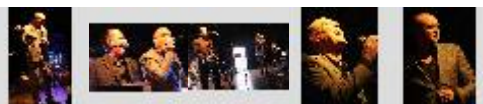


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By John Quinn

IT took them a long time to steel themselves and pluck up enough courage to play live, but Heaven 17 just can't stop themselves nowadays.

After spending most of their lengthy career not doing concerts they now seem sealed to the stage, making their third appearance in the area in less than two years.

They last played locally at Sheffield Arena during the Steel City tour, but the latest venue was arguably as unusual a choice as that for their earlier show from the roof of Hallam University.

Magna Science and Adventure Centre - a former factory on the outskirts of Rotherham - also hosted the last-ever concert by Sheffield act, Pulp.

Heaven 17 founder Martyn Ware has spoken about how his early musical influences included the sounds from steelworks, while singer Glenn Gregory's dad worked for another firm mere minutes away.

So it seemed the ideal venue for a special concert to celebrate the 30 years since they first came into being, following Ware and the now-absent Ian Craig Marsh's departure from the original Human League and the recording of their debut album, *Penthouse And Pavement*. To celebrate this they decided to play that album in full for the first time.

It attracted a fair crowd on a sub-zero night, mostly made up of nostalgia-seeking 30 and 40-somethings, but with a smattering of younger people as well.

It was *Penthouse and Pavement* that most people came to hear and Martyn, Glenn and their band seemed

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happy and surprised at how fresh it sounded and the reception they received .

Of course they also did their biggest ever hit from a later album, Temptation, and also surprised many with their version of the Human League's debut single, Being Boiled. Now they plan to tour the show across Europe.

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