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“Magnificent. A genuinely epic production.” —*The New York Times*

“Theatre at its best. Sam Mendes triumphs.” —*The Times (London)*

“The must-see Broadway event of the season. It is epic in every conceivable way. You dare not miss it. Do anything you can to get a ticket to *The Lehman Trilogy*.”
—*New York Post*

“This is theatrical story-telling at its most thrilling.” —*The Hollywood Reporter*

**DIRECT FROM BROADWAY,
THE NATIONAL THEATRE AND NEAL STREET PRODUCTIONS’
CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED PRODUCTION, *THE LEHMAN TRILOGY*,
TO OPEN AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER’S 2020–21 SEASON**

Directed by Academy Award winner Sam Mendes (*The Ferryman*, “*Skyfall*,” “*1917*”) *The Lehman Trilogy* weaves through nearly two centuries of Lehman lineage, following the brothers Henry, Emanuel, and Mayer Lehman from their 1844 arrival in New York City to the 2008 collapse of the financial firm bearing their name.

A.C.T.’s complete 2020–21 season lineup to be unveiled
at a special event on Monday, March 16

Strictly limited four-week engagement—September 11–October 11, 2020

SAN FRANCISCO (February 19, 2020)—On the heels of sold-out runs at the National Theatre, in London’s West End, and at the Park Avenue Armory in New York City—and following a limited Broadway engagement—the **National Theatre and Neal Street Productions’** critically-acclaimed, smash-hit production, *The Lehman Trilogy*, will open **American Conservatory Theater’s** (A.C.T.) 2020–21 season. *The Lehman Trilogy* will perform a strictly limited four-week engagement at **A.C.T.’s Geary Theater** (415 Geary St., San Francisco) **beginning Friday, September 11 through Sunday, October 11, 2020.**

A.C.T.’s complete 2020–21 season lineup will be unveiled at a special event on **Monday, March 16 at 7 p.m.** at the Geary Theater, coinciding with the public on-sale for season subscriptions. Only 2020–21 season subscribers and donors at the Director level and above will be guaranteed priority access to tickets to *The Lehman Trilogy*. Single tickets will go on sale to the public at a later date. To sign-up for priority access for *The Lehman Trilogy* and A.C.T.’s 2020–21 season, visit www.act-sf.org/lehman.

“We are thrilled to kick off our 2020-21 season with this epic tale of family and finance in pursuit of the American Dream,” said A.C.T. Artistic Director **Pam MacKinnon**. “A massive hit in London and New York City, *The Lehman Trilogy* will be a San Francisco Bay Area must-see event when it lands at our beautiful Geary Theater.”

The story of a family and a company that changed the world, told in three parts on a single evening, *The Lehman Trilogy* is written by **Stefano Massini**, adapted by Olivier Award-nominated **Ben Power**, and directed by multiple Olivier Award, Tony Award® and Oscar Award winner **Sam Mendes** (*The Ferryman*, “Skyfall”, “1917”).

Weaving together nearly two centuries of family history, this epic theatrical event and *New York Times* Critics’ pick charts the humble beginnings, outrageous successes, and devastating failure of the financial institution that would ultimately bring the global economy to its knees. 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. One hundred and sixty three years later, the firm they establish—Lehman Brothers—spectacularly collapses into bankruptcy and triggers the largest financial crisis in history. *The Lehman Trilogy*, “a ticket worth selling your gilt-edged securities for” (*New York Times*), is the quintessential story of western capitalism, rendered through the lens of a single immigrant family.

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 and 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**. **Casting to be announced.**

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 July 4, 2018, before its North American premiere at the Park Avenue Armory 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 subsequently opened May 11, 2019, for a 16-week sold-out West End run at the Piccadilly Theatre. A limited Broadway engagement of *The Lehman Trilogy*, presented in association with Scott Rudin Productions, begins previews at the Nederlander Theatre on March 7 with an opening night on March 26, 2020. Following the San Francisco engagement, *The Lehman Trilogy* will play a limited-engagement at The Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles from October 15–November 28, 2020.

A.C.T.’s production of *The Lehman Trilogy*, **in memory of Nancy Livingston Levin**, is made possible by **Ray and Dagmar Dolby Fund; Frannie Fleishhacker; Priscilla and Keith Geeslin; Fred M. Levin in honor of Nancy Livingston Levin, The Shenson Foundation; and Anonymous.**

Recent Broadway productions from the **National Theatre** include *Network* (Tony Award® for Best Actor in a Play for Bryan Cranston); *Angels in America*, the most nominated play in Tony Award history (three Tony Awards including Best Revival of a Play; Drama Desk Award; Drama League Award; Outer Critics Circle Award); and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (five Tony Awards including Best New Play; Drama Desk Award; Drama League Award; Outer Critics Circle Award). *Hadestown*, winner of eight Tony Awards, is currently playing at the Walter Kerr Theatre and embarks on a US tour, including to the Ahmanson Theatre, in Autumn 2020. 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. *The Jungle* will return to St Ann's Warehouse in April.

Neal Street Productions' recent Broadway hits include *The Ferryman* (four Tony Awards, including Best Play and Best Director of a Play) and film includes "1917," which recently won two Golden Globes for Best Motion Picture and Best Director (Sam Mendes).

Stefano Massini's work has been translated into 22 languages and performed around the world. His plays have been directed by Luca Ronconi, Lluís Pasqual, Arnaud Meunier, Irina Brook, Anton Kouznetsov, 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.

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).

Sam Mendes founded and ran the Donmar Warehouse in London for ten years. He was the founding director of Neal Street Productions and The Bridge Project. His work has been seen at the National Theatre, RSC, Royal Court, Old Vic, Young Vic, BAM, the West End and on Broadway. Film includes *American Beauty*, *Road to Perdition*, *Jarhead*, *Revolutionary Road*, *Away We Go*, *Skyfall*, *Spectre* and *1917*. Awards include the Academy Award for Best Director, 5 BAFTA Awards, 3 Golden Globe Awards, 2 Tony Awards, 5 Olivier Awards, the Olivier Special Award, 3 Evening Standard Awards, the PGA award, 2 Directors Guild of America Awards and the Shakespeare Prize. He has also won the Director's Guild Award for lifetime achievement. He was made a CBE in 2000, and knighted in 2020 for services to drama.

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 and schools through performance and writing

programmes like Connections, New Views and Let's Play, while Public Acts creates ambitious new works of participatory theatre in sustained partnership with theatres and community organisations around the country. 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 National Theatre Collection, which makes recordings of shows available to UK schools and the global education sector. 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 nationaltheatre.org.uk.

@NationalTheatre

@LehmanTrilogy

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: The Golden Globe Award-winning and Oscar nominated "1917," 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.

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American Conservatory Theater is a Tony Award-winning theater and educational institution dedicated to nurturing the art of live theater through dynamic productions, intensive actor training in its conservatory, and an ongoing engagement with its community. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Pam MacKinnon and Executive Director Jennifer Bielstein, A.C.T. embraces its responsibility to conserve, renew, and reinvent our relationship to the rich theatrical traditions and literatures that are our collective legacy, while exploring new artistic forms and new communities. A commitment to the highest standards informs every aspect of A.C.T.'s creative work. Founded by pioneer of the regional theater movement William Ball, A.C.T. opened its first San Francisco season in 1967. Since then, A.C.T. has performed more than 400 productions to a combined audience of more than seven million people. A.C.T. reaches more than 250,000 people through its productions and programs every year. For more information, visit act-sf.org.