

**PRESS RELEASE : INSTIGATE DEBATE at The OXFORD UNION**

**STARTS**

Carl Barat (*The Libertines*), Drew McConnell (*Babyslamble*), John McLure (*Reverend & The Makers*), John O'Sullivan and Mark Donne will debate "**Is the Party Over**" at the Oxford Union this Tuesday as part of '**Instigate Debate**' campaign.

The debate will be informal, led by notable musicians who are attending with the members of the audience able to participate. The event aims to bring debating back to its roots. After the debate is over, the musicians will be performing live. In their own words, "musical anarchy will follow".

Drew McConnell commented on speaking in the Union, "We'll be swanning around with dog-eared copies of Ulysses hanging out our pockets, pretending not to notice when The Rev tags Christchurch."

He added more seriously, "At Instigate we all make it really clear that you don't have to agree with us at all. You can disagree with our opinion. But have an opinion. It is empowering and it matters. If everyone used it, the world would be very different."

Will Chamberlain, the Librarian of the Society and the organiser of the debate said, "It is very exciting for The Union to host an event which provokes debate across a much wider audience, we really look forward to welcoming people who may not have come to debates at the Union before but who are interested in the issues and are drawn in by the successful musicians we have participating."

**ENDS**

Instigate Debate

Tuesday 27th of April 2010, 8.30pm

For additional information, contact [press@oxford-union.org](mailto:press@oxford-union.org) or [librarian@oxford-union.org](mailto:librarian@oxford-union.org)

## About Instigate Debate

Instigate Debate is a not for profit organisation set up by Jon McClure of *Reverend & the Makers* and activist and journalist Mark Donne, with vital support from John O Sullivan, Carl Barat (*The Libertines*), Drew McConnell (*Babysambles*) & Kieran Leonard.

Its remit is to challenge the tabloidization of British culture, the dumbing down of the news media, and to bring the chambers of Parliament to every pub, college and street in Britain.

Instigate has two central strands. Firstly, it is a rolling challenge and competition. ID asks people with mobile phone cameras to deploy them in defence of a meaningful democracy! People are encouraged to politely request – in the street - interviews with police chiefs, MP's, celebrities and CEO's of corporations. ID encourages them to ask questions on the key issues of the day, especially to the celebrities who have replaced news coverage in many UK news outlets. Participants then upload the videos to the ID you-tube channel. The best posts receive a free guerrilla gig in their home for them and friends from a host of well known musicians.

The second, parallel strand to ID is Instigate LIVE. We take the instigate model to pubs, fields, colleges, anywhere that works, and provide an all-star panel, including so far the Secretary of State for Media Ben Bradshaw MP, DJ Steve Lamacq, Bianca Jagger, *Eastenders* actress Melissa Suffield, *Agent Provocateur* owner Joe Corre, numerous MPs, page 3 girls, musicians and senior journalists, we provide prompt cards to the audience and then instigate debate. The best question asked receives a free guerrilla gig. These events have taken place at pubs and in people's houses, and also at festivals such as Latitude and Leeds/Reading.

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