

For immediate release

**ORIGINAL CAST MEMBERS SIMON RUSSELL BEALE AND ADAM GODLEY,
JOINED BY BROADWAY COMPANY MEMBER HOWARD W. OVERSHOWN,
WILL APPEAR IN CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED
“THE LEHMAN TRILOGY”
AT CENTER THEATRE GROUP / AHMANSON THEATRE
MARCH 3 THROUGH APRIL 10, 2022**

**Special Los Angeles Engagement
Opens March 6, 2022**

Original London and Broadway cast members **Simon Russell Beale** and **Adam Godley** will reprise their critically acclaimed performances in the Los Angeles engagement of **“The Lehman Trilogy,”** at Center Theatre Group / Ahmanson Theatre from March 3 through April 10, 2022. They are joined by Broadway company member **Howard W. Overshown** to complete the cast of three who portray the Lehman brothers, their sons and grandsons. Written by Stefano Massini, adapted by Olivier Award-nominated Ben Power and directed by multiple Olivier Award, Academy Award and Tony Award winner Sam Mendes, “The Lehman Trilogy” opens on March 6.

Coming to Los Angeles direct from a celebrated run on Broadway — now in its final three weeks with 20 performances remaining until January 2, 2022 — and following sold-out runs at London’s National Theatre, the Park Avenue Armory, and in London’s West End, “The Lehman Trilogy” has been hailed by The New York Times as “a genuinely epic production” with “superb” performances by Russell Beale and Godley. Howard W. Overshown joins the cast having understudied the role of Emmanuel Lehman on Broadway.

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 soon 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. It is the story of a family — and a family business — that would transform and, finally, upend the world.

“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.

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.

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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. Following Broadway's 18-month shutdown, “The Lehman Trilogy” has returned to Broadway — where it had previously played four performances in March 2020 — and is now playing at the Nederlander Theatre for a limited engagement until January 2, 2022.

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); “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time” (five Tony Awards including Best Play; Drama Desk Award; Drama League Award; Outer Critics Circle Award); and “Hadestown,” (eight Tony Awards including Best Musical). 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” (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.

The National Theatre and Neal Street Productions’ “The Lehman Trilogy” is presented in Los Angeles at the Ahmanson Theatre by Center Theatre Group.

The National Theatre’s mission is to make world-class theatre, for everyone. The NT creates and shares unforgettable stories with audiences across the UK and around the world. On its own stages, on tour, in schools, on cinema screens and streaming at home, it strives to be accessible, inclusive and sustainable. The National Theatre empowers artists and craftspeople to make world-leading work, investing in talent and developing new productions with a wide range of theatre companies at its New Work Department. Our nation thrives on fresh talent and new ideas, so the National Theatre works with young people and teachers right across the UK through performance, writing and technical programs to ignite the creativity of the next generation. Together with communities, the NT creates ambitious works of participatory theatre in deep partnerships that unite theatres and local organizations — showing that nothing brings us together like theatre. The National Theatre needs your support to shape a bright, creative future. For more information, please visit nationaltheatre.org.uk. The National Theatre is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. For social media: @NationalTheatre @LehmanTrilogyUS.

Neal Street Productions is one of the UK’s most respected production companies, producing film, television and theatre. Set up in 2003 by Sam Mendes, Pippa Harris and Caro Newling, the company celebrated its 10th Anniversary in 2013, as Nicolas Brown was appointed to the Board of Directors. In 2015 Neal Street moved under the umbrella of parent company, All3Media. All3Media is owned jointly between Discovery Communications and Liberty Global. Neal Street Productions makes distinctive, popular award-winning projects on both sides of the Atlantic. Most recent theatre productions include “The Ferryman” by Jez Butterworth, “Local Hero” by Mark Knopfler & David Greig. www.nealstreetproductions.com.

Center Theatre Group, one of the nation’s preeminent arts and cultural organizations, is Los Angeles’ leading nonprofit theatre company, which, under the leadership of Artistic Director Michael Ritchie, Managing Director / CEO Meghan Pressman and Producing Director Douglas C. Baker, programs seasons at the 736-seat Mark Taper Forum and 1,600 to 2,100-seat Ahmanson Theatre at The Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles, and the 317-seat Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City. In addition to presenting and producing the broadest range of theatrical entertainment in the country, Center Theatre Group is one of the nation’s leading producers of ambitious new works through commissions and world premiere productions and a leader in interactive community engagement and education programs that reach across generations, demographics and circumstance to serve Los Angeles.

Bank of America is Center Theatre Group’s 2021 – 2022 Season Sponsor. Bank of America believes in the power of the arts to help economies thrive, to educate and enrich societies, and to create greater cultural understanding. For more than 20 years, the company has supported Center Theatre Group’s innovative Education and Community Partnerships programs as well as world-class productions. Bank of America is also an instrumental supporter in accelerating Center Theatre Group’s commitment to becoming an anti-racist, equitable, diverse, and inclusive organization.

American Express is the official credit card for Center Theatre Group and the presenting sponsor of the Digital Stage.

Center Theatre Group will continue working closely with The Music Center and L.A. County officials to ensure they are following all applicable health and safety protocols. More information regarding safety updates as well as audience vaccination, testing and mask requirements is available at CenterTheatreGroup.org/Safety.

Tickets for “The Lehman Trilogy” are available through CenterTheatreGroup.org, Audience Services at (213) 972-4400 or in person at the Center Theatre Group Box Office (at the Ahmanson Theatre at The Music Center, 135 N. Grand Avenue in Downtown L.A. 90012).

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December 15, 2021

BIOS

Simon Russell Beale’s theatre career began with plays at the Traverse and Lyceum in Edinburgh. His first London appearance was in William Gaskill’s Royal Court production of “Women Beware Women.” For the National Theatre: “The Lehman Trilogy” (also Park Avenue Armory, New York and West End), “King Lear,” “50 Years on Stage,” “Timon of Athens,” “Collaborators,” “London Assurance,” “Major Barbara,” “Landscape” and “A Slight Ache,” “Much Ado About Nothing,” “The Alchemist,” “The Life of Galileo,” “Jumpers” (also West End and New York), “Humble Boy” (also West End), the title role in

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"Hamlet," "Battle Royal," "Candide," "Summerfolk," "Money," Othello," "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead" and "Volpone." For the RSC: "The Tempest," "King Lear," "Ghosts," the title roles in "Richard III" and "Edward II," "The Seagull," "Troilus and Cressida," "The Man of Mode" and "Restoration." Other theatre includes "The Hothouse" at Trafalgar Studios; "Bluebird" for Atlantic Theatre Company, New York; "Privates on Parade" and "Death Trap" at the Noël Coward; "The Winter's Tale" and "The Cherry Orchard" at the Old Vic, in New York and on an international tour; "Monty Python's Spamalot" on Broadway and in the West End; for the Donmar: "The Philanthropist," "Uncle Vanya," "Twelfth Night" and "Temple;" "Julius Caesar" at the Barbican and on international tour; "Richard II" and "Macbeth" at the Almeida; and "The Duchess of Mal" at Greenwich and Wyndham's. Dance includes "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" for the Royal Ballet. Television includes "Vanity Fair," "Legacy," "Parkinson: Masterclass," "Henry IV Parts 1 and 2," "Spooks," "John Adams," "Dunkirk," "The Young Visitors," "Great Historians: Gibbon," "A Dance to the Music of Time," "Persuasion" and "The Mushroom Pickers." Film includes "The Death of Stalin," "My Week with Marilyn," "The Deep Blue Sea," "The Gathering," "Alice in Wonderland," "An Ideal Husband," "The Temptation of Franz Schubert" and "Hamlet." He has narrated several books and voiced three roles for the Shakespeare CD Series. Narrations for television include presenting "Sacred Victoria," "Symphony" and "Sacred Music." Concerts include "First Night of the Proms," "Stravinsky Promenade" and "Sondheim Birthday Promenade." Simon Russell Beale is an associate artist of the RSC. In 2019 he was awarded a Knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for his services to the Arts.

Adam Godley's work in theatre includes "The Lehman Trilogy" (also Park Avenue Armory, New York and West End), "From Morning to Midnight," "Paul," "Two Thousand Years," "The Pillowman," "Cleo," "Camping," "Emmanuelle and Dick" (Olivier nomination), "Mr A's Amazing Maze Plays," "Watch on the Rhine and "Close of Play" at the National; "The White Devil," "Three Hours After Marriage" and "The General from America" for the RSC; "Anything Goes" (Tony and Drama Desk nominations and Outer Critics' Circle Award-winner) at the Stephen Sondheim, New York; "Mouth to Mouth (Olivier nomination) and "Mr Kolpert" at the Royal Court; "The Critic" at the Royal Exchange; "The Importance of Being Earnest" and "The Rivals" (also West End) at Chichester; "The Front Page" and "Cabaret" at the Donmar; "A Going Concern" and "June Moon" (also West End) at Hampstead; "Private Lives" in the West End and on Broadway (Theatre World Award); and "Rain Man" (Olivier nomination), "The Revengers' Comedies" and "An Inspector Calls" in the West End. Television includes "The Umbrella Academy," "Lodge 49," "The Blacklist," "Powers," "Homeland," "Manhattan," "Fallet," "Breaking Bad," "Mad Men," "Suits," "A Young Doctor's Notebook," "Case Histories," "The Special Relationship," "Suburgatory," "The Spies of Warsaw," "The Sarah Connor Chronicles," "Dollhouse," "Nuremberg," "The Old Curiosity Shop," "The Young Visitors," "The Good Wife," "Harry's Law," "Merlin," "Miss Marple," "In the Dark," "Cor," "Blimey!," "Hawking" and "Moonfleet." Film includes "The Theory of Everything," "The BFG," "Battleship," "Elizabeth – The Golden Age," "Love Actually," "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," "The X-Files," "I Want to Believe," "Son of Rambow," "Thunderpants," "Nanny McPhee," "Wilde Salomé," "And Now Ladies and Gentlemen" and "Around the World in 80 Days." For Samuel Jack Godley.

Howard W Overshown is thrilled to return to the Ahmanson, having played Louis in Ivo Van Hove's "A View From the Bridge" in 2016. Of Mr. Overshown's most recent stage appearance, as Prospero in Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's production of "The Tempest," the New York Times said, "In

Overshown's finely understated interpretation, Prospero's evolution is starkly clear...and we feel him, very subtly, let go of his vengefulness." NY theatre credits include: "A Soldiers Play," with Blair Underwood and David Allen Grier, directed by Kenny Leon; "Saint Joan" with Condola Rashad and "Julius Caesar" with Denzel Washington, both directed by Daniel Sullivan; "Richard III," directed by Sam Mendes; "The Underlying Chris," "Passage," and "YellowMan." You can see Howard in the first season of "Girls5Eva" and the upcoming season of "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel." Other TV credits: "Blue Bloods," "The Affair," "Law and Order," "Madam Secretary," "Fosse/Verdon," "Kings." Films: "Pride and Glory," "Body of Lies," "13," "Never Here," "Grand Street," "Lost Cat Corona."

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 10 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. Films include "American Beauty," "Road to Perdition," "Jarhead," "Revolutionary Road," "Away We Go," "Skyfall," "Spectre" and "1917." Awards include the Academy Award for Best Director and Best Picture and three other Academy Award nominations, five BAFTA Awards, three Golden Globe Awards, two Tony Awards, five Olivier Awards, the Olivier Special Award, three Evening Standard Awards, the PGA award, two 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.