



THE KIMMEL CENTER
ACADEMY OF MUSIC
MERRIAM THEATER

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#LovettorLeavelt, a political comedy podcast hosted by former speechwriter and screenwriter Jon Lovett, is coming to the @KimmelCenter, 5/20. More info @kimmelcenter.org. #ArtHappensHere

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**FORMER POLITICAL SPEECHWRITER
JON LOVETT BRINGS HIS POLITICAL COMEDY PODCAST
LOVETT OR LEAVE IT TO THE KIMMEL CENTER'S
MERRIAM THEATER
MAY 20, 2018**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Philadelphia, PA, April 18, 2018) — Jon Lovett, former speechwriter for Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, will bring his hilarious political podcast, *Lovett or Leave It*, to the Merriam Theater, Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. *Lovett or Leave It* is a weekly podcast that marries the entertainment and humor of a variety show with the substance and information of a Sunday Show.

“We are thrilled to have the hysterical Jon Lovett grace the Merriam Theater stage,” said Anne Ewers, President and CEO of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. “The Kimmel Center Cultural Campus values and encourages an open and active discussion of social issues within the Philadelphia community. Lovett offers audiences a means to engage in the discussion of these social issues in a fun and entertaining way.”

On *Lovett or Leave It*, Jon Lovett, *Pod Save America* co-host and a "straight shooter," breaks down the week's news with a rotating panel of comedians, journalists, activists, elected officials and other Friends of the Pod. *Lovett or Leave It* is Crooked Media's only podcast that is recorded in front of a live audience every week, which Lovett demanded in order to fulfill the applause quota in his contract. The show also provides an interactive experience where audience members participate in games and segments in real-

time. The show concludes with a few spins of the "Rant Wheel" in order to find out which blood-boiling topic the panel will create a diatribe about on the fly.

Lovett's unique skill set and credibility in comedy and politics, combined with the rotating panel of sharp and funny guests, provides the audience with a space where they can laugh at the overwhelming absurdity of the news cycle. Featured in *The Guardian*, *The Washington Post*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *CNN's Reliable Sources*, *Salon*, and *Wired*, *Lovett or Leave It* averages 600,000 listens per episode.

Past guests to the podcast have included: actor Kumail Nanjiani, actor Ike Barinholtz, Larry Wilmore, Center for American Progress President Neera Tanden, Teen Vogue writer Lauren Duca, Co-Creator of *The Chappelle Show* Neal Brennan, Creator of *The Office* Stephen Merchant, Congressman and Senate Candidate Beto O' Rourke, Fox Sports host Katie Nolan, comedian Aparna Nancherla, comedian Hari Kondabolu, net neutrality expert Tim Wu, Chuck D., Tom Morello from Rage Against the Machine, and more.

Other featured upcoming performances at the Kimmel Center Cultural Campus include: ***D.L. Hughley: Contrarian*** (May 11, 2018, Merriam Theater), ***Hannibal Buress*** (May 19, 2018, Merriam Theater), and ***An Evening with Jay Leno*** (May 19, 2018, Academy of Music).

Lovett or Leave It
Merriam Theater
May 20, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets

Tickets are on sale now and start at \$25.00. Tickets can be purchased by calling 215-893-1999, online at kimmelcenter.org, or at the Kimmel Center Box Office. Group sales are available for groups of 10 or more and can be purchased by calling 215-790-5883. See kimmelcenter.org for more information.

The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Located in the heart of Center City, Philadelphia, the Kimmel Center's mission is to operate a world-class performing arts center that engages and serves a broad audience through diverse programming, arts education, and community outreach. The Kimmel Center Campus is comprised of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (Verizon Hall, Perelman Theater, SEI Innovation Studio, and the Merck Arts Education Center), the Academy of Music (owned by the Philadelphia Orchestra Association), and the Merriam Theater. The Kimmel Center is also home to eight Resident Companies: The Philadelphia Orchestra, Opera Philadelphia, The Pennsylvania Ballet, The Philly POPS, PHILADANCO, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society and Curtis Institute of Music. With nearly 9,000 seats per night, The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts is the region's most impactful performing arts center, and the second largest in the country. TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, is the season sponsor of the Kimmel Center's 2017-2018 Season. American Airlines is the official airline of Broadway Philadelphia. For additional information, visit www.kimmelcenter.org.

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