



AUSTRALIAN RECORDING
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION



ARIA HALL OF FAME
Wednesday 18th July
Plaza Ballroom, Melbourne

Marcia Hines

Born in Boston on July 20, 1953, as a small child Marcia Hines began singing at church, and made her first solo appearance at the age of nine at a church festival. Three years on Marcia had started singing with rhythm and blues groups around Boston at dances and church socials. When she was fourteen she won a scholarship to the New England Conservatorium Of Music, but only lasted three months. She was much more interested "in the Rolling Stones than Traviata". A month after her sixteenth birthday her babysitter took Marcia along to the famous Woodstock Pop Festival. She was still sixteen when she first arrived in Australia in April 1970.

It was the age of the musical 'Hair' with productions of the hit "rock musical" being mounted all around the world. What the rest of the world didn't have at the time was a huge supply of homegrown black female singers, a necessary commodity for a staging of 'Hair'. Back in Boston Marcia's best friend told her how her sister Donna Summer had gone to Germany to appear in their 'Hair', and suggested that Marcia might do the same. When Marcia auditioned for Harry M Miller's Australian 'Hair' she half-imagined she was going to Austria!

Despite the fact that she was pregnant for much of her time touring with the Australian production of 'Hair' Marcia won the hearts of audiences with the quality of her performances and, after the birth of daughter Deni, she became the first black singer in the world to play Mary Magdalene in 'Jesus Christ Superstar'. When that show ended in February 1974 Marcia signed on as singer with the jazz-orchestra the Daly-Wilson Big Band, which included a tour of Australia, a recital at the White House in Washington, supporting B.B. King and Wilson Pickett in Las Vegas and a month-long tour of Russia. But Marcia's future was in her adopted Australia.

She signed a solo recording deal in July 1974 with Wizard Records (run by the former Rob EG, Robbie Porter), and released her version of James Taylor's 'Fire And Rain', produced by Robbie. From the moment she sang that song in a single spotlight sitting on a stool on 'Countdown' the record's fate was assured. The single reached the top twenty nationally, but more importantly, her debut album 'Marcia Shines' went on to sell well over 500,000 copies. Another heralded the second album, October 76's 'Shining', recorded in Los Angeles, even bigger hit, Marcia's version of Dusty Springfield's 'I Just Don't Know What To Do With Myself'. As she toured, supported by the cream of Australian musicians (including Mark Kennedy, Jackie Orszaczky, Stephen Housden, Sunil De Silva) 'Shining' topped the 150,000 sales figure. In 1976, 1977 and 1978 Marcia was crowned Queen Of Pop in Australia. In 1977 she reached the national #1 single spot with 'You'.

Between December 1975 & January 1980 Marcia achieved 5 top 5 singles and between 1977 & 78 Marcia became Australia's #1 selling local act and the #1 concert attraction for four consecutive years 1976 - 1979. After she returned to recording via Warner Brothers, Marcia returned to the charts with great success including a duet with her old Superstar mate Jon English titled 'Jokers & Queens'. In 1982 the release of her 'Greatest Hits Volume 1' album gave Marcia the extraordinary distinction of being the first Australian female performer to release 7 consecutive top 20 albums

In the years that followed Marcia Hines faded in and out of Australia's consciousness making irregular concert & TV appearances in line with her own personal needs (bringing up her daughter Deni, relationships, the onset of and dealing with diabetes). In 1993 she returned to the stage in the hit musical, 'Jerry's Girls'. In 1994 she released 'Right Here Right Now', her first album in 12 years and toured nationally for the first time in 7 years as well as taking up Australian citizenship.

Marcia then spent two years with the Rockmelons working on 1999's 'Time Of Our Lives' with songs sourced from all over the world. Also in '99 Marcia made a stunning appearance at the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras and she gave another triumphant performance at the opening of The Sydney Olympic Stadium. A great highlight of her career was the selection of Marcia's recording of "Rise" as the official song for the Australian Olympic team at the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

In September of 2001 Pan MacMillan published Marcia's authorized biography 'Diva' and a companion album of the same name, while in 2002 she starred in the lead role of Roxie Rochelle in the 70s themed musical 'Oh What A Night' and later in the year Marcia toured with her own 70s revival show 'I Will Survive'. In 2003 Marcia Hines became a judge on Australian Idol where over the years since she has developed a reputation as "the nice judge". In 2004 Marcia released an album of covers called 'Hinesight - Songs From The Journey'. In 2006 Marcia Hines released an album titled 'Discotheque' containing her versions of 14 disco classics returning her to where she belongs - in the Top 10 of the National ARIA charts.

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