

Maxwell Caulfield, Zoë Doano and Chris Peluso take centre stage for the European première of “Death Takes A Holiday”, the latest musical from the multi Tony Award-winning composer of “Nine”, “Grand Hotel” and “Titanic”



Maxwell Caulfield, Zoë Doano and Chris Peluso are to head the cast of **Death Takes A Holiday**, the third Charing Cross Theatre musical directed by Artistic Director Thom Southerland following the critically acclaimed *Titanic* and *Ragtime*, which has just received an all-time record 14 Off West End Award nominations as well as WhatsOnStage Award nominations for Best Musical Revival and Best Off West End Production.

A soaring story of the preciousness of life and the overwhelming power of love, the European première of **Death Takes A Holiday** will run from Monday 16 January to Saturday 4 March. Press night is Monday 23 January at 7.30pm.

Death Takes A Holiday has a lush, romantic score by multi Tony Award-winner Maury Yeston (*Titanic*, *Nine*) and a book by multi Tony Award-winners Thomas Meehan and Peter Stone. It is based on the 1928 Italian play of the same name, which also inspired the movie, *Meet Joe Black*, starring Brad Pitt.

In Northern Italy, shortly after World War One, Death disguises himself as a handsome young prince to try to understand why life is so precious and death so feared. But when he unexpectedly falls in love with a newly engaged young woman, this mysterious stranger discovers that love may in fact be stronger than death.

Death Takes A Holiday was nominated for 11 Drama Desk Awards when it premièred Off Broadway in 2011.

Hollywood star Maxwell Caulfield (*Dynasty*, *The Colbys*, *Grease 2*) made his West End debut as Billy Flynn in *Chicago* and subsequently played the role on Broadway. He recently starred as Nathan Detroit in the No1 tour of Chichester Festival Theatre's *Guys & Dolls*. His other major musical theatre roles include R.F. Simpson in the Chichester production of *Singin' in the Rain*, Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady* and Count Carl-Magnus Malcolm in *A Little Night Music*. He also appeared on Broadway in the National Theatre's multi award-winning production of *An Inspector Calls*.

Zoë Doano has just finished a year in the West End as Cosette in *Les Misérables*. Before this she played Johanna in the West End transfer of the Tooting Pie Shop *Sweeney Todd*. She also starred as Marianne in the European première of Jerry Herman's *The Grand Tour*, directed by Thom Southerland at the Finborough Theatre.

American rising star Chris Peluso made his West End debut this year starring as Chris in *Miss Saigon* at the Prince Edward Theatre and then played Gaylord Ravenal in *Showboat* at the New London Theatre. On Broadway, he was in the original cast of *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, played Sky in *Mamma Mia!*, was in Elton John's *Lestat* and the Balladeer in Sondheim's *Assassins*. He was Fiyero in the US national tour of *Wicked*. His other major credits include *The Glorious Ones* (Lincoln Center), Tony in *West Side Story*, Marius in *Les Misérables*, Ted Hinton in Frank Wildhorn's *Bonnie and Clyde* and Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Please note: Chris Peluso appears in the production until 11 February, at which time the role will be taken over by James Gant.

The company:

Kathryn Akin was last seen in the West End in *Carousel* as alternate Nettie to Lesley Garrett, and *Gone With the Wind*; **Anthony Cable** has featured in several West End productions including *The Sound of Music*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Whistle Down the Wind* and *Napoleon*; **Trudi Camilleri** recently covered the role of Mother in *Ragtime* (Charing Cross Theatre); **Ken Christiansen** was recently Best Actor Offie Award nominated as Grahame Chandler in *The Fix*, played Ray-Say in *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* and was Bob Saunders in *Closer to Heaven* (all Union theatre); **Scarlett Courtney** was Kate Mullins in *Titanic* in both London and Toronto; **Sophie-May Feek** was in *Made in Dagenham* (Hornchurch); **James Gant** was Etches in *Titanic* (Charing Cross Theatre), Mr Bumble in *Oliver!* (Leicester Curve); Rohna and Zinnowitz in *Grand Hotel* (Southwark Playhouse), cover Javert in *Les Misérables* (Queen's Theatre); **Matthew McDonald** was in *Allegro* (Southwark Playhouse); **Gay Soper** was Mrs Strakosh in *Funny Girl* (Menier Chocolate Factory and West End) and Mrs Alexander in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* (NT and West End transfer) and *Sunday in the Park With George* (Menier Chocolate Factory and Wyndhams); **Ashley Stillburn**'s West End shows include *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Les Misérables* and he recently played Anthony in *Sweeney Todd* for Opera du Toulon; **Samuel Thomas** was Homer Collins in *Floyd Collins* (Wilton's Music Hall), Lansdale in *Allegro* (Southwark Playhouse) and cover Jamie in *The Last 5 Years* (St James Theatre); **Helen Turner** was a finalist in the Stephen Sondheim Student Performer of the Year and has just played Demeter in *Cats*.

Creative team:

Director Thom Southerland
Set Designer Morgan Large
Costume Designer Jonathan Lipman
Lighting Designer Matt Daw
Sound Designer Andrew Johnson
Choreographer Sam Spencer-Lane
Musical Director Dean Austin
Casting Director Danielle Tarento

Thom Southerland (Director)

Thom is Artistic Director at Charing Cross Theatre. His opening season of major musicals, produced by Danielle Tarento, Steven M. Levy, Sean Sweeney and Vaughan Williams, included the return of his acclaimed multi award-winning *Titanic* and *Ragtime* (nominated for a record 14 Off West End awards). He was longlisted Best Newcomer in the 2011 Evening Standard Awards for *Parade*. He was named Best Director at the 2011 The Offies for *Me And Juliet* at the Finborough. He directed *Allegro*, *Grey Gardens*, *Grand Hotel*, *Titanic*, *Victor/Victoria*, *Mack & Mabel* and *Parade* (Southwark Playhouse); *The Smallest Show on Earth* (Mercury Theatre, Colchester & tour); Jerry Herman's *The Grand Tour* (Finborough); *The Mikado* (Charing Cross Theatre); *Daisy Pulls It Off*, Irving Berlin's *Call Me Madam!* (Upstairs At The Gatehouse); the European première of *I Sing!*, *Divorce Me, Darling!*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *The Pajama Game* and sold-out all-male adaptations of Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore* and *The Mikado* (Union); *Noël and Gertie* (Cockpit); the European première of *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* (Landor); the European première of *State Fair* (Finborough & transfer to Trafalgar Studios).

Producers:

Death Takes A Holiday is the third Charing Cross Theatre production, following *Titanic* and *Ragtime*, produced by Danielle Tarento, Steven M. Levy, Sean Sweeney and Vaughan Williams.

Press

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LISTINGS INFO

Death Takes A Holiday

Monday 16 January - Saturday 4 March

Press night Monday 23 January
at 7.30pm

Charing Cross Theatre
The Arches
Villiers Street
London WC2N 6NL
www.charingcross theatre.co.uk
Box office: 08444 930 650

Performances:
Monday to Saturday at 7.30pm
Wednesday matinee at 2.30pm
Saturday matinee at 3.00pm

Tickets:

£32.50 stalls A
£29.50 stalls B
£22.50 balcony
£17.50 slips

Premium £39.50 which includes best stalls
locations,
a programme and a glass of bubbly

Please note there are no booking fees on
tickets purchased
in person.

How to get here:

Nearest underground stations:
Charing Cross (Bakerloo and
Northern lines)
Embankment (Bakerloo, Northern, Circle
and District lines)

DANIELLE TARENTO, STEVEN M. LEVY, SEAN SWEENEY AND VAUGHAN WILLIAMS PRESENT

Death TAKES A HOLIDAY

A breathtaking new musical



16 JAN - 4 MAR 2017

Music & Lyrics by
Maury Yeston

Book by
Peter Stone and
Thomas Meehan

Directed by
Thom Southerland

BOX OFFICE 08444 930 650
www.charingcross theatre.co.uk
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