

15 October 2018

THE LEHMAN TRILOGY WILL TRANSFER TO THE WEST END

Following a sold-out run at the National Theatre, the NT and Neal Street Productions' critically acclaimed *The Lehman Trilogy* will transfer to the Piccadilly Theatre in May 2019.

Simon Russell Beale, Adam Godley, and Ben Miles will reprise the roles they originated at the National Theatre in *The Lehman Trilogy* by **Stefano Massini**, adapted by **Ben Power** and directed by **Sam Mendes**, when it transfers to the West End from 11 May 2019, for a limited 12-week season at the Piccadilly Theatre.

Tickets for the transfer go on sale to the public from 2 November following a members' booking period. *The Lehman Trilogy* is produced in the West End by the National Theatre and Neal Street Productions.

The story of a family and a company that changed the world, told in three parts on a single evening.

Directed by Sam Mendes (*The Ferryman, Skyfall*), *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. Simon Russell Beale, Adam Godley, and Ben Miles play the Lehman Brothers, and a cast of characters including their sons and grandsons, in an extraordinary feat of storytelling.

The Lehman Trilogy features set designs by **Es Devlin**, costume design by **Katrina Lindsay**, video design by **Luke Halls**, lighting design by **Jon Clark**, and music and sound

design by **Nick Powell**. The music director is **Candida Caldicot**, with movement by **Polly Bennett**.

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, Deputy Artistic Director for the National Theatre, was commissioned to create a new version of this epic play, using a literal English translation by Mirella Cheeseman.

Director Sam Mendes said: *"The Lehman Trilogy was developed over three years without the constraint of a schedule, or even a destination - I was allowed time to find its form, and to build a wonderful team with which to make it. One of the chief joys has been to work across borders with two great writers, and to invite three of the finest actors of their generation to work with us. We are indebted to the National Theatre and the Park Avenue Armory for their unstinting support throughout, and I couldn't be more excited to show it to New York audiences and to be extending our London life in the West End."*

Lisa Burger, NT Executive Director said: *"The Lehman Trilogy's West End transfer, with all three of the Lehman brothers - Simon Russell Beale, Adam Godley and Ben Miles - continuing their extraordinary feat of storytelling, is a wonderful development in the life of this spell-binding production and a testament to the work created by Stefano Massini, Ben Power and Sam Mendes. The show has been a complete sell-out here, so it's great to be working with Neal Street Productions to make sure that more people will have the chance to see it at the Piccadilly Theatre next year."*

The Lehman Trilogy transfers to the West End direct from the production's New York debut, complete with the original cast, at the Park Avenue Armory. *The Lehman Trilogy* previews at the Piccadilly Theatre from 11 May 2019 and follows the National Theatre's production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* at the venue, which opens in November 2018.

For further information contact Susie Newbery on 020 7452 3155 / snewbery@nationaltheatre.org.uk

ENDS

Notes to editors

The Lehman Trilogy

Piccadilly Theatre, 16 Denman St, Soho, London W1D 7DY

From 11 May 2019

Tickets from £18

Tickets go on sale to National Theatre members on 23 October, and to the general public on 2 November.

Book via nationaltheatre.org.uk / 020 7452 3000 or via ATG on 0844 871 7630*.

*Calls cost 7p per minute, plus your phone company's access charge.

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 the Deputy Artistic Director 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

At the National Theatre, we make world-class theatre that is entertaining, challenging and inspiring. And we make it for everyone.

We aim to create work for the widest possible audiences with new plays, musicals, re-imagined classics and new work for young audiences. Our productions are seen in the West End, on tour throughout the UK, on Broadway, internationally, and in collaborations and co-productions with partners around the world. Through NT Live, we broadcast some of the best of British theatre to over 2,500 venues in 65 countries.

In 2017-2018, we opened 20 productions in our three theatres on London's South Bank. On top of that, we toured more work across the UK than at any other point in our history, with 10 productions visiting 52 venues in 44 towns and cities. Worldwide, 3.3 million people bought tickets to our award-winning productions, and a further 4.7 million people engaged with us through our free work, learning and participation activity, and in-depth digital content.

Our extensive learning and participation programme opens up theatre to adults, families and young people across the UK. We support drama and creative education in schools through our performance and writing programmes like Connections, New Views and Let's Play. Over 58% of UK state secondary schools have signed up to our free streaming service, On Demand In Schools since launching in 2015. Public Acts, our new initiative to create extraordinary acts of theatre and community, launched in 2017 in partnership with eight visionary community organisations and the Queen's Theatre Hornchurch.

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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.