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Dusty's unsung heroes

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Author

Topic

Clive
I'll try anything
☆☆



1455 Posts

Posted - 20/06/2009 : 17:42:48

I thought it would be an idea to have a thread dedicated to those individuals who had an effect on Dusty's career or legacy ,but who do not get much recognition.

For a start Nikke Slight , who worked for the Pet Shop Boys management office and was the person who suggested Dusty for the What Have I Done To Deserve This duet.

She knew Neil Tennant was a Dusty fan but who know who they might have chosen if Dusty's name hadn't been mentioned by Nikke that day in the office.

This undoubtedly changed the course of Dusty's career. I wonder if Dusty ever met Nikke later?

Incidentally Nikke Slight (I'm assuming the same person) is now an executive at Atlantic Records which is a nice coincidence.

Anybody else got anyone you'd like to mention? Not necessarily an unknown, just someone you feel hasn't got enough credit.

dancer8595
Little by little
★



United Kingdom
690 Posts

Posted - 20/06/2009 : 17:46:18

Clive, this is a great, GREAT idea for a thread. I shall have a think and get back to you!

Rosie x

"she's a sweetheart except when she's moody/it's hard to get through to her then..."



Baby Blue
Where am I going?
☆☆☆



USA
3185 Posts

Posted - 20/06/2009 : 21:05:59

I hope I understand the point of your thread correctly, two people come to mind immediately and they both are New York radio DJ's Cousin Brucie and Murray the "K".

Murray the "K" was responsible for ALL the Brooklyn Fox Shows (there were many of them with different performers). This was the beginning of Dusty's solo career and her American launch in the greater New York area. Maybe I should reword this thread to say what did Dusty do for Motown in the UK! :))

Perhaps these thoughts are a bit off-beat , but I do think that both Cousin Bruce and Murray the "K" received little credit.

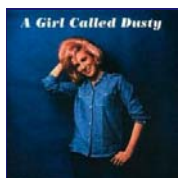
Marty



Cardiff Bluesgirl
I'll try anything
☆☆

Posted - 20/06/2009 : 22:24:24

well I would say Pat Rhodes, as she was there for all the early years



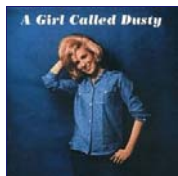
United Kingdom
1809 Posts

Baby Blue
Where am I going?
★★★



USA
3185 Posts

andyp
I start counting



Australia
75 Posts

when Dusty took hours to get anywhere etc. If Dusty hadnt had Pat around her we probably wouldnt have seen Dusty half the time we did.

"every day I find you're in my heart and on my mind"

liz.



Posted - 20/06/2009 : 22:33:02

I also thought of Pat Rhodes, but I really do think she does credit and lots of respect, which she certainly does deserve.

Marty



Posted - 21/06/2009 : 06:15:21

I totally agree Liz. Pat is a wonderful person and probably Dusty's best friend. Dusty would have been lost without Pat. She was the one person Dusty always turned to in time of need - that's what friends are for.

quote:

Originally posted by Cardiff Bluesgirl

well I would say Pat Rhodes, as she was there for all the early years when Dusty took hours to get anywhere etc. If Dusty hadnt had Pat around her we probably wouldnt have seen Dusty half the time we did.

"every day I find you're in my heart and on my mind"

liz.

Andyp



Kathy
Wasn't born to follow
★★★★★



Australia
6508 Posts

Posted - 21/06/2009 : 07:36:08

Dusty's friend, Helene Sellery who was there through many of her dark days, gave her a place to stay, was a loyal and true friend to the end of Dusty's days, and who went with her on her last trip to Ireland.

xx
Kathy



MissDustyFanatic
Where am I going?
★★★



USA
2606 Posts

Posted - 21/06/2009 : 07:59:56

Though this may sound a bit cheeky, I think her cats, particularly Nicholas and Malaysia, deserve some credit. We always look at them as the ones who Miss Dusty took care of, but I think it was almost the other way around...when her music career wasn't going so well, they gave her a reason to go on and keep trying. They gave her some peace of mind at a time in her life when it wasn't easy to come by.

"I've got to be where my spirit can run free..."

Edited by - MissDustyFanatic on 21/06/2009 09:12:44



Clive
I'll try anything
★★



1455 Posts

Posted - 22/06/2009 : 13:44:44

Taylor, I never would have thought of Dusty's cats!, but you're right they were hugely important to Dusty .

Kathy , yes Helene Sellery-I first heard of her in the Definitely Dusty documentary, she seemed like a lovely lady and I would have liked to hear more of what she had to say.

Liz and Andy , agree Pat Rhodes-loyalty personified.

And Marty, yes Cousin Brucie and Murray the "K". They must have been key in getting Dusty known in the US, pity she didn't have DJ radio support like theirs later in her career.

Someone else I'd like to include is Jim Pierson, I really don't know much about him but he seems to have been influential in getting the material on the *Beautiful Soul* and *Heart And Soul* CDs released. I wonder has he any other Dusty projects in mind, I hope so.



Kathy
Wasn't born to follow
★★★★★



Australia
6508 Posts

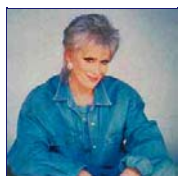
Posted - 22/06/2009 : 13:48:32

Clive, I don't know if you have read *Dancing with Demons*, but there is more about Helene and her friendship with Dusty there. Amazingly when they met (at AA) Helene knew Dusty only as Mary O'Brien--as a classical music buff she had never heard of Dusty Springfield at that time!! It was Helene's friends that first told her that her new friend was Dusty! Lovely story 😊

xx
Kathy



Clive
I'll try anything
★★



1455 Posts

Posted - 22/06/2009 : 13:53:10

thanks Kathy, I think the fact that Helene's friendship had nothing to do with Dusty's fame must have been good for Dusty, she liked her for herself. Sadly I believe Helene passed away a few years ago.



Kathy
Wasn't born to follow
★★★★★



Australia
6508 Posts

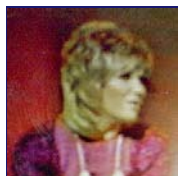
Posted - 22/06/2009 : 14:47:03

Yes. I was aware that Helene had passed away.

xx
Kathy



Sara
I'll try anything
★★



Posted - 22/06/2009 : 18:16:02

Another vote here for the cats! Yeah, they were her babies 😊

Sara x



1163 Posts

Clive
I'll try anything
★★



Posted - 26/06/2009 : 07:42:49

Dezo Hoffman, photographer who took many of the classic iconic shots of Dusty, including the *A Girl Called Dusty* album cover.



1455 Posts

humboldt
I'll try anything
★★



Posted - 26/06/2009 : 16:04:24

The late Johnny Franz comes to mind. He was a UK record producer and A&R man at the Philips label.



Humboldt

United Kingdom
1704 Posts

memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
★★★



Posted - 26/06/2009 : 21:46:40

I'm glad to know about and see Dezo Hoffman. Thanks Clive.

Memphis
Ever since we met...

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 26/06/2009 21:47:25

United Kingdom
3565 Posts

Sue
Little by little
★



Posted - 27/06/2009 : 02:12:53

One person i thought of was Fred Perry. According to the Paul Howes Complete Dusty Springfield book, Fred was Dusty's lighting director for almost every stage, club and concert appearance she made. In the 2001 paperback edition of this book, page 97 shows a lovely photo of Dusty and Fred, sorry i haven't got a scanner, but the photo speaks for itself.

Also, agree about the cats, and Pat Rhodes, wonderful woman. Wasn't it Pat who once said that Dusty was like a daughter to her? I could be wrong. Another person i've always admired is Simon Bell who gave up so much in order to move in with her and care for Dusty in her final months, great guy.

Sue xx

daydreamer
Moderator
★★★★

Posted - 27/06/2009 : 07:43:13



United Kingdom
5404 Posts

To me, Vic Billings never gets the credit he deserved. He guided Dusty's career in the sixties, probably pushing and cajoling a star who didn't always want to do what was needed of her. Dusty admitted to being basically lazy and people like Pat, Fred and Vic would be the ones who took care of everything for her. Since Dusty's death, we always seem to hear or read about Vicki being Dusty's manager.....not when it really mattered she wasn't.

Sue, it would have been Pat's mum you were thinking of rather than Pat. She signed her card at the funeral "2nd Mum, Mrs Rhodes" if I remember right.

Carole x

"There's a part of you that's a part of me..."



trek007
I'll try anything
★★

Posted - 27/06/2009 : 10:43:11



United Kingdom
1100 Posts

Very good point about Vic Billings...he hardly gets a mention when there is talk of managers on TV etc.He was as important as Oldham was to the Stones and Epstein was to The Beatles.

He was certainly the force behind the star in the 60's.

I remember Madeline saying if Dusty said she wasn't going to do something...Vic would say okay they'll sue you not me, and she would ring him back later and say okay I'll do it!!He knew how to handle her!!

Trek.
often called Carole.



Sue
Little by little
★

Posted - 27/06/2009 : 15:33:02



United Kingdom
428 Posts

Carole: You've cleared up a small mystery for me, thank you. In photo's Dusty and Pat looked roughly the same age! And i agree about Vic Billings, we hardly ever hear his name these days. Is he still alive?

Sue xx



trek007
I'll try anything
★★

Posted - 27/06/2009 : 23:28:44



United Kingdom
1100 Posts

No, Vic died a few years ago.

Trek.
often called Carole.



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