Culture Club Coming to Costa Mesa for One-Night-Only Concert at Segerstrom Center for the Arts

Wednesday, November 9, 2016 in Segerstrom Hall; tickets on sale September 16

COSTA MESA, CA – It’s going to be a totally awesome evening at Segerstrom Center for the Arts when one of the biggest pop acts of the ’80s, Culture Club, takes to the stage performing a string of their popular hits, including “Do You Really Want To Hurt Me,” “Karma Chameleon,” “I’ll Tumble 4 Ya,” “Time (Clock Of The Heart)” as well as selections from their most recent album, Tribes. This tour features the original band line-up, with front man Boy George, guitarist Roy Hay, bass guitarist Mikey Craig and drummer Jon Moss.

Single tickets start at $59 and go on sale Friday, September 16 at 10 a.m. and will be available online at www.SCFTA.org, at the Box Office at 600 Town Center Drive in Costa Mesa or by calling (714) 556-2787.

Segerstrom Center for the Arts applauds Kia, Official Automotive Partner of the Center and United Airlines, Official Airline of the Center.

Culture Club was one of the biggest pop bands of the ’80s, racking up seven straight Top 10 hits in the U.K. and nine Top 10 singles in the U.S. Central to the band’s appeal was the flamboyant front man Boy George, whose cross-dressing and heavy make-up created an image which was completely unique on the pop scene. George was also noted for his biting wit, frequently coming up with cutting quips that won Culture Club media
exposure on both sides of the Atlantic.

Culture Club grew out of the ashes of Sex Gang Children, formed by George and bassist Mikey Craig. Drummer Jon Moss and guitarist Roy Hay came on board, and by 1981 the band had been renamed. Although they drew influence from the New Romantic movement, Culture Club was also inspired by the music and fashion of Northern Soul, which helped to create a broader appeal.

Early in 1982, a deal was signed with Virgin Records, but success eluded the band until the release of their third single in the autumn, the massive breakthrough hit “Do You Really Want To Hurt Me.” Shortly after this, Culture Club’s debut album *Kissing To Be Clever* climbed to No.5 on the U.K. charts, while another non-album single, “Time (Clock Of The Heart)” reached No.3. The band’s U.S. success followed early in 1983 with the album and both singles riding high in the charts. A third single, “I'll Tumble 4 Ya” was taken from the album in the U.S., providing additional Top 10 success.

By the time their second album *Colour By Numbers* was released in autumn 1983, Culture Club was the most popular pop group in the world. *Colour By Numbers* spawned “Karma Chameleon,” a transatlantic No.1, which sold more than five million copies worldwide. Meanwhile the album was kept off the U.S. No.1 spot for six consecutive weeks by Michael Jackson’s record-breaking “Thriller.” However the band’s third album, 1984’s *Waking Up With The House On Fire*, failed to repeat their earlier success with the critics and on the charts. Its lead single, “The War Song” was their final Top 10 hit of the decade on both sides of the Atlantic.

George began a long battle against drug dependence, confirming the group’s break-up in 1987. That year he released his first solo single, a cover of the reggae classic “Everything I Own,” which rode a wave of public sympathy that culminated in a U.K. No.1.

Culture Club reunited in 1998, releasing the two-disc set *VH1 Storytellers/Greatest Hits*. The first captures the band live in the VH1 studios tackling both old and new material while the second is a compilation of re-mastered hits. The band also had a No.4 hit in the U.K. that year with “I Just Wanna Be Loved.”

Culture Club was the first band since The Beatles to achieve three top 10 hits from their debut album on the Billboard chart. Their hit single, “Time (Clock of the Heart)” has also been included on the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame’s list of 500 songs that shaped rock and roll.

Currently the band has announced the second half of its North American tour, with dates in both Canada and the United States. This will be the first time in more than a decade that the band has reunited to perform. In November 2014, they released their debut single, “More Than Silence” from their latest album, *Tribes.*
Segerstrom Center for the Arts is an acclaimed arts institution as well as a beautiful multi-disciplinary cultural campus. It is committed to supporting artistic excellence on all of its stages, offering unsurpassed experiences, and to engaging the entire community in new and exciting ways through the unique power of live performance and a diverse array of inspiring programs.

Previously called the Orange County Performing Arts Center, Segerstrom Center is Orange County’s largest non-profit arts organization. In addition to its six performance venues, Segerstrom Center is also home to the American Ballet Theatre William J. Gillespie School, where students ages 3 – 14 are taught by acclaimed teachers utilizing the renowned ABT National Training Curriculum in studios utilized by the world’s greatest dancers and choreographers.

The Center presents a broad range of programming for audiences of all ages, including international ballet and dance, national tours of top Broadway shows, intimate performances of jazz and cabaret, contemporary artists, classical music performed by renowned chamber orchestras and ensembles, family-friendly programming, free performances open to the public from outdoor movie screenings to dancing on the plaza and many other special events.

The Center’s education programs are designed to inspire young people through the arts and reach hundreds of thousands of students each year. In addition to the presenting and producing institution Segerstrom Center for the Arts, the 14-acre campus also embraces the facilities of two independently acclaimed organizations: Tony Award®-winning South Coast Repertory and a site designated as the future home of the Orange County Museum of Art.

Segerstrom Center for the Arts is also proud to serve as the artistic home to three of the region’s major performing arts organizations: Pacific Symphony, the Philharmonic Society of Orange County and the Pacific Chorale, who contribute greatly to the artistic life of the region with annual seasons at Segerstrom Center for the Arts.
CULTURE CLUB
Segerstrom Center for the Arts – Segerstrom Hall
Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa, CA

Tickets - Start at $59; tickets go on sale September 16
In person - The Box Office
              600 Town Center Drive
              Costa Mesa, CA 92626
              Open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily

Online - SCFTA.org
Phone - (714) 556-2787
        Open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily

Group Sales - (714) 755-0236

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