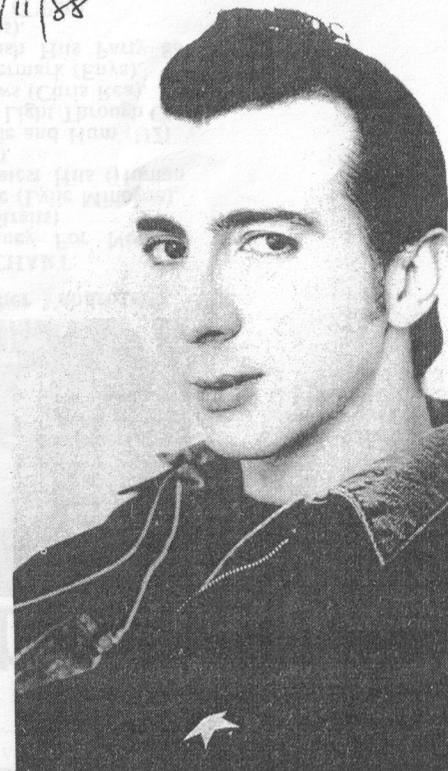


Back from the wilderness with fabulous album

10/11/88



Marc Almond

== Record Review ==

Former Soft Cell vocalist Marc Almond has released a new album on the Parlophone label, entitled "The Stars We Are".

He produced and arranged the LP with Annie Hogan and Billy McGee, both members of La Magia – the group that accompanied him on his recent tour.

The other band members are Steven Humphries on drums and new keyboard and accordion player Mark Edwards.

The pick of the ten tracks is "Tears Run Rings" which was recently a Top Thirty hit single, but "The Sensualist", a slow

tune, should not be missed, and "Something's Gotten Hold Of My Heart" is a great version of Gene Pitney's final Top Ten hit which charted in 1967.

Almond has been somewhat discarded into the wilderness since the demise of Soft Cell some five years ago, but since that time he has been making some fabulous records.

"The Stars We Are" is no exception, and may turn out to be the album that provides him with the wider recognition he so richly deserves.

Following on from the success of their "Greatest Ever Rock 'N' Roll Mix" and "Sixties Mix" albums, Stylus Music have turned

their attention to the next decade with its mixture of disco, glam rock, black funk, ska and punk music, by releasing "The Rare Groove Mix".

This is another sequenced recording featuring 70 clips from hit tunes of the 1970s, including 21 chart-toppers and only two clips of songs that failed to reach the Top 20.

The album is divided into sections of dance mix, pop mix, glam rock mix, and the rock mix.

Naturally everyone will have their own special memories of Seventies music but the highpoints

on the collection for me were "Girls" by the Moments, "Kung Fu Fighting" by Carl Douglas and "Now Is The Time" by Jimmy James and the Vagabonds, reviving memories of their two popular performances in Bognor Regis nightspots at the time.

Adults

Beggars Banquet have released the second and best in the series of three risqué comedy albums by Ivor Biggan on Compact Disc. "More Filth, Dirt Cheap" was first issued on the LP record format in

the autumn of 1981, following up "The Winkers Album" of 1978, and as usual it features Ivor's speciality of twisting the English language with double meanings, although it must be said that he is less subtle and more direct with his humour on this package.

Ivor is of course better known as Doc Cox, one of the stars of B.B.C. Television's "That's Life", and it is interesting to recall that this album was recorded before he made his first appearances on that programme in 1983.

As with "The Winkers Album" this set of songs is strictly for the adult market. The final album in the series "Partners In

Grime", which was released on the LP format this time last year, will be available on CD next month.

LP Chart

- 1 Money For Nothing (Dire Straits)
- 2 Rattle And Hum (U2)
- 3 Kylie (Kylie Minogue)
- 4 Rage (T'Pau)
- 5 Watermark (Enya)
- 6 Smash Hits Party 88 (Various)
- 7 New Light Through Old Windows (Chris Rea)
- 8 Any Love (Luther Vandross)
- 9 Greatest Hits (Bananarama)
- 10 Introspective (Pet Shop Boys)

By Bob Woodhead