

SHEILA HANCOCK AND JENNA RUSSELL TO STAR IN THE EUROPEAN PREMIÈRE OF ACCLAIMED MUSICAL **GREY GARDENS, WINNER OF 3 TONY AWARDS & NOMINATED FOR A FURTHER 7, ALONG WITH 12 DRAMA DESK AWARDS ON BROADWAY, FROM THE TEAM BEHIND **TITANIC** AND **GRAND HOTEL****



Olivier Award-winning West End stars, **Sheila Hancock** and **Jenna Russell**, are to star in the eagerly awaited European première of **Grey Gardens**.

Based on an iconic 1975 documentary, **Grey Gardens**, with Book by Doug Wright, Music by Scott Frankel, Lyrics by Michael Korie, tells the spectacular real life rise and fall of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis's aunt and cousin, Edith and Edie Bouvier Beale.

Starting in 1941 at an engagement party at Grey Gardens, the Bouvier's mansion in East Hampton, Long Island, the musical tracks the progression of the two women's lives from American aristocrats to reclusive social outcasts living in such squalid conditions, in a home overrun by cats, that the Health Department deemed the mansion 'unfit for human habitation'.

Grey Gardens, produced by Danielle Tarento and directed by Thom Southerland, the award-winning team behind *Grand Hotel*, *Titanic*, *Parade* and *Mack & Mabel*, will open for a 6-week season in The Large at Southwark Playhouse from Saturday 2 January, 2016.

Press night is Thursday 7 January at 7.30pm.

More cast to be announced.

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public relations

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LISTINGS INFO

Danielle Tarento

presents the European Première of

GREY GARDENS

Book by Doug Wright

Music by Scott Frankel

Lyrics by Michael Korie

Based on the film *Grey Gardens* by
David Maysles, Albert Maysles, Ellen Hovde,
Muffie Mayer and Susan Froemke

Presented by arrangement with
JOSEF WEINBERGER LIMITED

Southwark Playhouse

The Large

77-85 Newington Causeway
London SE1 6BD

Box Office: 020 7407 0234

www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk

Saturday 2 January - Saturday 6 February

Press night:**Thursday 7 January at 7.30pm**

Times:

Monday - Saturday at 7.30pm

Tuesday & Saturday matinee at 3.00pm
(not January 5)

Ticket prices:

£25.00/£20.00 concessions

all previews £14.00 (2 January - 6 January)

Sheila Hancock (Edith "Big Edie" Ewing Bouvier Beale)

Sheila's extensive career spans theatre, radio, television and film, and she is also now enjoying a career as a features presenter and as a writer including *The Two of Us* which won the British Book Award for Author of the Year, and her debut novel *Miss Carter's War*. Her recent theatre roles in London include Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret* (Olivier Award, Clarence Derwent Award), Mother Superior in *Sister Act the Musical* (Olivier nomination); Emmie Packer in *Barking in Essex* and 'Mum' in *The Anniversary* (a role played by Bette Davis while Sheila played the daughter-in-law, in the film version); Maitre Suzanne Blum in *The Last Duchess* (Hampstead), and Meg in *The Birthday Party* (Lyric Hammersmith). She was in the original London productions of *Annie* and *Sweeney Todd* (Olivier nomination), and Rose in *Gypsy* at West Yorkshire Playhouse (TMA Best Actress Award). In New York, as Kath in *Entertaining Mr Sloane* (Tony nomination).

Jenna Russell (Edith "Little Edie" Bouvier Beale)

Jenna won the 2007 Laurence Olivier Award for Best Actress in a Musical for *Sunday in the Park With George*. She made her Broadway debut in the show and was nominated for the Best Actress in a Musical Tony Award, Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Actress in a Musical and the Drama League for Distinguished Performance Award. She won the 2008 Theatre World Award for Broadway Debut Performance. Previously she was nominated for the Best Actress in a Musical Olivier Award for *Guys and Dolls*. Her other extensive West End roles include *Urinetown*, *Di, Viv and Rose*, *Martin Guerre*, *Follies* and *Les Miserables*.

Thom Southerland (Director)

Thom was longlisted Best Newcomer in the 2011 Evening Standard Awards for *Parade*. He was named Best Director at the 2011 The Offies - Off West End Theatre Awards - for *Me And Juliet* at the Finborough. He directed *Grand Hotel*, *Titanic*, *Victor/Victoria*, *Mack & Mabel* and *Parade* (Southwark Playhouse); 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); and the European première of *State Fair* (Finborough & transfer to Trafalgar Studios). His latest production is *The Smallest Show on Earth* (Mercury Theatre, Colchester & tour) .

Danielle Tarento (Producer and Casting Director)

Danielle was named Best Producer at the 2012 Off West End Awards and won Best Off West End Production at the 2014 Whatsonstage Awards and Best Musical Production at the 2014 Off West End Awards for *Titanic* at Southwark Playhouse. She has also produced *Pure Imagination: The Songs of Leslie Bricusse* (St James Theatre), *Grand Hotel*, *Dogfight*, *Victor/Victoria*, *Mack & Mabel*, *Parade*, *Company* and *Three Sisters* at Southwark Playhouse; *Taboo* (Brixton Clubhouse); *The Pitchfork Disney* (Arcola); *Burlesque*, *Drowning on Dry Land* (Jermyn Street); *Noël and Gertie* (Cockpit). She is co-founder of the Menier Chocolate Factory and co-produced all in-house shows 2004 - 2006, including *Sunday In The Park With George*, which received a West End transfer and 5 Olivier Awards.