

Let's Talk Dusty!

The Ultimate Forum for Dusty Springfield Fans
<http://www.dustyspringfield.org.uk/forum/>

Dusty in "Gay News"

<http://www.dustyspringfield.org.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?f=8&t=5056>

Dusty in "Gay News"

by **PeelMeAGrape**

Page 1 of 1

Posted: **Sun Apr 21, 2013 8:55 pm**

Gay News UK, 4. Dusty Springfield: Keith Howes r...



This video was recently posted by Keith Howes, former editor of "Gay News" magazine in the late '70s. He describes a rather sad meeting he had with Dusty on her return to the UK in the '70s. Does anyone know anything more about it? Is the interview available to read somewhere? I'd kill for a copy of that page with "Het of the Month" over Dusty's photo. 😞

(I'm sorry if this has been discussed somewhere before, but I did some searching and nothing similar came up.)

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **nevertoolate**

Posted: **Sun Apr 21, 2013 10:57 pm**

I found this really interesting Anna thanks for posting and, yes, sad. This may sound a silly question but did Dusty ever actually 'come out' as such, or was it just inferred from her lifestyle? It must be so difficult when you're in the public eye. It's difficult enough when you're not!

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **nevertoolate**

Posted: **Sun Apr 21, 2013 11:04 pm**

This is available on Amazon

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/aw/d/0304333972>

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **allherfaces**

Posted: **Sun Apr 21, 2013 11:31 pm**

nevertoolate wrote:

I found this really interesting Anna thanks for posting and, yes, sad. This may sound a silly question but did Dusty ever actually 'come out' as such, or was it just inferred from her lifestyle? It must be

That's not an either/or question IMO. She DID, courageously IMO, "come out" long before others did in her comment about being capable of being swayed by one sex as the other. Many who came out as "bi" were "really" "gay." Some think Dusty's rejection of the "lesbian" label was that that equaled a "big butch lady," which she wasn't. There are plenty of people who say Dusty was lesbian and plenty who insist she was bi. She certainly made statements like "I'm none of the above." Perhaps she thought by "coming out" so early it would put people to rest, but the press dogged her the rest of her life. Perhaps she blurted it out from sheer frustration of having already been dogged.

And then the term "out" is relative as well. Apparently it was well known she wasn't straight in inner circles. And good lord, if she had been public about that in the sixties, I doubt we would have ever heard all that wonderful music from her. There is no question it would have ruined her career--in fact, it may never have gotten off the ground. SUCH different times.

I'd also like to say that Dusty herself may have been very much ahead of her times, very postmodern if you like, in that she rejected any labels. While categories are convenient and definitely politically necessary (up to a point), I am sure we all look forward to the day when they become irrelevant. They are markers in time--back in Elizabethan times, for example, there wasn't even a term like lesbian--does that mean they didn't exist? The terms we use now will one day seem strange, as will the whole binary constructs of straight and gay (with a lil bi in the middle LOL). I've proudly embraced the term myself for many years, but I've ended up a different place, in part by doing my dissertation on "not-straight" Dusty fans (shout out to Annie Randall). The most important thing for me, personally, about embracing a label and being out is that it's useful to younger not-straight people coming up, so they don't feel alone. But loving someone is such a natural thing, I don't feel the need for it to be classified in some fixed way.

Sorry for digressing into my personal journey. My views about Dusty's sexuality have evolved over the years along with those about my own. And I am so grateful to live in a community and work at a job where it isn't an issue. Do wish I had experienced this earlier in life and Dusty too. It was, frankly, hell being not-straight, especially in a religious family, in the 50s and 60s, I can't imagine the 40s and 50s. And then with your career at stake.... I hate thinking Dusty suffered because of this, and I have no doubt that she did. On top of growing up under the shadow of being labeled a pervert, lots of people developed internalized homophobia as well. So, really, Dusty's "coming out," as described above, just blows my mind. It was radical and, like so much Dusty did musically and even politically, bold and progressive.

I think sometimes of Dusty's sexuality as a manifestation of her general "ungetatable"ness--her music can't be categorized, along with so much else about THE GREAT ONE. I'm ready to let the mystery be. 🙏

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **nevertoolate**

Posted: **Sun Apr 21, 2013 11:57 pm**

Couldn't agree more re labels etc. Everything is on a continuum and nothing is black and white, but being born in a different era in a 'conventional' family one assumes one is 'straight' and tries to be. I speak from personal experience. To me it's the person that matters their gender is irrelevant. I've spent my life not sure what I am! Fortunately not being in the public eye I haven't had people quizzing me about it. Must have been very difficult for her and good on her for not being pushed into anything. Have been happy to have no label and reading about Dusty makes me feel very comforted to be in such good company 😊

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **Britlin**

Posted: **Mon Apr 22, 2013 12:20 am**

Coming out can be difficult for anyone, I can't imagine coming out to the whole world back in the sixties. When I think back to how hard it was growing up gay in the sixties, it was my most guarded secret. I never told anyone until many, many years later. Even then it didn't always turn out well. What if you came out to the whole world and it didn't turn out well? Times have changed a lot and I think if she was a young woman coming out now, it would have been a whole different ball game.

BTW, can anyone tell me what the newspaper headline shown in the video, "HET OF THE MONTH" means?

Linda

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **PeelMeAGrape**

Posted: **Mon Apr 22, 2013 12:25 am**

Britlin wrote:

BTW, can anyone tell me what the newspaper headline shown in the video, "HET OF THE MONTH" means?

Linda

I think it's meant to mean 'heterosexual of the month,' which is ironic to say the least, given what the editor of the magazine knew about Dusty's personal life.

I really appreciate the measured, personal discussion this has started. I didn't want to stir anything up, as I know this is a touchy subject for some.

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **Britlin**

Posted: **Mon Apr 22, 2013 1:40 am**

Thanks, I kind of thought that might be what it meant, but it didn't make any sense.

Linda

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **allherfaces**

Posted: **Mon Apr 22, 2013 4:41 am**

AND thank you very much for posting that interview which I had not heard! Ironic isn't it, how the record company was playing them off each other. I can just imagine the tears from both of them. And poor Dusty trying to get her career back on track must have felt a lot of pressure.

I think Dusty always appreciated all her fans and all of us her cause of that powerful feeling connection her voice created which none of us could resist, I've said the repeatedly but tell me one other singer who had and has such a massive following from gay and straight, male and female!

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **daydreamer**

Posted: **Mon Apr 22, 2013 7:55 am**

I listened to the Keith Howes video clip a few days ago but almost didn't bother listening to it all after he described Dusty at the interview as wearing too much make up and the hair being too lacquered (or whatever he said). I just thought it would be full of inaccuracies, as at the time Dusty was looking beautiful and at her most natural. Anyway, I listened and was glad I did. It was sad and I felt bad for her.....but without delving deeper into that right now (as Nancy as already been very eloquent), I thought I would try and post the original interview. The only way to make the print visible is to split it up unfortunately, but I'll attach it in it's original form as well. Each scan should come up larger if clicked on.



DUSTY

(Continued from page 21)

lifestyle. Even her ambition to act never got off the ground. "But two acting coaches of great stature saw me sing at a benefit and they've offered to give me lessons." Her enthusiasm is kept in check: "Nice to explore. I don't know whether it will lead anywhere. I think acting would help round myself out in some ways..."

UNHAPPY HOUSEWIFE

Of course, she does act: on her new album she gives two shattering well-observed acting performances, on Barry Manilow's "Sadie", the story of an unhappy and finally suicidal housewife and Lesley Gore's "Love Me By Name", about the desperation of one-night stands. "You're amazed right they're acting performances," cries their interpreter, "just wait till you hear she does live." About "Sadie" she says: "All though I've never been a housewife I can identify with it as a woman. It's about people who are trapped... It's an observation... I have sympathy for her... empathy." About "Love Me By Name" and her personal experience of one-night stands she won't really comment herself: "I'd say I was more into them mentally than physically. It was an attitude of whether anyone would accept the part of me that's Mary O'Brien rather than the person I'd created, Dusty Springfield. But if you set out to create a Dusty Springfield then you ask for problems."

to sing his "Seed In The Clover". If I could pick one song to sing it would be that one. That would be, er, interesting to do.

I make a flip remark about "Seed In The Clover" but Dusty smiles to herself and with a faint hint of approval says: "Oh no, it's not about practical jokes."

BACHELOR GIRL

Intermission. A plate of sandwiches which I had ordered downstairs during my quarter of an hour wait had appeared in front of me and although Dusty had commented me to "Now! Go ahead!" I hadn't, my stomach quite incapacitated by the initial tension. Although Dusty was still keeping her distance, the show had occurred. I grabbed a bite and then brought up the British press's attitude towards her, typified by the Daily Express' "Men And Me" by the new Dusty" story in which "the 27 year-old bachelor girl" confides in the Express' reporter and details her year-long affair with a man. Was this 1978 or 1987?

Dusty sighs: "Nothing changes."

people are going to write what they want about me—they always have. Actually, and you can point this, I'm having a three-way with Patricia Anne and one of her horses!"

The rest of the sandwiches go un eaten as Dusty continues: "I have an excessively strong gay following and I'm grateful for it. I love gay people. I'm comfortable with them. I respect gay people. That doesn't make me one and that doesn't not make me one. I'm me. I have a gay following. I'm grateful for it. I want to keep it."

A FEELING OF RAGE

I venture the opinion that American show business has given much more support to gay rights than its scolding British counterpart. "It's very subtle," she says and elaborates with mounting emotion: "There is a very strong anti-gay feeling in Hollywood which is extraordinary in a business and an industry which is 75% gay. The closet quality of Hollywood and Los Angeles show business is overwhelming. You can sit at a dinner party where you

things... people like Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda... Julie Harris... an incredible number."

MUTED HARANGUE

But where are all the American gay stars? And the British ones, for that matter? I tell Dusty that I have a rapidly diminishing patience with actors, actresses and musicians who slowly maintain that their private lives (usually their gay private lives) have nothing to do with their public selves. I instance the number of professional homosexuals who have had no qualms in using their lovers, spouses, children, divorcees etc to further their careers... Mick, Rod, Britt, Binnie, Liz, Richard, Elton, ad infinitum. I finished the muted harangue by saying that even some of the New Wave musicians became all coy when I had probed a little too specifically into their much vaunted bisexuality, one even saying "If my mother found out she'd kill me." Fear of homosexuality seemed to be a continuing story even in Show Bizland. To quote Dusty's album "It Begins Again"—with every generation.

away. Dusty is beginning. The two male onlookers are restless. Dusty talks of friendship: "Loyalty is important because I'm loyal. I really am. I don't mean stupid loyalty, defending me when I'm wrong—which I often am. Friends are people who see those whom you need there..." Like in the middle of the night? "I used to do a lot of calling up in the middle of the night just to, well, to food around and have fun. Now if I call up it's because I need to call up and friends are people who would know that I was taking sense and who wouldn't reject me—just as I wouldn't reject them." Rejection has become slightly easier to take: "I used to think it was the worst thing that could happen but it's not."

BEAUTIFUL

What is the worst thing? She frowns: "I've grown black. I can't answer that, though the question has acted like a damper upon her face—the lights go down in it and she looks incredibly—though usually—beautiful like Catherine Deneuve.

'If you set out to create a Dusty Springfield then you ask for problems'



'... there's a growing number of enraged people, both straight and gay, who are not going to put up with it anymore'

DOWN THE DRAIN

Free of the lyrics for the songs she's chosen for *It Begins Again* would appear to relate to the emotional/sexual side of Dusty's life. "Actually I'd never thought about "Love Me By Name" being that personal but it was written by Lesley Gore, a woman who became very successful as a singer very early on in her life—much as I did. She had a lot of record company executives flipping around her and she got totally lost. Now she has developed into a very nice human being. As for "I'd Rather Leave While I'm In Love", it doesn't relate to me at all. I'm hopeless at leaving before things get stale. I try to hang on with all my teeth to something that's gone down the drain. But, it's funny, that song sums up the professional side of me: I want to leave which it's still happening for me and not starting to sink back."

CONSTANTLY AMAZING

She confesses: "I don't want to disappoint anyone but... that lyrics don't really mean much to her. Anything that ever comes out as being affecting typically is constantly amazing to me because I'm much more interested in where the notes are." Had she ever tried to sing any "Sadie" here? "I'm really quite ignorant about who wrote what and why but I've always wanted

Certain things don't change. I could drive myself crazy with that kind of thing but I really don't let it bother me."

A THREE-WAY

I then bring up the subject of Dusty's famous interview with Ray Connolly in the London Evening Standard in 1970. She doesn't remember it. I remind her that it was practically the first occasion on which any entertainer had said that they visited and enjoyed visiting gay clubs. "Why not?" snorts Dusty. "Being seen in gay clubs does not make you gay as you well know." Now in full eruption, Dusty more or less reiterates what she's very brazenly told the Standard eight years ago: "People can draw their own conclusions and I don't give a damn. I'm not going to conceal myself to being homosexual or heterosexual because

know that at least 12 of the 14 people there are gay and listen to incredible anti-gay crap. And they play that game because a few industry heads are very anti-gay and it's very tough for most gay people and it's very difficult to speak out. There are a few brave people and there's a growing number of enraged people, both straight and gay, who are not going to put up with it anymore, and it's a very wonderful thing to watch it emerging. It's an outrage what has been going on in America with the Anita Bryant anti-gay thing and now there's a tremendous solidarity to fight it and what people's sexual preferences are doesn't come into it. It's mostly straight, straight who are totally outraged and are doing something about it by benefits and whatever. It has nothing to do with being straight or gay—it's just a solid feeling of rage! There are some very big, important people doing

We'd both made our speeches and Dusty nodded in pained agreement after mine. But, she still firmly believes that people have a right to keep their private lives private if they choose. "People are always trying to link me to someone. One of the reasons that people always wonder if I'm gay or not is because I'm not married. That's my business. I was never encouraged to get married even though I came from a Catholic background. My mother got married late in life and had a damn good time beforehand. I was never made to feel that I hadn't achieved something because I hadn't got married or that I'd missed something. Marriage is a state of mind, not a legal thing. Marriage is... my idea of marriage is being it one with somebody who you're with, it doesn't matter who. It's really a state of mind." Conversation begins to dribble

Should I tell her? Perhaps not. Oh, what the hell, I tell her. The lights blaze back into her face again. "God—! That's the best thing that could happen. How lovely!" But I... on her child-like delight by saying, without intended malice, that perhaps she should go black more often. She puckers slightly but replies, I kick myself.

DECENT

She returns to the question: "What's the worst thing? To lose myself along the way just as I nearly lost myself before trying to hang on to that part of me that is Mary O'Brien as opposed to that part of me that is Dusty Springfield. And they are different. I still don't know who Mary O'Brien is but I know it's a decent human being. To lose sight of that would be the worst thing." □

Re: Dusty in "Gay News" by daydreamer

Posted: Mon Apr 22, 2013 8:01 am

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **Graham2010**

Posted: **Mon Apr 22, 2013 8:11 am**

After playing the video my heart goes out to Dusty.

It is not only in show business that "coming out" was almost impossible. In every day jobs, certainly back in the late 60's and 70's, you kept your private life private.....does not mean there was not speculative gossip in the workplace I am sure.

I fell in Love with Dusty along with my peers at that time and we all went to her concerts and bought her records.....I had not experienced gay life at that time and my friends were not gay.

When I discovered my sexuality I went through personal hell at home, being told I was a disgrace to the family by my grandmother.....I never got over that and it took years for me to enter into the family community once again.

To be honest I never realised Dusty was gay until some press article suggested it.

I remember in 1989 I applied for promotion and in the interview the subject of me being gay was raised.....I must admit I was gobsmacked and initially thought what a F-----g nerve!!

I just responded and said what about it? If it is a problem for you then I do not want your job!

I got the job and mingled with the hob nobs from Lloyd's in London and eventually represented the company at Press Interviews with the biggies in London, including live interviews on Radio 5!!

I still felt slightly second place at work and I know I was only allowed to reach a certain level in my career.

Sorry I am rambling on!!

I never pictured Dusty as gay until in her later yearsI think the baggy suits kinda suggested that but she was always so glam!! When I met her in 1979 she was so petite and beautiful and as we all know so vulnerable!

My final comment.....You have only one life and have every right to live it in the way you want!!

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **nevertoolate**

Posted: **Mon Apr 22, 2013 11:08 am**

Having spent years trying to work myself out - and I'm now nearly 60 - I'm not honestly sure what 'coming out' really means. Did people expect Dusty to stand on the rooftops and announce it with a loud hailer? I've always just hinted at my sexuality a la Dusty and let people draw their own conclusions. I still feel awkward about it because even though I work in a so called liberated environment (a university) I manage a team and am not sure how some people would react. Like you Graham I had no idea Dusty was gay, in my case not until very recently. This discovery has certainly helped me crystallise my thinking and I will be eternally grateful to Dusty for that 🍷

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **darren2722**

Posted: **Mon Apr 22, 2013 2:20 pm**

Thanks For the Vid Anna, & the link Jackie 😄 Fantastic article Carole Thanks for reproducing here. 🍷
Wise words Nancy, Linda, Jackie & Graham. Seems incredulous that at a job interview they ask you about your sexual orientation. 😞

I am a 'straight' Dusty fan, but for me (and everyone else I guess) obviously the music and the personality comes first. 🎵 ❤️ I didn't know about Dusty being Gay/Bisexual until about a year ago, but it didn't stop me buying her records. 😄 I know it was impossible in those dark days for a Major Recording Artist like Dusty to 'come out' and it would have been a irrelevance in the 1980's, but when Dusty was starting out and for most of her career it just couldn't happen. 😞

Would (just for sake of argument) Elvis's record sales have dramatically dropped if he announced in 1957 he

was gay, Of Course they Would. 🙄 It might have got him out of serving in the Army I guess, but The Ed Sullivan Show would have been a no-go. 🗣️ so obviously the TV studios/Commercial Radio would drop him like a hot piece of coal, and his career would have been over, even with his immense talent, So you can understand Dusty's(and her record company's) predicament

Dusty certainly well and truly paved a big trench for today's 'stars'. 🙄 Nowadays 'Non- Gay' artists like Madonna jump on the bandwagon and have their 'notoriety' displayed, in the hope of selling more records. 🙄

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by oboe93

Posted: **Mon Apr 22, 2013 9:17 pm**

That video breaks my heart. 🙄

Coming out to my family was probably the hardest thing I've ever done, but I feel fortunate to have grown up during a much more accepting time. We still have a long way to go, and that's easy to forget in my insular, liberal, NYC world. Everyone knows "I'm gay gay gay gay", including past employers that offered domestic partner benefits & met girlfriends at company Christmas parties. Naturally, it came up a lot more when I was in a relationship. All my stories started with "we".

That's the part that blows my mind about Dusty hiding for SO LONG. She had these long-term, committed, domestic relationships but was able to dance around it, and never slip up by saying "she" or "her" in the wrong company? It must have felt very lonely to not have her REAL "+1" on her arm at so many of those appearances.

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by pat.dunham

Posted: **Mon Apr 22, 2013 10:37 pm**

Well I never thought I would write this. Yes, it was bloody hard keeping a relationship under wraps in the 60's and in my case for 40 years plus. I never came out and then ONLY to my family in the last year having lost my partner. We worked at the same company for a long time and had the same interests. We were sure many of our mutual friends suspected but it never harmed our friendships with them and was never discussed. We both listened to Dusty back then and then lost touch with her as it were, then last year I found a CD which I had bought for my partner unopened. I unwrapped it and started to play it was all her hits, the flood gates opened, need I say more!. I am so glad I found Dusty for all sorts of reasons. I love and miss them both....

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by Britpop

Posted: **Mon Apr 22, 2013 10:56 pm**

pat.dunham wrote:

Well I never thought I would write this. Yes, it was bloody hard keeping a relationship under wraps in the 60's and in my case for 40 years plus. I never came out and then ONLY to my family in the last year having lost my partner. We worked at the same company for a long time and had the same interests. We were sure many of our mutual friends suspected but it never harmed our friendships with them and was never discussed. We both listened to Dusty back then and then lost touch with her as it were, then last year I found a CD which I had bought for my partner unopened. I unwrapped it and started to play it was all her hits, the flood gates opened, need I say more!. I am so glad I found Dusty for all sorts of reasons. I love and miss them both....

So sorry to read that you recently lost your partner. The loss of a loved one brings with it a heavy, heavy heart. I hope and pray that yours will heal with time. I so glad you found Dusty I hope her music brings you solace and comfort.

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by Britlin

Posted: **Mon Apr 22, 2013 11:28 pm**

Pat, I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. You were very lucky to have her with you for 40 years. Most straight couples don't last nearly that long. 😊

Kristin, yes you youngsters 😊 have a much easier row to hoe than us older folks. But, even so, it still ain't easy. Sometimes I'm just amazed at how things have changed. I would never have thought that gay marriage would even be a remote possibility during my lifetime, but it is!

Linda

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **PeelMeAGrape**

Posted: **Tue Apr 23, 2013 12:20 am**

Thank you so much for posting the article, Carole. It's tinged with such sadness, you can really feel it on both ends, even without knowing the story behind the story. And to think the record company actually *wanted* some kind of fireworks just boggles the mind.

Pat, I'm incredibly sorry to hear of your loss. I find myself inspired by the bravery you found in honesty, and hope that as you heal you know you are an inspiration. 🌹

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **IWannaBeABluesSinger**

Posted: **Tue Apr 23, 2013 3:37 am**

When watching this video, and reading the interview, it helps to know what was going on at the time.

The anti-gay crusade spearheaded by the pseudo-celebrity (runner-up Miss America and Minute Maid Orange Juice shill) Anita Bryant had just started in 1976 as a result of Dade County Florida trying to pass an equal rights for gays ordinance. The religious right-wing emerged and wholeheartedly endorsed the let's-run-'em-out-of-town-after-we-set-fire-to-'em bandwagon. Cities across America quickly passed landlord and employer rights laws that enabled gays to be vilified. The debate got so ugly, with religious nuts assuring everyone that God had endorsed their position, that moderates remained silent for far too long. On the basis of that issue the religious right-wing gained enormous political power.

However it also added fuel to the gay rights movement, and eventually decent Americans spoke up at the ballot box, passing gay rights laws in more states than not.

But in 1978 if Dusty had come out, in the midst of that, she would have been pilloried. She did get some measure of revenge by agreeing to do the Britvic Orange drink ad, however 🤪

Maggie

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **A Girl Called Christal**

Posted: **Tue Apr 23, 2013 4:40 am**

Such a sad story. 😞

Good post, Maggie. I was also going to mention that the Briggs Initiative was a hot topic in California in 1978. If passed, it would have banned gays, lesbians, and possibly anyone who supported gay rights, from working in California's public schools. Thankfully, it was defeated. Earlier in 1978 Harvey Milk was elected as a Member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Gay rights was a very hot topic in California at the time and no doubt that there was a LOT of mud slinging and vilifying of anyone who was gay or perceived to be a sympathizer of gays. There were all sorts of accusations of gays being perverts and paedophiles. Certainly Dusty would have heard all about it and would have been terrified of the repercussions of being a high profile lesbian at the time.

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **A Girl Called Christal**

Posted: **Tue Apr 23, 2013 5:40 am**

I'm really sorry for your loss, Pat. 😞

I've been out since my early 20s. I only ever really "came out" to a handful of people. Otherwise, I've always been very open and just living my life as an out woman. Even though I knew she would be supportive, I remember the absolute terror of figuring out how I was going to tell my mom. Thankfully, they have all been so supportive. As a teen we had a family friend who had become male to female transgender. With a few

exceptions, my family and family friends were pretty good at learning the proper pronouns and such. This was actually the first person I remember expressing a strong admiration for Dusty...

Interestingly, an uncle (my grandma's brother) is a married man... but he and his wife have had another man living with them since long before I was born. I remember certain comments the other man had made during many of our visits... there's a definite "more than friends" sentiment between the two men. To my knowledge, no one has questioned them about the situation... but my mom and I have discussed it and we're both certain that they're either in a polyamorous relationship, or that the marriage is somewhat of a cover up. They're in their late 80s/early 90s. Part of me wants to ask them and reassure them. I don't want to make them uncomfortable, though.

This is actually something that I'd been thinking about a lot in the past few days even before this topic was posted. Over the past 20 years or so a lot of singers, actors, and other high profile people have been coming out... especially these last few years. It seems like less and less of a big deal to the average person anymore when a celeb comes out. Especially with everything going on with same sex marriage and civil unions. I can't help but wonder how Dusty would have felt and reacted in regards to the gay rights movements going on. Ellen DeGeneres came out on her sitcom in 1997. It was massive news and Dusty most probably would have heard about it. But because of that Ellen was basically black listed for about 3 years. She didn't start to get work again until after Dusty had passed. I wonder if knowing about that would have been some sort of confirmation in her mind about the world not being ready to fully embrace gay celebrities. It's a shame that Dusty isn't around to see the huge strides made recently.

I have a deep respect for those who came before and paved the way. There's still such a long way to go, but the last few years have been very encouraging.

I don't think it can be overstated how incredibly bold and brave it was of Dusty to admit to being not completely straight in her 1970 comment:

"I'm perfectly as capable of being swayed by a girl as by a boy. More and more people feel that way and I don't see why I shouldn't."

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **fobakawa**

Posted: **Tue Apr 23, 2013 7:59 am**

When I was about 12 or 13 one day at school some of the boys were calling another boy a "queer" and I could tell he was upset about it. I didn't know what it meant so that night at dinner I asked my mom. All she said was that usually a man and a woman love each other and get married but sometimes 2 men love each other or 2 women love each other instead and that is called being a homosexual. My intelligent response? Oh. 😊 My dad went on to inform me that queer was a mean name to call people and not to ever call people names that hurt them. I promised him that I wouldn't do that and that was pretty much the end of the discussion! I was lucky in that my family did not put labels on people and everyone was just who they were, period. I am straight but kind of naive I'm afraid. I have had numerous friends "come out" to me over the years (they say I'm very easy to talk to) but it's been just the last few years that I have realized the huge leap of faith and trust that it took for them to do so. I have a friend that I have known most of my life that just recently confided in me that her parents (my parent's neighbors) had her in therapy for years as a young girl to "fix her". I was shocked and very sad for her because she also said that it has messed up her whole life. She has one sister that is STILL trying to get her back in therapy and my friend is 52 years old and has had the same partner for almost 30 years! I don't care if Dusty was gay, bi or whatever, I just love to hear her and watch her and talk to her other fans. I re-discovered her about 2 years ago and I am enjoying every minute of it thanks to all of you on LTD. As far as the boy who was called a "queer", I told him the next day I was sorry the boys called him names and I did ask him why he acted like a girl all the time 😳 You know what he said? "Because I FEEL like a girl"! If I had pursued that maybe I wouldn't have been so naive all those years 🙏🙏

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **darren2722**

Posted: **Tue Apr 23, 2013 9:21 am**

Really sad for your Loss Pat, 🌹 but glad that Dusty became part of the healing process. 🙏

There's a lot of brave people on this Forum whether they came out many years ago or just recently. 🙏🙏 Some things have changed for the better 😊 but you can't always change people's attitudes some of which are still stuck in The Middle Ages. 🙏

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **Tupelo Honey**

Posted: **Tue Apr 23, 2013 9:45 am**

Pat I'm so sad to hear, your story and sorry for your loss. I discovered Dusty as a teenager in the late 70's and assumed I was the only gay Dusty fan in the world until I attended a fan club convention in Blackpool. Dusty fans I met then gave me long lasting friendship and support and I will always be grateful for that. Her music has shaped my life and continues to do so - she is a constant companion to me. I have also been fortunate enough to be able to live my life honestly and openly and my family gave me huge support when I lost my partner Mary in 2004. Whilst my Nana died last year aged 97 she was thrilled that I'd met Lynda and we celebrated our civil partnership last October.

Life is too short to hide your light under a bushel ;)

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **nevertoolate**

Posted: **Tue Apr 23, 2013 8:02 pm**

Very touched to read your post Pat, and a very emotional and thought-provoking thread. I regret I have spent this long sorting myself out, and despite 2 intense relationships with women I was still not really acknowledging I was gay. Gosh I've said it! Discovering Dusty and this site has really helped me come to terms with this and this is why discovering her and you guys has quite literally been life changing.

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **nevertoolate**

Posted: **Tue Apr 23, 2013 8:35 pm**

I'd like to add that finding a partner has sadly eluded me, a la Dusty. I was reading something that Lee Everett said about Dusty. You guys probably know this but according to LE Dusty, as she was nearing the end, said she was embarrassed about all the drink and drugs and regrets she never had a longstanding relationship. I, like her, wish I knew the secret, and surely even more difficult if one is gay? 😞

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **donellac**

Posted: **Tue Apr 23, 2013 8:45 pm**

Hi Jackie, just wondering where you read this.

I haven't come across it so would be grateful if you could point me in the direction of the piece.

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **nevertoolate**

Posted: **Tue Apr 23, 2013 9:28 pm**

Here you go Donella here's the link. Makes interesting if uncomfortable reading

<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Secret+le ... a065005189>

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **donellac**

Posted: **Tue Apr 23, 2013 9:51 pm**

Jackie, thanks for that. You are right it does make uncomfortable reading.

'I feel it is another example of her 'friends' putting her most intimate thoughts out for public gaze.

It is just wrong!

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **pat.dunham**

Posted: **Tue Apr 23, 2013 10:40 pm**

To: Valda-Darren-Evelyn-Christal-Anna-Linda-Sarah-Jacqui-Donella.

Thank you for your kind thoughts.

Pat x

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **Britpop**

Posted: **Wed Apr 24, 2013 12:34 am**

donellac wrote:

Jackie, thanks for that. You are right it does make uncomfortable reading.

'I feel it is another example of her 'friends' putting her most intimate thoughts out for public gaze.

It is just wrong!

Another one of Dusty's 'confidants' lining her pockets with the proceeds from 'telling stories out of school.' This type of gossip really saddens me.

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **Carole R.**

Posted: **Wed Apr 24, 2013 6:52 am**

The quote from Lee Everett directly contradicts a quote we had from Simon Bell, in which we were told that towards the end of her life, Simon asked Dusty whether she had any regrets.

Her answer was "Are you kidding? I had a ball!"

I like that quote better. 😊

Carole R xx

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **Dotty86**

Posted: **Wed Apr 24, 2013 7:49 am**

Carole R. wrote:

The quote from Lee Everett directly contradicts a quote we had from Simon Bell, in which we were told that towards the end of her life, Simon asked Dusty whether she had any regrets.

Her answer was "Are you kidding? I had a ball!"

I like that quote better. 😊

Carole R xx

That's what I thought 😞 I prefer that quote too 😊

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **Britlin**

Posted: **Wed Apr 24, 2013 12:44 pm**

I had not heard this before, thanks for posting Carole. We hear the negative stuff all the time, but not so much of the positive things in her life. It warms my heart to know she felt that way. Here's hoping we can all go out saying, "I had a ball"!

Linda

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **allherfaces**

Posted: **Thu Apr 25, 2013 4:22 am**

pat.dunham wrote:

Well I never thought I would write this. Yes, it was bloody hard keeping a relationship under wraps in the 60's

and in my case for 40 years plus. I never came out and then ONLY to my family in the last year having lost my partner. We worked at the same company for a long time and had the same interests. We were sure many of our mutual friends suspected but it never harmed our friendships with them and was never discussed. We both listened to Dusty back then and then lost touch with

her as it were, then last year I found a CD which I had bought for my partner unopened. I unwrapped it and started to play it was all her hits, the flood gates opened, need I say more!. I am so glad I found Dusty for all sorts of reasons. I love and miss them both....

Special hugs reserved for you In Dusty Week.

I too am sorry for your loss. Glad you've joined LTD. Dusty's music touches us All so deeply. 🌹

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **karen**

Posted: **Thu Apr 25, 2013 9:35 am**

Yes Pat this must have been very difficult for you , it was lovely to meet you in Henley , and nice to think that you could share your personal feelings with us , Dusty really does have such an affect this way it seems ..her music helping you to cope with the loss of your partner in such a big way.. 🎵 🌹

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **pat.dunham**

Posted: **Thu Apr 25, 2013 5:12 pm**

Thanks Nancy and Karen. Still can't believe I wrote it-it's not me-but I don't regret. Someone was guiding me .

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **A Girl Called Christal**

Posted: **Thu Apr 25, 2013 6:58 pm**

Hugs for you, Pat. I know that can't be easy, but I'm glad you were able to open up about it with us. Sometimes it helps to talk. But I hope you're able to get peace with it in whatever way works best for you. We all find different ways of coping with things. It's nice that we all have Dusty in common. Thinking of you. 🌹

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **DelphinLaSpiga**

Posted: **Thu Apr 25, 2013 11:34 pm**

PeelMeAGrape, thank you so much for creating this thread. I have found it so meaningful to read the community's reactions and responses. Pat, I join all the others in expressing sorrow over your loss; the only good thing about grief, at least to me, is that it is evidence of the measure of love and goodness that one person can introduce into your life so irreplaceably; in that way, even grief is a gift (though not a fun one, to be sure...)

Dusty has come into my orbit as a "patron saint of the closeted," if you will. I have gradually, and fairly recently, come into an awareness of my own bisexuality, and I resonate with many of the anxieties and concerns that Dusty experienced (not the least of which include being understood as authentically "femme" AND drawn to women, as well as being in a profession in which being "out" is considered a liability).

I love and admire the fact that she fashioned her inner turmoil into the beautiful artistry of her voice, with all of its empathy, vulnerability, strength, and lyricism. It stands for and points to the triumph of the human spirit (which sounds really corny, I know, but I believe it to be true). I wonder, sometimes, if her voice would've been as powerful if she HADN'T been gay, if she had fit more comfortably into conventional categories, would that intensity, that drive, still be there? No way to know one way or the other, but just a passing curiosity.

Most of all, though, when I listen to Dusty, I feel less alone. And, thanks to this thread especially, I feel less alone as well.

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **daydreamer**

Posted: **Fri Apr 26, 2013 8:04 pm**

I can't speak in the same way as some of you ladies on here can but my Dusty history is different. I loved her from being an 11 year old back in the 60's. At that time I had no inkling of any demons or sexuality issues, why would I? I loved her for her voice and her charisma. And still do. She was the best thing about the decade for me. I don't think that in those 60's days, her voice could have been influenced by her "secrets" or later problems, it was the way it was. She just opened her mouth and that's what came out. As she herself said, it

was a gift rather than a talent. And we could hear it as far back as the duet with Peter Miles. In later years, there was angst, but the vulnerability was always there as part of her charm.

Pat, I too am sorry to hear of your loss and look forward to meeting you at DD.

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **DelphinLaSpiga**

Posted: **Fri Apr 26, 2013 9:26 pm**

daydreamer wrote:

I can't speak in the same way as some of you ladies on here can but my Dusty history is different. I loved her from being an 11 year old back in the 60's. At that time I had no inkling of any demons or sexuality issues, why would I? I loved her for her voice and her charisma. And still do. She was the best thing about the decade for me. I don't think that in those 60's days, her voice could have been influenced by her "secrets" or later problems, it was the way it was. She just opened her mouth and that's what came out. As she herself said, it was a gift rather than a talent. And we could hear it as far back as the duet with Peter Miles. In later years, there was angst, but the vulnerability was always there as part of her charm.

Pat, I too am sorry to hear of your loss and look forward to meeting you at DD.

Daydreamer, I think you're absolutely right in lifting up the universal nature of Dusty's appeal, her humility in acknowledging it as a God-given gift, and the joyful element of her voice that inspires a joyful fanbase. And also, it was because of her sense of being an "outsider" of some sort (whether or not it began from an awareness of her sexual identity, though she supposedly had her first relationship with a woman in 1963) that Mary O'Brien gave all of us a Dusty Springfield in the first place--she found a way to demonstrate on the outside the potential for beauty that she felt on the inside, even when she wasn't the most popular girl in grade school (or, according to multiple accounts, the parental favorite of the two O'Brien siblings). Lots of wonderful art comes as the result of an individual bearing witness to his/her grace and beauty when others doubt it/refuse to see it. How fortunate we are that she was such a wonderful steward of her gifts 🌟

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **mnmcv1**

Posted: **Thu May 02, 2013 6:24 pm**

I'm very glad that i fell in love with Dusty's voice before i found out about her sexuality -that way, I was able to appreciate Dusty's talent without her personal life influencing or informing my feelings in any way.

When I DID find out, of course, it just drew me closer to her. She was a kindred spirit in many ways, but the struggle that I had in accepting myself and then slowly removing the shame of it, and the terror of worrying about anyone finding out...after hearing about Dusty's struggle, THAT resonated deeply (and still does, as I got a bit upset in listening to her reaction in this youtube clip when asked "the question").

But even if Dusty just winked at the notion (and IMO she did a hell of a lot more than just that), she was incredibly brave, and it inspired me tremendously. It still took me years to get to that point of finally being comfortable with myself (and i still have the occasional moment of unease) but the times they are a-changing!

I wish she were here today, to see how far we've come. 🙏
(and to thank her for helping ME get there!)

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **pat.dunham**

Posted: **Thu May 02, 2013 7:52 pm**

Markus , I don't know if you have read my thread on here. But I understand your feelings. I never thought I would say what I said but someone said go for it and I did.(Still only family know plus LTD and probably half the world!).I wish she were here too so we could meet up and say thanks for EVERYTHING.

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **Mare Luvs Dust**

Posted: **Sat May 18, 2013 8:04 am**

I feel very touched by the honesty expressed in this thread. Thank you everyone for sharing your personal stories. Pat, I'm am sorry for your loss 🙏 but happy that you loved and were loved ❤️

The video was heart-wrenching but I'm grateful that I watched it. I sometimes forget how lucky I am to be able to be so "out" in these times. When I was 12-years old, I had an inkling that I loved women but being raised Catholic, there was no place in my psyche for that particular kind of love. I came out to myself in my late 30s (now in my late 50s) and I feel like I have come home to myself. Dusty was incredibly brave to trust her feelings for women and to act on them, not to mention coming out as bi-sexual to the public at a time when homosexuality was still largely unacceptable, particularly for women in the music industry.

I fell in love with Dusty the first time I heard her voice in the mid-60s. I didn't know she was "unstraight" until five years ago. Knowing this brought Dusty and her music to a different level for me. I listen to Dusty at least once a day and her voice elevates me, touches some part of my soul and heals the cracks in my heart. In knowing that Dusty struggled so much with her sexuality, I am more able to embrace my own. I just wish that she were here so that I could tell her how much she means to me and her fans. But then again, if there is a heaven, she's in it and she knows that already. 🙏

There's something in my soul that will always bring me back to you. 🌹

Mary 🌹

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by LilCajunGirl

Posted: **Sat Mar 01, 2014 9:26 am**

Wow. Just Wow. I have sooooo many thoughts in my head I don't know where to begin.

I am only just reading this as I am relatively new. So please forgive my lateness.

First off, I just want to say how incredibly brave I think you all are, and that I am happy for you all that you can live your lives how they should be lived, without fear of recrimination for who you are. Hopefully one day everyone will feel they can do the same. I am still trying to figure myself out at the age of 52. I have only had relationships with men (a few actually were men, but most were little boys masquerading as men. Lol!) but think I may be bi. There, i said it. :-) Maybe one day I will know for sure.

IMHO, anything anyone says about Dusty or what she's supposed to have said is suspect, because shes not here to say if she did and defend herself. As for that Lee Everett, I don't believe a thing she says. Because it changes from time to time. And the Howe guy was just a little too gleeful about it all. I don't believe him either.

It does make me sad to think that Dusty would have been so upset. Because I feel no one should have to feel that way about who they are. You are who you are. To quote my deceased brother, "It is what it is."

Finally- to all of you: whether you are gay, lesbian, straight, bisexual, purple, green, or gold, I love all of you!

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by LilCajunGirl

Posted: **Sat Mar 01, 2014 8:15 pm**

mnmcv1 wrote:

I'm very glad that i fell in love with Dusty's voice before i found out about her sexuality -that way, I was able to appreciate Dusty's talent without her personal life influencing or informing my feelings in any way.

When I DID find out, of course, it just drew me closer to her. She was a kindred spirit in many ways, but the struggle that I had in accepting myself and then slowly removing the shame of it, and the terror of worrying about anyone finding out...after hearing about Dusty's struggle, THAT resonated deeply (and still does, as I got a bit upset in listening to her reaction in this youtube clip when asked "the question").

But even if Dusty just winked at the notion (and IMO she did a hell of a lot more than just that),

she was incredibly brave, and it inspired me tremendously. It still took me years to get to that point of finally being comfortable with myself (and i still have the occasional moment of unease) but the times they are a-changing!

I wish she were here today, to see how far we've come. 🙏
(and to thank her for helping ME get there!)

I too, Markus, admired her voice before I found out anything about her personal life, and I am glad for that. I also feel that we are "kindred spirits". Would love to be able to tell her that in person! But...we do have a lot of kindred spirits here on LTD!

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by Zoey

Posted: Sun Mar 02, 2014 1:11 am

It is so touching to hear all your stories. Pat, I'm speechless. I'm so sorry for your loss, but I'm so glad Dusty was there for you. 🌹

Being young, naive and growing up in modern times, I cannot begin to imagine how it felt to grow up many years ago being gay or bi, with the possible consequences and stigma attached.

Throughout my school life, I thought I was gay. I was never your stereotypical girly-girl, but I'm not boyish at all. I came out as bi to some close friends last year and it wasn't a big deal for them, but it was massive for me. What's funny is that I could count the amount of 'straight' friends I have on one hand. The majority of my friends are gay and bi guys and girls. Times will continue to change, and as generations pass hopefully people will find it easier to love and be loved by whoever they wish.

I discovered Dusty's music before her sexuality. In fact I was watching the Dusty night on BBC4 exactly a year ago when I found out she wasn't straight. Dusty has always been a part of my life (a whole 21 years 😊), her music *lives* in my parents' house. In ways, she's like a spiritual mother to me. I cried quite a lot when they announced she had to hide her relationships from the public eye. Partially because she was so vulnerable anyway. It broke my heart to think she had that secret under wraps for so many years and partially because it just made me relate to her even more than before.

I could ramble on for ages about how brave Dusty was and how fantastic you guys are for opening up this touchy subject. LTD is a very special place. 🌟

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by DustyGirl

Posted: Wed Dec 17, 2014 12:08 pm

I know I'm very late to this topic, but I'm new to the forum so go easy on me 😊

Because I discovered Dusty when I was very, very young (around 5) I didn't know anything personal about her aside from the beauty that was her voice.

But I can honestly say that Dusty saved me, in so many ways.

I knew I was gay from the time I was a pre-teen but not only didn't know what to call it but was raised in a strict Roman Catholic household by Italian immigrants who were "old school" in every sense. So I hated myself for a long time for being who I was. Dusty was my first crush of sorts so when I eventually discovered her sexuality it blew my mind. She was amazing and we actually had something in common that both of us kept hidden. Granted, it was likely WAY harder on her due to her fame and the threat of losing fans and being able to do what she loved, but I felt like I had a companion in Dusty. I don't know if she can hear it, but I thank her every single day for her poise and strength and bravery.

The more I found out about her, the more I identified with her. From her struggles with self injury, her stays in psychiatric hospitals, attempted suicide, her self deprecating nature and shyness to her sexuality - I was able to feel like I wasn't alone in what I went through. And if someone like Dusty, my love and heroine, could survive through it then maybe I had a chance. And I did.

I don't like labels either but I know who I am and I am a lesbian. I never officially came out to anyone, but my close friends knew for a long time just from my actions and random things I've said. Being quite a femme lesbian it's unusual for my sexuality to come up with people who don't know me well. I can't even imagine what it must be like to constantly be hounded and questioned.

Thank you to everyone here who shared their thoughts and stories. I've only been on this forum for a day and I can tell that I love all of you already ❤️
Thank you, Dusty.....

xx
Gina

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **allherfaces**

Posted: **Wed Dec 17, 2014 4:09 pm**

Thank you for sharing your story, Gina. I've heard so many variations of it; they are such testaments to Dusty's power to help her fans. In fact, your history is a thematic compilation of several of the issues that the "subjects" (Dusty fans) of my dissertation spoke about. Dusty love is a powerful thing.

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **Corinna**

Posted: **Thu Dec 18, 2014 11:10 am**

Isn't it amazing what an impact a person that you don't know in real life can have on your life? I'm happy Dusty could help you, Gina. You're really "Dusty's Girl"! 🙌 And it's true what Nancy (aka allherfaces) said, many of us here have similar stories. Dusty made so many people's lives easier, simply by existing and sharing her beautiful music with us, though her own life was so troubled at times. You'll find many kindred spirits here, Gina. Welcome! 🙌

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **DustysGirl**

Posted: **Fri Dec 19, 2014 12:51 am**

It truly is amazing, Corinna! And, yeah, I guess I really am "Dusty's Girl"! It just makes me wanna cry when I think about all she helped me with without ever knowing it (or knowing that I existed, for that matter) and I can't give her a huge hug and thank her. Someday...if I make it to Rock n Roll Heaven!
Hearing all of the stories here about how Dusty changed and touched so many peoples lives is just so awesome to me. I hope she knows now what an impact she had, even though I don't think she knew it when she was still with us.
Thanks for the welcome and this truly is the kindest fan forum I've ever been to. You can tell that the love for Dusty runs deep and there's no bickering or competition (at least from what I've seen so far). It seems like everyone here are friends with a common bond. ❤️

xx
Gina

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **Corinna**

Posted: **Fri Dec 19, 2014 1:50 pm**

Dusty fans are special people indeed! I just had a look at your blog and was pleased to see you posted some Stevie Nicks gifs. She's amazing, too! I have tickets for Fleetwood Mac next year, can't wait to see them! 🙌

Re: Dusty in "Gay News"

by **DustysGirl**

Posted: **Fri Dec 19, 2014 8:48 pm**

You are so lucky, Corinna! I wanted to see Fleetwood Mac on this tour but the ticket prices are so much more expensive than they've ever been in the past :(
I can't complain, though. I've seen FM and Stevie solo more times than I can count and I'm content with that (for now lol). I am going to see Brit Floyd next year, though, (my favorite Pink Floyd tribute band) and I am over the moon! I will never get the opportunity to see the real Floyd so they are the next best thing :)
I hope you have a blast, they put on an incredible show!

xx
Gina