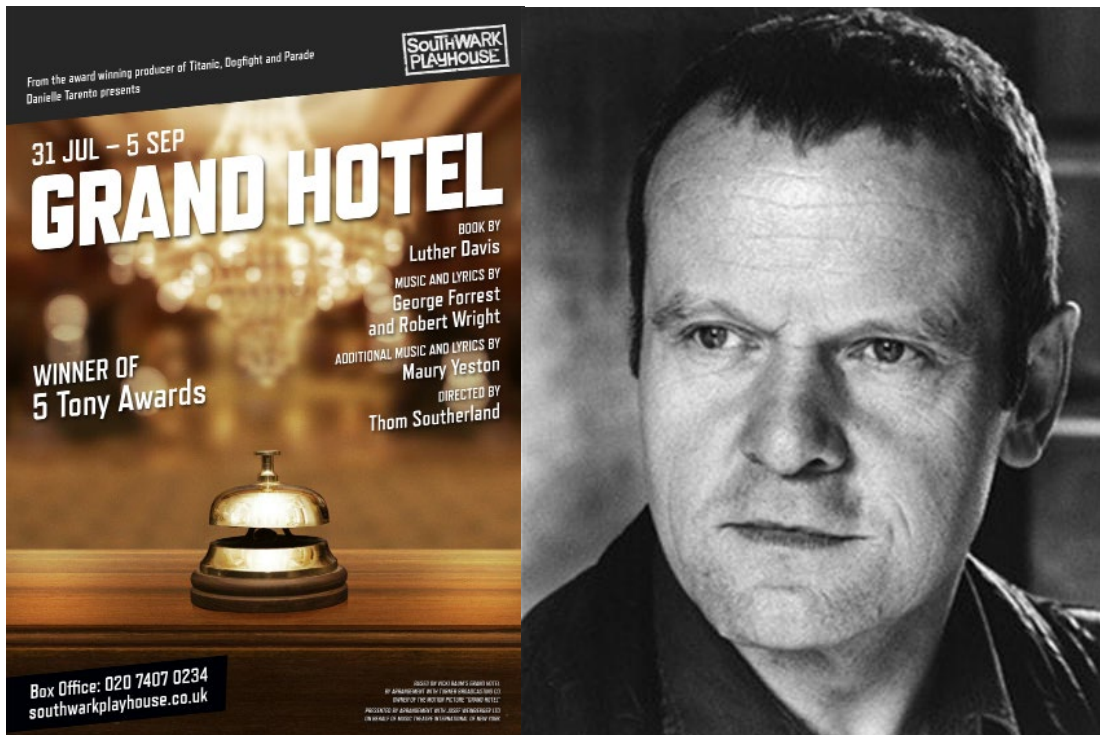


LAST MINUTE CAST CHANGE FOR “GRAND HOTEL”



Just a few days before its first preview, there has been a last minute cast change for the new production of the acclaimed Broadway musical **Grand Hotel** at Southwark Playhouse.

Grand Hotel is produced by Danielle Tarento and directed by Thom Southerland, the award-winning team behind the musicals *Titanic* (that recently transferred to Toronto), *Parade* and *Mack & Mabel*.

Philip Rham, who also played the Captain in *Titanic*, has had to reluctantly leave the production because of a family emergency.

Producer Danielle Tarento said: “We wish Philip well and are thrilled to welcome to the production the fantastic David Delve to take over and play Colonel-Doctor Otternschlag. We thank David enormously for stepping in at such short notice.”

David Delve's many West End theatre credits include playing Squeers in the RSC's epic *Nicholas Nickleby* in both London and the US; Thenadier the innkeeper in *Les Miserables* at the Palace Theatre in 1987; Mr Sowerby in *Oliver!* at the London Palladium, three years in *The Phantom of the Opera* at Her Majesty's, *Anything Goes* at the Theatre Royal and *Carousel* at the Savoy.

Grand Hotel, Book by Luther Davis, Music and Lyrics by George Forrest and Robert Wright, Additional Music and Lyrics by Maury Yeston, will open for a 6-week season this Friday, 31 July.

Press night is Wednesday 5 August.

The *Grand Hotel* in 1928 Berlin is bustling with eccentric and sometimes dubious guests: amongst them a fading prima ballerina being forced to dance again; a fatally ill Jewish bookkeeper who wants to spend his final days living in luxury; a young, handsome, but destitute Baron; a cynical doctor suffering from World War I wounds; an honest businessman going bad as he faces financial ruin and a typist dreaming of Hollywood stardom. Over the course of a weekend, their extraordinary stories interweave with each other and the hotel's hard-working staff.

The rest of the 17-strong international cast are: Christine Grimandi, Scott Garnham, George Rae, Victoria Serra, Jacob Chapman, Valerie Cutko, Jonathan Stewart, James Gant, Charles Hagerty, Paul Iveson, Rhiannon Howys, Jammy Kasongo, Ceili O'Connor, Durone Stokes, Samuel J Weir, Leah West.

Creatives: Director Thom Southerland, Musical Supervisor Simon Lee, Musical Director Michael Bradley, Choreographer Lee Proud, Set & Costume Designer Lee Newby, Lighting Designer Derek Anderson, Sound Designer Andrew Johnson,