

3 September 2019

### THE NATIONAL THEATRE AND NEAL STREET PRODUCTIONS' *THE LEHMAN TRILOGY* TRANSFERS TO BROADWAY

Following sold-out runs at the National Theatre, in the West End and at the Park Avenue Armory, totaling more than 200 performances, it is announced today that the National Theatre and Neal Street Productions' critically acclaimed *The Lehman Trilogy* will return to New York when it transfers to Broadway for a strictly limited engagement in spring 2020. *The Lehman Trilogy* previews at the **Nederlander Theatre** from 7 March, with an opening night on 26 March 2020.

The story of a family and a company that changed the world, told in three parts on a single evening, *The Lehman Trilogy* is by **Stefano Massini**, adapted by Olivier Award-nominated **Ben Power** and directed by multiple Olivier Award, Tony Award and Oscar winner **Sam Mendes** (*The Ferryman*, *Skyfall*).

**Simon Russell Beale**, **Adam Godley** and **Ben Miles** will reprise their acclaimed roles on Broadway as the Lehman brothers, and a cast of characters including their sons and grandsons, in an extraordinary feat of storytelling which the New York Times called '*three of the most virtuosic performances you're ever likely to see.*'

*The Lehman Trilogy* is produced on Broadway by the National Theatre, Neal Street Productions and Scott Rudin/Barry Diller/David Geffen. Tickets will go on sale to the general public from Saturday 14 September.

*The Lehman Trilogy*'s West End run ended on Saturday 31 August after a triumphant 16-weeks which saw audiences totalling more than 132,000 and sold-out performances at the Piccadilly Theatre.

*The Lehman Trilogy* weaves through nearly two centuries of Lehman lineage. On a cold September morning in 1844 a young man from Bavaria stands on a New York dockside. Dreaming of a new life in the new world. He is joined by his two brothers and an American epic begins. 163 years later, the

firm they establish – Lehman Brothers – spectacularly collapses into bankruptcy, and triggers the largest financial crisis in history.

The production returns to New York after its debut at the Park Avenue Armory in March 2019, where it garnered huge critical acclaim. The New York Times called it a '*magnificent play, a genuinely epic production out of London, directed with surging sweep and fine-tooled precision by Sam Mendes...with a design team that understands the value of simplicity in doing justice to complex matters.*'

*The Lehman Trilogy* features set designs by **Es Devlin**, costume design by **Katrina Lindsay**, video design by **Luke Halls**, and lighting design by **Jon Clark**. The Composer & Sound Designer is **Nick Powell**, the Co-Sound Designer is **Dominic Bilkey**, with music direction by **Candida Caldicot**, and movement by **Polly Bennett**. The Associate Director is **Zoé Ford Burnett**.

The world premiere of Stefano Massini's *The Lehman Trilogy* opened at the Piccolo Teatro in Milan in 2015. It turned out to be Artistic Director Luca Ronconi's final production before his death. A long-term admirer of Ronconi's, Sam Mendes was inspired to begin planning an English adaptation for Neal Street Productions. Ben Power was commissioned by Neal Street Productions to create a new version of this epic play, using a literal English translation by Mirella Cheeseman. This production opened at the National Theatre on 4 July 2018 before its North American premiere at the Park Avenue Armory and a West End run which opened on 11 May 2019.

Recent Broadway productions from the National Theatre include *Network* (Tony Award for Best Actor in a Play for Bryan Cranston); *Angels in America* (3 Tony Awards including Best Revival of a Play; Drama Desk Award; Drama League Award; Outer Critic's Circle Award); and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (5 Tony Awards including Best New Play; Drama Desk Award; Drama League Award; Outer Critic's Circle Award). *Hadestown*, winner of 8 Tony Awards, is currently playing at the Walter Kerr Theatre. Off Broadway, *People, Places & Things*, a co-production with Headlong Theatre, and *The Jungle*, a Good Chance Theatre co-production with the National Theatre and the Young Vic, transferred to St Ann's Warehouse. Neal Street Productions' recent Broadway hits include *The Ferryman* (4 Tony Awards, including Best Play and Best Director of a Play).

The Wall Street Journal is the media sponsor.

## **ENDS**

For more information or to request images, please contact Susie Newbery on 020 7452 3155 / [snewbery@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:snewbery@nationaltheatre.org.uk)

## **Notes to editors**

### ***The Lehman Trilogy***

Nederlander Theatre  
208 W 41st Street, New York

From 7 March 2020 (opening night: 26 March)

For more information visit [nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://nationaltheatre.org.uk)

Tickets on sale to the general public from 14 September

### **ABOUT STEFANO MASSINI**

Stefano Massini's work has been translated into 22 languages and performed around the world. His plays have been directed by Luca Roncini, Lluís Pasqual, Arnaud Meunier, Irina Brook, Anton Koutznezov, Declan Donnellan, Marius von Mayenburg, Stephan Bachmann and Sam Mendes. In 2015 he became the artistic consultant at Piccolo Teatro di Milano/Teatro d'Europa. Stefano Massini is the author of many novels and essays and contributes regularly to Italian newspaper '*La Repubblica*'. In film he has collaborated with production companies such as Fandango and Cattleya. He appears weekly on Italian talk-show *Piazzapulita* on La7.

### **ABOUT BEN POWER**

Ben Power is a writer for theatre and film and an Associate of the National Theatre where his work includes *Husbands & Sons*, *Medea* and *Emperor and Galilean*. He has worked as a dramaturg on over 60 productions at the National and ran the temporary theatre, The Shed, during its three years on the South Bank. He was the associate director of Headlong, where his adaptations included *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, *Faustus* and *Paradise Lost*. Other work for theatre includes *A Tender Thing* for the RSC and dramaturgy on *A Disappearing Number* (Olivier, Evening Standard and Critics' Circle awards for Best Play). Screenplays include five episodes of *The Hollow Crown* (Royal Television Society and Broadcasting Press Guild Award for Best Single Drama; BAFTA nomination for Best Single Drama and Best Mini-Series).

### **ABOUT SAM MENDES**

Sam Mendes founded and ran the Donmar Warehouse for ten years. He was the first Artistic Director of the Minerva in Chichester and the founding director of The Bridge Project and Neal Street Productions. His work has been seen at the National Theatre, the RSC, the Royal Court, the Old Vic, the Young Vic, in the West End and on Broadway. Film includes *American Beauty*, *Road to Perdition*, *Jarhead*, *Revolutionary Road*, *Away We Go*, *Skyfall* and *Spectre*. Awards include Academy Award for Best Director, Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical, Olivier Award for Best Director, the Olivier Special Award, Evening Standard Award for Best Director, Empire Inspiration Award, Empire Award for Best British Director, Directors Guild of America Award and the Shakespeare Prize. He has also won the Director's Guild Award for lifetime achievement.

### **ABOUT THE NATIONAL THEATRE**

The National Theatre's mission is to make world class theatre that's entertaining, challenging and inspiring – and to make it for everyone. It aims to reach the widest possible audience and to be as inclusive, diverse and national as possible with a broad range of productions that play in London, on tour around the UK, on Broadway and across the globe. The National Theatre's extensive UK-wide learning and participation programme supports young people's creative education through performance and writing programmes like Connections, New Views and Let's Play. Its major new initiative Public Acts creates extraordinary acts of theatre and community; the first Public Acts production was 2018's *Pericles*. The National Theatre extends its reach through digital programmes including NT Live, which broadcasts some of the best of British theatre to over 2,500 venues in 65 countries, and the free streaming service On Demand In Schools, used by nearly 60% of UK state secondary schools. The National Theatre invests in the future of theatre by developing talent, creating bold new work and building audiences, partnering with a range of UK theatres and theatre companies.

The National Theatre is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

For more information, please visit <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>.

[@NationalTheatre](#)  
[@NT\\_PressOffice](#)

## **ABOUT NEAL STREET PRODUCTIONS**

**Producer** Caro Newling

Neal Street produces film, television and theatre. Formed in 2003 by Sam Mendes, Pippa Harris and Caro Newling, with Nicolas Brown joining as fourth director in the company's tenth year. In 2015 Neal Street moved under the umbrella of parent company, All3Media. Previously Sam Mendes and Caro Newling established and ran the Donmar Warehouse 1992-2002, producing over 70 productions, since when Newling has produced the theatre slate for Neal Street Productions.

**Recent:** *The Ferryman* by Jez Butterworth, Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre/Gielgud Theatre, *The Moderate Soprano* by David Hare, *This House* by James Graham.

**Previous:** *The Bridge Project*, a three-year transatlantic venture with the Old Vic & Brooklyn Academy of Music presenting five classic plays for worldwide stages across fifteen international cities, directed by Sam Mendes.

**Premieres:** *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, by Marc Shaiman, Scott Wittman, David Greig with Warner Brothers Theatre Ventures, *Shrek The Musical*, by Jeanine Tesori and David Lindsay-Abaire with DreamWorks Animation. Also *Three Days of Rain*, *The Vertical Hour*, *The House of Special Purpose*, *All About My Mother*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Days of Wine and Roses*, *Anna in the Tropics*, *Fuddy Meers*.

**West End/Broadway transfers:** *South Downs/The Browning Version*, *Enron*, *Hamlet*, *Mary Stuart*, *Red*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Sunday in the Park*, *The Painkiller*.

**Film and television:** Heidi Thomas' series *Call the Midwife*, John Logan's series *Penny Dreadful*, *Stuart A Life Backwards*, *Starter for Ten*, *Things We Lost in the Fire*, *Jarhead*, *Revolutionary Road*, *Away We Go*, *Blood*, *The Hollow Crown* for BBC2 featuring *Richard II* (dir. Rupert Goold), *Henry IV Part 1 & Part 2* (dir. Richard Eyre), *Henry V* (dir. Thea Sharrock), *Henry VI parts 1 and 2* and *Richard III* (dir. Dominic Cooke), *Britannia* written by Jez Butterworth, and forthcoming TV series *Informer* by Rory Haines and Sohrab Noshirvani.

@NealStProds