

# MATT FORDE'S POLITICAL PARTY EXTENDED AGAIN THROUGH DECEMBER 2023

## NEW GUESTS ANNOUNCED

### SIR KEIR STARMER (SOLD OUT), EDDIE IZZARD, KRISHNAN GURU-MURTHY, RUTH DAVIDSON AND DAVID BLUNKETT

*"Matt Forde's podcast is like Top of the Pops for Westminster...phenomenally popular fortnightly show...refreshingly positive"*

**Patricia Nicol, The Sunday Times**

*"leading political comedian and impressionist...His even-handedness, combined with his comic skillset, have made Forde the darling of politicians as well as punters, even if the parliamentarians are in the firing line of his barbs."*

**Dominic Cavendish, The Telegraph**

*"Forde's Political Party podcasts have become essential listening for both comedy fans and Westminster wonks"*

**Bruce Dessau, The Evening Standard**

*"Forde is a master at the long-form interview and turns sometimes robotic politicians into human beings. This is without doubt the most entertaining and insightful political interview podcast of them all"*

**Iain Dale's Top 50 Political Podcasts, Mace Magazine**

**16<sup>th</sup> February** - Following a successful *Political Party* West End residency extension, **Matt Forde** is extending again through December 2023. The news coincides with **Sir Keir Starmer** (sold-out), **Eddie Izzard**, **Krishnan Guru-Murthy**, **Ruth Davidson** and **David Blunkett** announced for the upcoming guest line-up.

On the **20<sup>th</sup> February**, Matt will interview leader of the Labour Party, **Sir Keir Starmer**. His previous appearance on *Political Party* in 2021 saw him share hilarious stories from his time in law and politics and candidly reflect on how he handles the pressure. Now he's on the brink of becoming our next Prime Minister, this appearance promises to be one of the most talked about yet.

On the **6<sup>th</sup> March**, Matt will be joined by the two-time Emmy-award winning gender-fluid stand-up comedian, actor and activist **Eddie Izzard**, who recently came second in their bid to become Labour's parliamentary candidate for Sheffield Central. One of the greatest stand-up comedians the UK has ever produced, Izzard was named on a list of the biggest private donors to the Labour Party in 1998, and has continued to campaign for the Labour Party.

On the **20<sup>th</sup> March**, Matt interviews Channel 4's longest serving News anchor after the departure of Jon Snow, **Krishnan Guru-Murthy**, following his calls for a black or Asian boss of a UK TV channel. Since joining Channel 4 in 1998, **Guru-Murthy** has covered five British general elections and fronted big events from the Omagh bombing, 9/11, the Mumbai attacks, to special war reports from Syria, Yemen and Gaza.

On the **3<sup>rd</sup> April**, Matt talks to the former Scottish Conservative Leader **Ruth Davidson**, hot off the heels of First Minister of Scotland and Leader of the Scottish National Party **Nicola Sturgeon** resigning, in what promised to be a candid chat about the future of Scottish politics.

On the **22<sup>nd</sup> May**, Matt is joined by one of the biggest beasts in the Labour Party, **David Blunkett**. The former Home Secretary was a defining figure of the last Labour government and remains one of the UK's most respected and influential politicians. Blind from birth, Blunkett advocates for breaking down the barriers and misconceptions around disability.

**Political Party tickets are available to buy now at [mattforde.com](http://mattforde.com)**

After 70 sold out *Political Party* shows at Westminster's The Other Palace, Matt moved to the West End's Duchess Theatre for a fortnightly residency in September 2021 which was subsequently extended in August 2022. Since 2013, Forde has interviewed political figures including **Keir Starmer, Nicola Sturgeon, Tony Blair, Jacob Rees-Mogg, Angela Rayner, Michael Heseltine, Anthony Scaramucci, Alastair Campbell, Gordon Brown** and **Gary Neville**.

The UK's leading political podcast has over 7 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.

Matt has voiced and written for two series of the *Spitting Image*. Since returning in 2020 the show has delivered record subscribers for BritBox UK, the BBC and ITV created streaming platform, as well as picking up huge critical acclaim. Across official social media channels, series content has been hugely popular with over 200 million views globally, three No. 1 trending videos on YouTube and achieved praise across political the political divide. Written by Al Murray, Matt Forde and Sean Foley, *Spitting Image Live* is now treading the boards of The Birmingham Rep through to 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

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 the Best Political Books of 2020.

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: *Spitting Image* (BritBox/ITV), *Have I Got News For You* (BBC One), *The Royal Variety Performance* (ITV), *The Last Leg* (Channel 4), *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](mailto:VWedderburn@avalonuk.com) / 07557160139 or Tara Dein at [Tdein@avalonuk.com](mailto:Tdein@avalonuk.com) / 07584105921

**What the Press Have Said About Matt Forde's Previous Stand-Up Shows**

*"Possibly the best political comedy show on the Fringe"*

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

*"tremendous performance, encapsulating the politics of modern day Britain"*

★★★★★ **Lewis McKenzie, The Herald**

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

★★★★ **Dominic Maxwell, The Times**

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

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

*"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**