

MATT FORDE STARTS WEST END POLITICAL PARTY RESIDENCY WITH ANDY BURNHAM ON THE 27TH SEPTEMBER

"our foremost satirical stand-up...Whatever your politics, you'll find excellence here"

★★★★ Stephen Armstrong, *The Sunday Times*

"Possibly the best political comedy show on the Fringe"

★★★★★ Dominic Cavendish, *The Telegraph*

"Forde is as gratifyingly sane as comedians come... smart, funny ideas"

★★★★ Dominic Maxwell, *The Times*

It was announced today, 17th August, that Matt Forde will start his West End Political Party residency with **Andy Burnham** at The Duchess Theatre on the 27th September. Andy Burnham is the Mayor of Greater Manchester and one of the most powerful Labour politicians in the country. Health Secretary in Gordon Brown's Cabinet, he stood for the Labour Leadership in 2010 and 2015. Since becoming Mayor in 2017 he has been a muscular and outspoken voice for the north of England, resisting restrictions placed on Manchester by both the Westminster and Scottish governments. Popular with Labour members, he is seen as a potential future leader of the party.

After 70 sold out *Political Party* shows at Westminster's The Other Palace, **Matt Forde** has moved to the West End's Duchess Theatre for a fortnightly residency starting on Monday 27th September. Since 2013, Forde has interviewed political figures including **Keir Starmer, Nicola Sturgeon, Sadiq Khan, Jacob Rees-Mogg, Tony Blair, Nigel Farage, Tessa Jowell, Alan Johnson, Tommy Robinson, Michael Heseltine, William Hague** and **George Osborne**.

The UK's leading political podcast has over 6 million downloads and is regularly included in iTunes' Top 10 comedy podcasts. The *British Podcast Award* nominated show was recently listed by Mace Magazine as the Number 1 Political Podcast and by The i newspaper as one of the 50 Greatest Podcasts, adding to top podcast picks in the press from titles including The Observer, The Telegraph, The Guardian, Radio Times and ShortList.

Political Party tickets are available to buy now at mattforde.com

Following record BritBox subscribers, four-year record viewing figures on ITV, and 200 million global views online, Matt is returning to voice puppets and write for the second series of *Spitting Image* premiering on the 11th September.

Matt is currently co-hosting *British Scandal* with **Alice Levine**, a new audio series exploring the gripping stories, fascinating characters and critical questions arising on a journey through some of the biggest UK scandals and available on all major UK podcast platforms. The debut episode shot straight to the *No 1* slot in the Apple podcast chart.

Matt's first book *Politically Homeless* was listed by The Sunday Times as one of the Best Political Books of 2020. The paperback was released in paperback by Quercus in May.

Matt has hosted four series of *Unspun with Matt Forde* on Dave, receiving several nominations at the Broadcast Digital Awards, and has numerous other broadcast credits including: *Have I Got News For You* (BBC One), *The Royal Variety Performance* (ITV), *Mock The Week* (BBC Two), *8 out of 10 Cats* (Channel 4), *Hypothetical (Dave)* *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 currently presents Absolute Radio's weekly *Rock n Roll Football Show*.

For more information and press tickets, please contact: Victoria Wedderburn at VWedderburn@avalonuk.com / 07557160139

What the Press Have Said About Matt Forde

"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

"Matt Forde never fails with his state-of-the-nation address, a mix of bang-on-the-money political takedowns and spot-on impressions"

★★★★ Mark Wareham, Mail On Sunday

"Matt Forde is the consummate political comedian"

★★★★ Tim Cornwell, The Scotsman