



Marc Priestley

AUTHOR · MEDIA PERSONALITY · SPORTS PERSONALITY

High-stakes execution exposes organisations that look strong on paper but fall apart under pressure. The teams that hold together in those moments share a structural advantage: clear roles, ruthless feedback, and trust built before the stakes arrive. Most leadership teams do not know whether they have it until they need it.

Marc Priestley is a former McLaren Formula 1 mechanic, broadcaster and author who shows leadership teams how elite pit-stop crews build the trust, communication and decision-making discipline that hold up under pressure.

Marc Priestley's 2026 Biography

Why organisations work with Marc Priestley

- He spent a decade inside McLaren Racing during a Drivers' Championship-winning era, and can describe how a thirty-second pit-stop is engineered, rehearsed and recovered when something goes wrong. Few speakers have lived that operational tempo.
- His material is structured around the actual mechanics of high-performance teams: role clarity, debrief culture, marginal gains, and how senior figures handle blame after a public failure. Not motivational; operational.
- His broadcast work for BBC, Sky Sports F1 and ESPN, plus Discovery's Wheeler Dealers, makes him a natural choice when the brief calls for a speaker who can also host, moderate or anchor a programme.
- His two books, *The Mechanic* and *Pitlane Lessons*, give a senior audience a written through-line they can recommend internally after the session.

Biography highlights

- McLaren Racing F1 mechanic, 2000-2009, including Number One Mechanic and pit-stop crew duties.
- Part of the McLaren team during Lewis Hamilton's 2008 Drivers' Championship season.
- Author of *The Mechanic: The Secret World of the F1 Pitlane* (Yellow Jersey, 2017).
- Author of *Pitlane Lessons: What F1 Can Teach You About Life and Work*, foreword by Jake Humphrey.
- Co-host of *Wheeler Dealers* on Discovery alongside Mike Brewer.
- Broadcaster and pundit for BBC, Sky Sports F1 and ESPN; founder of the *Pitlane Life Lessons* Podcast.

AVAILABLE FOR

- Consultancy
- Event Hosting
- Panel Participation
- Speaking
- TV and Media

MARC'S SPEAKING THEMES

- Motivation and Inspiration
- Peak Performance
- Storytelling & Business Communication
- Team Leadership

LANGUAGES: English

Biography

A McLaren pit-stop in 2008 took just under three seconds. The crew had rehearsed it thousands of times, knew exactly what each pair of hands would do, and had a debrief structure for every error. Marc Priestley spent a decade inside that environment, working his way up to Number One Mechanic before leaving the team in 2009.

What he carried out of the paddock was a precise model of how a high-performance operation actually runs. Role design, communication protocols, blameless debriefs, recovery discipline after a public mistake. His keynote work translates those mechanics for senior leaders who recognise the pattern in their own teams: the failure under pressure that nobody had stress-tested for.

Two books anchor the material. *The Mechanic*, published by Yellow Jersey, is a behind-the-scenes account of life inside an F1 team. *Pitlane Lessons*, with a foreword by Jake Humphrey, applies the operating principles to leadership and work. Both give buyers a written reference point alongside the keynote.

The broadcasting career runs parallel. Priestley is an analyst and pit-lane reporter for Sky Sports F1, has worked for the BBC and ESPN, hosts the Pitlane Life Lessons Podcast and co-presents Discovery's *Wheeler Dealers* with Mike Brewer. That range is why corporate clients book him for keynotes, panel chairing and full-event hosting from the same brief.

Key speaking topics

- High-performance teamwork under time pressure
- Communication in operationally complex environments
- Marginal gains and continuous improvement
- Debrief culture and recovery after failure
- Decision-making in time-critical settings
- Leadership lessons from elite motorsport
- Event hosting, moderation and panel chairing

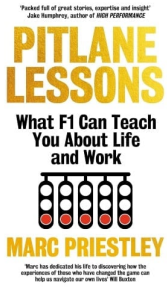
Ideal for

- Senior leadership teams looking to stress-test how their organisation behaves under operational pressure.
- COOs, transformation leads and operations directors responsible for complex, time-critical execution.
- Sales and engineering leadership groups using offsites to reset team standards and feedback culture.
- Conference organisers who need a speaker who can also host, moderate or anchor the programme.

Audience outcomes

- A clearer picture of how elite teams design roles so individuals can act fast without waiting for permission.
- A practical reference for blameless debriefs and how senior people respond after a public error.
- Named examples from inside an F1 team that translate to corporate operational settings.
- A framework for thinking about marginal gains as a discipline, not a slogan.

MARC'S LATEST BOOKS



Pitlane Lessons: What F1 Can Teach You About Life and Work

Marc Priestley's 2026 speaking fees

Specific fees fall within the ranges shown. These are presented as a guide only and are subject to change without notice.

	EUR	GBP	USD
Home Country	€12000 to €40000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000
Asia Pacific	€12000 to €40000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000
Europe	€12000 to €40000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000
Middle East & Africa	€12000 to €40000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000
South America	€12000 to €40000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000
United Kingdom	€12000 to €40000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000
US East Coast	€12000 to €40000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000
US West Coast	€12000 to €40000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000
Virtual	Please enquire	Please enquire	Please enquire