

MATT FORDE TO HOST INDEPENDENT GROUP POLITICAL PARTY SPECIAL WITH ANNA SOUBRY, CHUKA UMUNNA, HEIDI ALLEN AND MIKE GAPES

"Forde is as gratifyingly sane as comedians come... smart, funny ideas" ★ ★ ★ ★ Dominic Maxwell, The Times

It was announced today, 27th February, that **Matt Forde** will be joined by 4 members of the new Independent Group for a *Political Party* special. In a historic move, 8 Labour MPs and 3 Conservative MPs left their parties and have chosen to sit in a new grouping in Parliament. What is the future of the Group? What are their ideas and values? Find out everything you need to know about this new political phenomenon with **Anna Soubry**, **Chuka Umunna**, **Heidi Allen** and **Mike Gapes** on the 5th March at Westminster's The Other Palace.

Tickets are available now mattforde.com

The news arrives as Matt takes his critically acclaimed and continually evolving stand-up show, *Brexit Through The Gift Shop* on a nationwide tour. The show, which sees Matt render the complexities of our tumultuous times, has recently had five extra performances added in London in response to two sell-out performances in the capital in December.

A former advisor to the Labour Party, Matt has hosted four series of *Unspun* on Dave. The highly topical political comedy chat received a nomination for the *Best Entertainment Programme* Broadcast Digital Award last year, following a nomination for the same award in the previous year. In the lead up to the 2017 General Election, Matt was a regular guest on the *One Show*, commenting on the best and most bizarre moments of the campaign trail. Matt presents Absolute Radio's weekly *Rock n Roll Football Show* and other broadcast credits currently include: *Have I Got News For You* (BBC One), *The Royal Variety Performance* (ITV), *Mock The Week* (BBC Two), *Rory Bremner's Coalition Report* and *Rory Bremner's Election Report* (BBC Two), *Question Time* (BBC One), *This Week* (BBC One), *Newsnight* (BBC Two) and *Daily Politics* (BBC Two).

Matt's London show, *The Political Party*, has been a sell-out during its monthly residency at Westminster's The Other Palace for nearly six years. He has brought Parliament to life with his stand-up and debate with some of politics' most powerful and notorious figures, including **Tony Blair**, **Jacob Rees-Mogg**, **Ed Balls**, **Ruth Davidson**, **Alastair Campbell**, **Michael Portillo**, **Harriet Harman**, **Nigel Farage**, **Neil Kinnock**, **Alan Johnson**, **Lord Prescott**, **Jack Straw** and **Dame Tessa Jowell**. *The Political Party* is now released weekly as a podcast and has amassed over 1 million downloads on Soundcloud, received a 2018 *Best Comedy Podcast* nomination from the British Podcast Awards, is one of The Observer's top political podcasts picks, hit the top spot of the iTunes comedy chart, was highlighted as the Daily Telegraph's podcast of the week and was nominated for the *Internet Award* at the Chortle Awards.

What the Press Have Said About Matt Forde

"Possibly the best political comedy show on the Fringe" ★★★★★ Dominic Cavendish, The Telegraph

"Is there a better political comic than Matt Forde currently working in the UK? I can't think of another to touch him"

★★★★½ Jay Richardson, Chortle

"a stand-up of rare skill" ★★★★★ Stephen Armstrong, The Sunday Times

"Singlehandedly fulfilling comedy's brief of taking our political masters to task. Combining spot-on impressions with up to the minute observations" ★★★★★ Mark Wareham, The Mail On Sunday

★★★★ Veronica Lee, The Arts Desk

★★★★ John Nicholson, The New European

★★★★★ The Herald

For more information and press tickets, please contact: Victoria Wedderburn at vwedderburn@avalon-entertainment.com /
0207 598 7222