Treat Williams

Clan Hannah (Thomas Munson's Daughter)

From Hair to Air

by Lori Hahn

Treat Williams had been a working Broadway actor for years when his big breakout role came. He was chosen to be Berger, the long-haired counterculture chieftain in the film version of Hair in 1979. In the era of such burgeoning film names of DeNiro and Pacino, Williams was a contender. He appeared in several films in the early 1980s, but his film



career just didn't take off. The cause was clear: his addiction to cocaine. Fortunately, he found a therapist who helped him squelch his inner demons, and he beat his addiction, but not in time to save a film career.

Treat was born in Stamford, Connecticut in 1951 to an antiques dealer and a corporate executive. In addition to his Munson roots, he was also the 3x great grandson of U.S. Senator William Henry Barnum and was the third cousin of showman P.T. Barnum. He played football in high school and college and participated in theater, but acting won out.

Life was considerably better for Treat in the 1990s and beyond. He married in 1988 to Pam Van Sant, to whom he remained married until his death. They had two children, a boy and a girl. The couple found great comfort in their homes in Park City, Utah and in Vermont.

Treat had many things that made him happy besides his family. He had been a pilot since his football coach taught him how to fly. He loved to fly his small plane. Treat was a certified pilot trainer and even held his commercial pilot rating. He also loved riding his motorcycle. He worked steadily on stage, in film, and especially on television.

Sadly, in June of 2023, while Treat was riding his motorcycle near his home in Vermont, a young driver turned left into his lane and hit him. Despite wearing a helmet, Treat died of his injuries. He was 71.



Treat with his small plane

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