

MONDAY 17 JUNE 2024

**SAM MENDES' LANDMARK PRODUCTION OF  
*THE LEHMAN TRILOGY*  
RETURNS TO LONDON**

**PLAYING AT THE GILLIAN LYNNE THEATRE  
FROM 24 SEPTEMBER 2024 FOR A STRICTLY LIMITED RUN**



The National Theatre and Neal Street Productions announces today that its critically acclaimed, five-time Tony Award® winning production of ***The Lehman Trilogy*** will return to London's West End following highly acclaimed international performances. This '*genuinely epic production*' (New York Times), written by **Stefano Massini**, adapted by **Ben Power** and directed by multi-award-winning director, **Sam Mendes** with set design by **Es Devlin**, will play at the Gillian Lynne Theatre from 24 September 2024 until 5 January 2025 for a strictly limited run. Tickets will go on sale for '*this mesmerising chronicle of an American dynasty*' (The Times), on Wednesday 19 June at 10am, from £20.

***The Lehman Trilogy*** is a sweeping story of a family spanning generations and a company that changed the world. '*Its theatricality is utterly astonishing*' (The Guardian).

**John Heffernan, Aaron Krohn and Howard W. Overshown** will reprise their ‘*virtuosic performances*’ (The Mercury News) in London, following a critically acclaimed run in San Francisco, playing the Lehman brothers, their sons and grandsons in this thrilling ‘*tour de force of acting talent*’ (KQED Radio).

**Cat Beveridge** and **Anyssa Neumann** will reprise their respective performances as principal pianist and alternate pianist. Further casting to be announced.

**Rufus Norris**, Director of the National Theatre, said:

*“The Lehman Trilogy is storytelling at its best. Its success lies in its simplicity - three actors, one pianist and one set combining to tell an epic family drama in the most intimate way. This extraordinary production has now been seen by over half a million people worldwide and it continues to resonate with audiences whether that be in London, New York, Sydney or San Francisco. We are delighted to be bringing it back to the West End after its previous sold-out runs.”*

**Sam Mendes**, director of *The Lehman Trilogy* and co-founder of Neal Street Productions said:

*“I heard about Stefano Massini’s The Lehman Trilogy in 2015. A year later, together with Ben Power and Es Devlin, a company of twelve actors at the National Theatre Studio read aloud a literal translation of what was in fact an epic poem. After a year of shaping it into a form we felt might chime for English speaking audiences who had lived through the aftermath of the 2008 financial meltdown, it had morphed into a three-hander which premiered at the National Theatre in 2018. Now, seven years later, the production has been enjoyed on three continents, and on Broadway and is returning to the West End for the third time. This feels like a tribute to everyone who believed in it and collaborated in its making.”*

**John Heffernan** will play the role of Henry Lehman. Recent theatre credits include *Nachtlund* (Young Vic) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (National Theatre), co-starring with Katherine Parkinson. Previous theatre credits include the title roles in *Edward II* (National Theatre), for which he was nominated for an Evening Standard Theatre Award, *Oppenheimer* (Royal Shakespeare Company) and *Macbeth* (Young Vic). Recent screen credits include, *This Town* (BBC), *The Crown* (Netflix), *The Pursuit of Love* (BBC), *The Duke* (Warner Bros), *Misbehaviour* (20th Century Fox) and Agatha Christie’s *Crooked House* (Vertical Entertainment).

**Aaron Krohn** will play the role of Mayer Lehman. Previous theatre credits with Sam Mendes include *As You Like It* (2010) with The Bridge Project, Mendes’ transatlantic collaboration with the Old Vic and the Brooklyn Academy of Music spanning three years and travelling to 15 international cities, Mendes’ Tony-winning production of *Cabaret* (2014), co-directed with choreographer Rob Marshall for Roundabout Theatre Company on Broadway and more recently *The Lehman Trilogy* (on Broadway) as the understudy role of Mayer Lehman. Other theatre credits include: *Spamalot*,

*Twelfth Night* and *Henry V* at Stratford Shakespeare Festival. Screen credits include *Fosse/Verdon* (BBC), *Boardwalk Empire* (HBO) and *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* (NBC).

**Howard W. Overshown** will play the role of Emanuel Lehman. Previous theatre credits with Sam Mendes include *Richard III* for The Bridge Project (2012) and, prior to this current production of *The Lehman Trilogy*, he also played the role at the Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles (2022). Other theatre credits include *A Soldier's Play*, *Julius Caesar*, *Saint Joan*, *A View from the Bridge* and *Free Man of Color* on Broadway. Screen credits include *Blue Bloods* (CBS), *Fosse/Verdon* (BBC), Tina Fey's *Girls5Eva* (Netflix), and *The Marvelous Mrs Maisel* (Amazon Prime).

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, triggering the largest financial crisis in history.

**Mendes** is joined by set designer, **Es Devlin**; costume designer, **Katrina Lindsay**; video designer, **Luke Halls**; lighting designer **Jon Clark**; composer and sound designer, **Nick Powell**; co-sound designer, **Dominic Bilkey**; music director, **Candida Caldicot**; movement director, **Polly Bennett** and West End Director, **Rory McGregor**. Company voice work is by **Charmian Hoare** with casting by **Naomi Downham**. They are joined by associate lighting designer, **Charlotte Burton** and associate video designer **Zakk Hein**.

*The Lehman Trilogy* has now been seen by over half a million people worldwide. First commissioned by Neal Street Productions and developed and co-produced with the National Theatre at the Lyttelton theatre in 2018, an acclaimed sold-out run at the Park Avenue Armory in New York followed in the Spring of 2019. *The Lehman Trilogy* then returned to London for a 16-week sold-out run at the Piccadilly Theatre in the West End from May until August 2019. It was the first British play to return to Broadway following its 18-month shutdown (having previously played four performances in March 2020) for a much-lauded limited engagement at the Nederlander Theatre from September 2021 until January 2022. *The Lehman Trilogy* was the most awarded play on Broadway in 2022, winning Best Play, Best Director, Best Set Design, Best Lighting Design and Best Actor at the Tony Awards®. It also won the Drama League Award for Best Play and six Outer Critics Circle Awards, including Best Play. A Los Angeles transfer to Center Theatre Group's Ahmanson Theatre followed Broadway from March until April 2022 before it returned to London's West End in 2023 for a 17-week sold-out run at the Gillian Lynne Theatre. *The Lehman Trilogy* has recently played a limited run at Theatre Royal Sydney, Australia and is currently running at American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco to critical acclaim.

Prior to this production, 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.

**ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors**

For further information please contact **Clare McCormack** [cmccormack@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:cmccormack@nationaltheatre.org.uk) / 07989950871 and **Holly Nicholls** [honicholls@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:honicholls@nationaltheatre.org.uk)

### **Further Press Materials**

- Production images are available [here](#)
- Cast headshots are available [here](#) and biogs are available [here](#)
- Creative biogs are available [here](#)
- *The Lehman Trilogy*, Original Music by Nick Powell is available to stream via [Spotify](#) and purchase online from major music retailers.

### **Listings Information**

**Dates:** 24 September 2024 – 5 January 2025

**Opening Night:** 9 October 2024, 7pm

**Website:** [TheLehmanTrilogy.com](http://TheLehmanTrilogy.com)

**Address:** Gillian Lynne Theatre  
166 Drury Lane  
London  
WC2B 5PW

**Performance Schedule:** Mondays – Saturdays at 7pm, with matinees on Saturdays at 1pm\*

\*schedule may differ during previews and bank holidays, please see website for details

**Assisted Performances:**

**Captioned Performances:** Monday 28 October 7pm & Saturday 7 December 1pm

**Audio Described Performances:** Saturday 30 November 1pm & Friday 3 January 7pm

**BSL Performances:** Saturday 16th November 1pm

**Tickets:** From £20

**Box Office:** Book via [lwtheatres.co.uk](http://lwtheatres.co.uk) / call 020 3925 2998  
(lines open Monday to Saturday 10am – 5:30pm)

Or via [nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://nationaltheatre.org.uk)  
(lines open Monday to Saturday 9:30am – 8pm)

For Groups 10+ and Education 10+ contact LW Groups  
at: [groups@gillianlynnetheatre.co.uk](mailto:groups@gillianlynnetheatre.co.uk)

**Running Time:** 3 hours 20 minutes, including two intervals

**Follow on social media:**

**Twitter and Facebook:** @LehmanTrilogy

**Instagram:** @TheLehmanTrilogy

### **About the National Theatre**

The National Theatre makes theatre that entertains and inspires using its creativity, expertise and unique reach. The National Theatre shares unforgettable stories with millions of audience members across the UK and around the world – on its own stages, on tour, in schools, on cinema screens and streaming at home.

World-leading artists make their best work at the National Theatre with the widest possible audience and impact. The National Theatre invests in talent and innovation on stage and off, taking seriously its role as the nation's theatre. Of the new productions developed each year with a wide range of theatre companies, a third of that research and development resource is dedicated to shows staged at theatres outside London.

Through touring our work to local theatres and schools and nationwide education and community programmes, we are active in 71 of the 109 levelling up priority areas in the UK. A registered charity

with deeply embedded social purpose, the National Theatre works with hundreds of schools and communities across the UK to fire imagination and inspire creativity, and to develop skills and pathways for careers in theatre.

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

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### **About Neal Street Productions**

Neal Street Productions is one of the UK's most respected production companies, producing award-winning film, television and theatre. Founded 2003 by Sam Mendes, Pippa Harris and Caro Newling, it makes distinctive, popular, award-winning projects on both sides of the Atlantic.

TV series include: *Call the Midwife*, *Britannia*, *Penny Dreadful*, *The Hollow Crown*.

Films include: Mendes' *Empire of Light*, *1917*, *Away we Go*, *Revolutionary Road*, and *Things We Lost in the Fire*.

Recent theatre includes: *The Hills of California* by Jez Butterworth (co-production with Sonia Friedman Productions), *The Motive and the Cue* by Jack Thorne (co-production with the National Theatre), *Hamnet*, a stage adaptation by Lolita Chakrabarti based on Maggie O'Farrell's novel (a co-production with the Royal Shakespeare Company), *Walking with Ghosts* starring Gabriel Byrne, *The Ferryman* by Jez Butterworth, a stage adaptation of *Local Hero* and the national tour of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

In 2015 Neal Street moved under the umbrella of parent company, All3Media.

### **About LW Theatres**

LW Theatres owns and operates six of the most prestigious theatres in the world, including the iconic London Palladium and the Theatre Royal Drury Lane. Wholly owned by Andrew Lloyd Webber, one in three of all visits to a London musical is at an LW Theatres venue.

LW Theatres is the venue of choice for some of the world's best musicals and plays, as well as a variety of star-studded concerts, spoken word and comedy events. The portfolio also includes His Majesty's Theatre, home of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* for 37 years in London, the Cambridge Theatre, the Gillian Lynne Theatre, and the Adelphi Theatre (co-owned with Nederlander International Limited).

All profits from LW Theatres are proudly reinvested into the theatres for their ongoing conservation and development. More than £100m has been put back into this business since 2006.

For more information visit [lwtheatres.co.uk](http://lwtheatres.co.uk).