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Life after Waterloo Road for actor Philip Martin Brown

With parts in a crime dramas and a panto role there is life after Waterloo Road for Manchester actor Philip Martin Brown

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By
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Philip Martin Brown

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He was Waterloo Road's longest serving character, but now Grantly Budgen is no more.

Viewers of the hit BBC show were mourning the loss of teacher Grantly last week – which sees the departure of Manchester actor Philip Martin Brown after eight years on the show.

It was mixed emotions for Philip, who made the decision to leave the show to explore other avenues, and played out Grantly's death while the character was waiting for a kidney transplant.

He tells me: "I decided after a lot of thought that I would leave, and once I'd said that it was up to the producers to decide how Grantly would go.

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"I mean, all actors would like to go in a blaze of glory, all guns blazing, rescuing someone SAS style.

"But of course what they came up with is a beautifully written and moving departure for him."

And for fans of the series it followed hot on the heels of the drama's other stalwart teacher, Tom Clarkson, played by Jason Done, leaving the show too.

Philip, 57, had been with the school drama since its beginnings, filmed in [Rochdale](#), and saw it through to the bizarre decision to uproot the whole school to Scotland.

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He was involved in plenty of highs and lows in the show – including the hilarious storyline where he decided to don a wig, and dancing off against teen heartthrob Bolton Smilie.

But he has no regrets about his decision to leave now – as he’s bagged a number of high-profile roles since, including in the BBC’s upcoming Christmas whodunnit *Death Comes to Pemberley*, a role in crime drama *Endeavour*, while he’ll also be starring in panto in Tunbridge Wells.

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ght’s Waterloo Road Grantly’s family and friends will be seen coming to terms with his death.

So what would he say was his Waterloo Road highlight?

He sighs: “There’s been so many, too many to name. So instead I’ll just say that toupee.”

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