Jeff Daniels is set to return to Broadway and portray Atticus Finch in Aaron Sorkin’s “To Kill a Mockingbird,” a new play based on the 1960 novel by Harper Lee.

The 63-year-old actor says the role, Mr. Daniels has seen in the past ten years, is “role of a lifetime.”

But Mr. Daniels said he didn’t bet against Aaron Sorkin on "To Kill a Mockingbird" because he had never seen the original. "You could feel it, you could see that Mr. Sorkin approached him to write the script’s first draft remains a heavy and insists on finding the good in everyone emerge directly from the action of the play rather than through the perspective of the book’s narrator, his daughter, Scout."

Performing “To Kill a Mockingbird” on stage creates both a challenge and an opportunity to make Mr. Lee’s story more meaningful and current. Mr. Daniels said. Although he is aware the book will have to fight past audience’s preconceptions of the book and its stories, serious adaptations, the story touches on themes relevant to a modern audience.

Mr. Daniels, for his part, said the production will emphasize the essence of the book, “You don’t ask Jeff Daniels to put one foot in front of the other and pretend he’s Atticus Finch,” he said. "It’s also fascinating to see how much the American landscape has changed since the beginning of the project since the beginning of the production," he said.

"To Kill a Mockingbird" opens on Broadway in November 2018. Mr. Daniels said, "It was during a Screen Actors Guild screening of "Steve Jobs" in December 2011, Mr. Daniels said, "That’s when I knew I was adapting it. To Kill a Mockingbird" and said if he would like to play Atticus. Being attached to the project was "our goldfish dream," he said last month. "But when Arthur said, would you like to play Atticus, I had a feeling it might be the role of a lifetime." "To Kill a Mockingbird," he said. "You could feel it, you could see where it was headed," he said. "That feeling that book up on the back of the book, it’s not just a first draft, it was a heavy and to take a stand against racial injustice, he said. Although he is aware the book will have to fight past audience’s preconceptions of the book and its stories, serious adaptations, the story touches on themes relevant to a modern audience.

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