**PRESS RELEASE: Pride In Hull Announces Marc Almond as its first headline act!**

Pride in Hull is delighted to announce Marc Almond as the first act on a jam packed line-up for the 2017 event that takes place in Queen’s Gardens on Saturday 22 July and has recently been named the first ever ‘UK Pride’.

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 Rihana'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.

2017 is an exciting year for Marc with a planned release of a greatest hits collection and brand new single, as well as embarking on the ‘Hits and Pieces’ tour.

The Pride in Hull celebration is the biggest celebration of LGBT+ culture in the region and it is returning to its original venue of Queen’s Gardens this year. With bigger crowds expected than ever before as the eyes of the nation focus on Hull for 2017 as the UK City of Culture.

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 electric 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!”

**Quote from City of Culture**

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)

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