

‘The Lehman Trilogy’ plots its Broadway return

Mark Kennedy
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK – “The Lehman Trilogy” was able to make only four preview performances on Broadway before the pandemic shut its doors. Now it plans to return to tell the story of an American financial giant’s downfall with a new cast member.

Stefano Massini’s play about what led to the collapse of Lehman Brothers – adapted by Ben Power and directed by Sam Mendes – will add Adrian Lester, replacing Ben Miles, and joining Simon Russell Beale and Adam Godley. Producers are aiming for a Sept. 25 reopening at the Nederlander Theatre. Tickets go on sale June 9.

“The antenna of the New York audience is just heaven. They’ve lived that story. They know it better than anybody,” said producer Caro Newling, who oversees theater projects at Neal Street Production. “Audiences were just so alive to every twist and turn and so knowledgeable, of course. And so I hope they’ll come again.”

Spanning 150 years and running three and a half hours, “The Lehman Trilogy” illustrates the trajectory of western capitalism by following the fortunes of a single family into the financial crash of 2008, when their Wall Street institution filed for bankruptcy.

“As we watch the play unfold, we see the family grow in wealth and status, but we have to ask, when does ‘enough’ become ‘too much,’” said Lester. “Their capitalism is at first driven by fear and insecurity, until – years later – it is driven simply by the need to have

more. I am really looking forward getting to work.”

For Lester, it’s a full-circle moment. He was originally asked to be part of the trio of actors when the play first arrived at the National Theatre’s Lyttelton Theatre in 2018. But his schedule never fit. The play went on to have an off-Broadway run and then a West End bow. The English-language version is a marathon: Three actors doing 185 roles.

“I’ll be going into this with one of the best directors in the game, with actors I truly admire, in a play that asks us to tell a story of family that will challenge us physically and intellectually. There is literally nowhere to hide on that stage. In every moment of every show we have to be at our best,” said Lester, who starred in Mike Nichol’s movie “Primary Colors” and earned an Olivier Award in the 1995 London revival of “Company.”

Newling, speaking by phone from London, said she hopes to get productions into San Francisco and Los Angeles next year.

“It’s a story that I think will be endlessly fascinating around the world. Of course, it’s your story. But we all lived with the fallout of it. We understand it differently, but we know how central it is in so many ways to what we’re still trying to understand now.”

For now, she can’t wait to get back into the theater and see the set again.

“We left it there. It’s locked up like Sleeping Beauty. And as long as the mice haven’t chewed through the wires, we’ll be able to walk in and switch the lights on,” she said.



British actor Adrian Lester will replace Ben Miles in “The Lehman Trilogy.” FILE/AP

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BLUE ZONES PROJECT - SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Celebrate Family Health and Fitness Day

By VICTOR ACQUISTA, M.D.
Author, Blue Zones Immokalee/Ave Maria Leadership Committee

Local opportunities abound for you and your family to celebrate Family Health and Fitness Day on June 12th. Now is the time to take advantage of the many beautiful parks, beaches, and other fantastic outdoor recreational spaces throughout Collier County. And, let's not forget the Paradise Coast Sports Complex as yet another place to have fun together as a family. Whether it's parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, adults, seniors, or teens, recreating together is a way to improve health, strengthen family ties, create memories, improve well-being, and have fun.

Healthy Families Have Fun Together

Think of fun experiences you've enjoyed with your family camping, hiking, biking, swimming, and boating. Doing these things together enhances the fun and the health benefits. Instead of a narrow perspective about health focused solely on individual fitness goals, open yourself to an expanded view of health and well-being where you recognize yourself, your family, and your community as essential considerations. The family unit affords a unique dynamic for supporting and nurturing health. Public health research confirms physical, mental, emotional, and social benefits. These beneficial effects extend beyond short term into long term sustained better health outcomes. It's important to recognize that the healthy or unhealthy choices children and young adults witness in the behaviors they observe by the significant adults in their lives are often modelled. Thus, the healthy choices you make potentially have a huge impact on generations moving forward. Providing positive childhood experiences through fitness and recreation is a great way to enhance your own and your family's health and wellness now and in the future.

Get Up, Get Out, and Go

As a society, we have trended towards more sedentary lifestyles. We often spend unhealthy amounts of time relatively inactive seated at a desk, in front of a computer, watching TV, etc. These sedentary behaviors potentially contribute to obesity, shortened lifespans, and other detrimental health outcomes. The health-promoting benefits of outdoor recreational



activities help to counteract some of the detrimental effects of a sedentary lifestyle. One of the goals in the U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Physical Activity and Health is to promote family involvement in physical activity. This includes low-impact and gentle activities, outdoor games, walking, as well as more vigorous activities.

“In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.” —John Muir

Doing fitness activities together as a family synergistically improves not just our physical well-being; it also improves our emotional well-being. These activities strengthen our muscles and the family bonds and relationships that are essential to living a healthier life. It's time to get moving!

Live Longer, Better with Power 9

Collier County Parks & Recreation is an important partner in well-being and the many park locations throughout Southwest Florida are a great place to practice the Blue Zones Power 9® (a set of principles shared by the longest-lived

and healthiest people in the world). Of the Power 9 principles, three are in perfect alignment with Family Health and Fitness activities. Downshifting is one of the Power 9. Activities such as enjoying recreation with our loved ones are a way to downshift. This helps to relieve stress and reverse aging. Move Naturally is another of these nine principles. Recreation that involves natural movement helps us to burn calories, keep our muscles in good shape, and be healthier. Family First encourages us to invest time with family. That investment can add up to six years to your life.

We are blessed to live in an environment where sunshine, fresh air, and green spaces are abundant. What are you waiting for? Good health beckons. Be active and playful. Enjoy better health and well-being for you and your family. It's as simple as a walk in the park.

Brought to Southwest Florida by NCH Healthcare System, in collaboration with Sharecare, Inc., Blue Zones Project is a vital part of Southwest Florida's well-being improvement initiative that encourages changes in the community that lead to healthier options. For more information about Blue Zones Project Southwest Florida, visit southwestflorida.bluezonesproject.com.