



## PRESS RELEASE

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# Marc Almond to perform at first UK Pride in Hull

Pride in Hull announced today that Marc Almond will perform at the first ever UK Pride, part of Hull UK City of Culture 2017's LGBT 50 events marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexuality.

Pride in Hull is the biggest celebration of LGBT+ culture in the region and it is returning to its original venue of Queens Gardens on 22 July.

Internationally renowned for his acclaimed solo work as well as his career with Soft Cell, Marc will sing songs from his soon-to-be released greatest hits collection, including *Tainted Love* and *Something's Gotten Hold of My Heart*.

Pride in Hull spokesperson, Graham Jenkinson said: "Pride in Hull is going to be absolutely spectacular this year and we're delighted to announce Marc as our first headliner. He's an icon of pop music and we know he'll put on a fantastic show that people will remember for years to come.

"We'll announce more details about what we have planned for this year's event in the coming weeks and months, including lots more acts performing on the main stage - there will definitely be something for everyone!"

Pride in Hull is part of LGBT 50, one of the highlights of Hull 2017's Freedom season, which celebrates the city's unique contribution to liberty, tolerance and emancipation around the world. The event, which runs from 21 to 27 July, includes a collaboration with legendary post-queer performance and events collective, Duckie plus Yorkshire Dance.

Martin Green, CEO and Director of Hull 2017, added: "Marc is a fabulous performer and we're thrilled he will be bringing his special brand of stardust to the Pride in Hull celebrations. It's a special year for the city: not only is it UK City of Culture, but we're hosting the first UK Pride and this will be a highlight of the events we are planning for LGBT 50. It's going to be a great party for Hull's LGBT community and Marc can expect a great reception from the city as a whole."

Graham continued: "We're so pleased to be working with the team behind the City of Culture and with all of the wonderful events happening across the city, the pressure really is on to deliver something spectacular that the LGBT+ community won't forget for a long time.

“We also have the absolute honour of being named the first ever ‘UK Pride’, so we’ll have the eyes of the LGBT+ community across the country and beyond firmly focused on us, we can promise nobody will leave disappointed!”

To stay up to date with the latest news about Pride in Hull, visit [www.prideinhull.co.uk](http://www.prideinhull.co.uk), follow us on Twitter (@PrideInHull) or like us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/prideinhull](http://www.facebook.com/prideinhull))

For more information about LGBT 50, visit [www.hull2017.co.uk/LGBT50](http://www.hull2017.co.uk/LGBT50)

**ENDS**

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## **Notes to editors:**

### **About Marc Almond**

Marc is an internationally acclaimed artist and has sold over 30 million records worldwide after forming Soft Cell with David Ball in 1979. The duo went on to record four albums and had a number of top ten hits including the global classic Tainted Love. Tainted Love broke all records, selling over a million copies in the UK as clocking up the longest run on the U.S billboard top 100 and winning single of the year at the 1981 Brit Awards. Soft Cell's arrangement of the track has been covered many times by artists as diverse as Marilyn Manson and The Pussycat Dolls and has been sampled by a new generation of dance producers for artists, notably Rihanna's SOS.

After scoring a raft of hits with Soft Cell, a diverse and acclaimed solo success followed, with over a dozen albums from Vermin in Ermine, to 2015's Against Nature. Marc also scored a number of solo chart hits including Tears Run Rings, Stories of Johnny, A Lover Spurned, Adored and Explored, Jacky, The Days of Pearly Spencer and Child Star. In 1989 Marc had another number one, a duet with 60's legend Gene Pitney, a cover of one of Gene's hits Something's Gotten Hold of My Heart. It was number one in Britain for five weeks. The accompanying album, The Stars We Are, was Marc's most successful solo album in the USA.

### **Hull UK City of Culture 2017**

**Hull UK City of Culture 2017** is a 365 day programme of cultural events and creativity inspired by the city and told to the world. Hull secured the title of UK City of Culture 2017 in November 2013. It is only the second city to hold the title and the first in England.

**Divided into four seasons**, starting with **Made in Hull**, this nationally significant event draws on the distinctive spirit of the city and the artists, writers, directors, musicians, revolutionaries and thinkers that have made such a significant contribution to the development of art and ideas.

Hull 2017's second season, **Roots and Routes**, runs from April to June and explore Hull's unique place as a gateway to Europe and one of the world's busiest ports. Its maritime history and global connections inspire the stories of the city; this season of work will also celebrate Hull's international links, including Rotterdam, Reykjavik and Freetown.

**Freedom** runs from July to September. Building on the legacy of Hull-born anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce MP, *Freedom* will explore the concept of freedom in all its many forms. The final season, **Tell the World** will run from October to December.

The Culture Company was set up to deliver the Hull 2017 programme and is an independent organisation with charitable status. It has raised £32 million, with over 70 partners supporting the project, including public bodies, trusts and foundations and local and national businesses. The National Lottery has contributed more than £10m of this funding, making the National Lottery the largest single funding body of Hull 2017.

Key contributions are coming from: **Host City** - Hull City Council; **Principal Partners** - Arts Council England, BBC, Big Lottery Fund, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, KCOM, KWL, Spirit of 2012, Yorkshire Water and the University of Hull; **Major Partners** -Associated British Ports, Arco, BP, the British Council, British Film Institute, Green Port Hull, Hull Clinical Commissioning Group, MKM Building Supplies, P&O Ferries, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Sewell Group, Siemens, Smith & Nephew and Wykeland Group.

Hull 2017's International Partners are: Aarhus, Denmark, which is European Capital of Culture 2017; Reykjavik, Iceland; Rotterdam, The Netherlands; and Freetown, Sierra Leone (twinned with Hull). These relationships are reflected in a number of events throughout the year.

For information go to [www.hull2017.co.uk](http://www.hull2017.co.uk) Follow us on Twitter @2017Hull Instagram @2017hull Facebook HullCityofCulture