	Josh	
2017	<i>The Female Brain</i>	Joel	
2019	<i>Run This Town</i> <sup>[41]</sup>	Bram	
	<i>Drunk Parents</i>	Jason Johnson	<sup>[42]</sup>
TBA	<i>Broken Diamonds</i>	Scott	<i>Post-production</i>

### Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2017	<i>Will &amp; Grace</i>	Blake	Episode: "Who's Your Daddy" <sup>[43]</sup>
2019	<i>The Politician</i>	Payton Hobart	Upcoming series; also executive producer <sup>[44]</sup>

## Discography

### Studio albums

Title	Details	Peak chart positions			
		US <sup>[45]</sup>	AUS <sup>[46]</sup>	CAN <sup>[47]</sup>	UK <sup>[48]</sup>
<i>Sing to Me Instead</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Release date: March 29, 2019</li> <li>Label: Atlantic</li> <li>Formats: CD, digital download</li></ul>	18	32	57	79

### Soundtrack albums

Title	Details	Peak chart positions			
		US <sup></sup>	US Cast Albums <sup></sup>	AUS <sup>[49]</sup>	CAN <sup>[50]</sup>
<i>Dear Evan Hansen (Original Broadway Cast Recording)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Release date: February 3, 2017</li> <li>Label: Atlantic Records</li> <li>Formats: CD, LP, digital download</li></ul>	8	1	34	58

### Singles

Title	Year	Peak chart positions			Album
		US <sup></sup>	US Digital <sup></sup>	US Dance <sup></sup>	
"Waving Through a Window"	2017	—	—	1	<i>Dear Evan Hansen (Original Broadway Cast Recording)</i>
"Found/Tonight" (with <span><span>Lin-Manuel Miranda</span></span> )	2018	49	1	—	non-album single
"Bad Habit"	2019	—	—	—	<i>Sing to Me Instead</i>

### Promotional singles

Title	Year	Album
"Ease My Mind"	2019	<i>Sing to Me Instead</i>
"Grow as We Go"		

## Awards and nominations

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Platt was nominated for an Outer Critics Circle Award, a Drama League Distinguished Performance Award, and won <sup>[51]</sup> the Obie Award<sup>[52]</sup> for Distinguished Performance by an Actor and Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical for *Dear Evan Hansen*'s Off-Broadway run in 2016.<sup>[53]</sup>

On May 19, 2017, at the 83rd annual Drama League Awards, it was announced that Platt had won the organization's Distinguished Performance Award. This award, which recognizes a performance on the New York stage in the past year, can only be won once in a performer's career. In winning, at the age of 23, for his work in *Dear Evan Hansen*, Platt became the youngest winner in the award's history.<sup>[54]</sup> On June 11, at the 71st Tony Awards, Platt won the Tony Award for Best Actor in a Musical being the youngest actor to win this award solo.<sup>[55]</sup>



Platt and fellow *Dear Evan Hansen* cast member Rachel Bay Jones with their Tony Awards

Year	Awards	Category	Work	Result
2013	<u>Teen Choice Awards</u>	Choice Movie: Male Scene Stealer	<i>Pitch Perfect</i>	Nominated
2016	<u>Drama League Awards</u>	Distinguished Performance	<i>Dear Evan Hansen</i>	Nominated
	<u>Outer Critics Circle Awards</u>	Best Leading Actor in a Musical		Nominated <sup>[51]</sup>
	<u>Obie Awards</u>	Distinguished Performance by an Actor		Won <sup>[52]</sup>
2017	<u>Tony Awards</u>	Best Actor in a Musical		Won <sup>[55]</sup>
	<u>Drama League Awards</u>	Distinguished Performance		Won <sup>[54]</sup>
	<u>Lucille Lortel Awards</u>	Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical		Won <sup>[53]</sup>
	<u>Broadway.com Audience Awards</u>	Favorite Leading Actor in a Musical		Won
		Favorite Onstage Pair		Won
2018	<u>Grammy Awards</u>	Best Musical Theater Album <sup>[a]</sup>		Won <sup>[56]</sup>
	<u>Daytime Emmy Awards</u>	Outstanding Musical Performance in a Daytime Program (with the cast of <i>Dear Evan Hansen</i> )	"You Will Be Found" (performed on <i>The Today Show</i> ) <sup>[57][58]</sup>	Won

## Notes

- a. The 2018 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album was awarded to the group consisting of: Laura Dreyfuss, Mike Faist, Rachel Bay Jones, Kristolyn Lloyd, Michael Park, Ben Platt, Will Roland & Jennifer Laura Thompson (principal soloists); Pete Ganbarg, Alex Lacamoire, Stacey Mindich, Benj Pasek & Justin Paul (producers); Benj Pasek & Justin Paul (composers/lyricists)

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