

Robert Mandan, Philandering Husband on ‘Soap,’ Dies at 86

By Daniel E. Slotnik

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Robert Mandan, a character actor best known for playing the lascivious stockbroker Chester Tate four decades ago on the ABC sitcom “Soap,” has died. He was 86.

His death was confirmed by his publicist, Joseph Williamson, who said Mr. Mandan’s family had not released any further information.

Mr. Mandan cut an authoritative, blustering figure and was often cast as pompous businessmen like Chester. He was also seen on sitcoms like “All in the Family,” “Sanford and Son” and “Maude,” dramas like “The Doctors” and “Mission: Impossible,” and Broadway shows like “Applause,” which starred Lauren Bacall, before he was cast on “Soap.”

His character Chester’s infidelities were among the more mundane events on “Soap,” a prime-time sendup of daytime soap operas. Its dizzying plot twists included cult brainwashing and demonic possession.

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