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Author

Topic

Sue

Little by little



United Kingdom
428 Posts

Posted - 26/08/2009 : 18:48:02

Not at all sure how to start here, except to say that just lately this album has barely been off of the stereo these last couple of weeks.



So, in order to make the thread a little more organised this time, i'll start by listing the tracks and songwriters:

- 1) Ain't No Sun Since You've Been Gone (Sylvia Moy/Norman Whitfield/Cornelius Grant)
- 2) Take Another Little Piece Of My Heart (Bert Burns/Jerry Ragovoy)
- 3) Another Night (Burt Bacharach/Hal David)
- 4) Mr Dream Merchant (Jerry Ross/Larry Weiss)
- 5) I Can't Give Back The Love I Feel For You (Nicholas Ashford/Valerie Simpson/Brian Holland)
- 6) Love Power (Teddy Vann)
- 7) This Girl's In Love With You (Bacharach/David)
- 8) I Only Wanna Laugh (William Jacob/Shannon Shor)
- 9) Who (Will Take My Place) (Charles Aznavour/Herbert Kretzmer)
- 10) I Think It's Gonna Rain Today (Randy Newman)
- 11) Morning (Bom Dia) (Nana Caymmi/Gilberto Gil/Norma Tanega)
- 12) Second Time Around (Sammy Cahn/Jimmy Van Heusen)

Bonus Tracks:

- 13) No Stranger Am I (Norma Tanega)
- 14) Meditation (Antonio Carlos Jobim/Newton Mendonca/Norman Gimbel)
- 15) The Colour Of Your Eyes (Molly Mckernan/Norma Tanega)
- 16) Spooky (Buddy Buie/James B Cobb/Harry Middlebrooks/Mike Shapiro)

A fascinating and fabulous album, i love every track, although there are particular highlights. 'Take Another Little Piece Of My Heart', a screamingly provocative song with Dusty and her backing singers throwing this at us with a ton of defiant passion. The beat that kicks in with a knock-out punch in 'Love Power', that REALLY threw me when i first heard it...and every time since! The smooth and groovy intro' on 'Who (Will Take My Place)' followed by one of the most heart-breaking lyrics i've heard Dusty sing: 'Who, when my life is through.....' this one grabbed me for entirely different reasons, as i'm sure it did for many of you, but, it's a beautiful song that goes straight to the heart when

hearing it for the first time, and without warning. Despite 'Second Time Around' being described in the Paul Howes bible as supper club material, i find it deliciously slushy. The best track on the album, for me is Bacharach/David's 'This Girl's In Love With You', which feels as though Dusty is completely wrapping herself around the song, and not just vocally, it's almost physical! It roots me to the spot every time, like a tiny piece of heaven landing here on earth, utterly divine.....

Now, that's enough about how i feel about the album, for the time being. What i really want to know is, how you all feel about it? There is one thing that really intrigues me about it, not mentioned yet. All i'll say for now is that there is a clown 🤡 and a wink 🙄 to be earned here, for the first person who guesses.

Sue xx

memphisinlondon

Where am I going?



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

Posted - 26/08/2009 : 19:37:19

http://www.dustyspringfield.info/forum/topic.asp?ARCHIVE=true&TOPIC_ID=4309

Click on the link for the Dusty Definitely thread from January this year. Not many of us posted. I guess I said as much as I could and Taylor gave us a great over-arching review - with Sue's we now have two!

This album didn't sell very well. Neither did the sister album 'Dusty in Memphis'. Just as Dusty reached the apex of her powers the magic carpet was pulled out from under her and she ended up living out the lyrics of 'No Easy Way Down'. This was a hard time for women in music and a great time for new 'heavy' rock bands.

So it's over to everybody else that wants to to add their thoughts and comments. I'll just add that I bought this album on vinyl just to get the gorgeous cover shot of Dusty in that fabulous dress - even though I think Dusty looks a little sad in it. The liner notes are cool too- written by Dusty.

Memphis
Ever since we met...

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 26/08/2009 22:04:21



Sue

Little by little



United Kingdom
428 Posts

Posted - 26/08/2009 : 19:46:57

Hi Memphis 😊 Thank you for the link. I always look back through the menu before i post, but it doesn't go back as far as January... 😞

Sue xx



memphisinlondon

Where am I going?



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

Posted - 26/08/2009 : 20:07:25

You're welcome, Sue. I have a few old links 'favourited' so that I can find them without too much hassle.

Memphis
Ever since we met...



Sue

Little by little



Posted - 26/08/2009 : 20:21:25

Very nice, Memphis 😊



United Kingdom
428 Posts

Can i just point out, i've only been a member since April this year? These things happen? While you're here, why not try to earn the clown and wink...!

Apologies to Taylor, sorry. 😞

Sue xx

quote:

Originally posted by memphisinlondon

You're welcome, Sue. I have a few old links 'favourited' so that I can find them without too much hassle.

Memphis
Ever since we met...



memphisinlondon

Where am I going?
☆☆☆

Posted - 26/08/2009 : 20:33:07



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

Can you give another clue? Meanwhile I'll scour the album cover....

Memphis
Ever since we met...

PS Is it the china being smashed?

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 26/08/2009 20:35:23



Tim

Where am I going?
☆☆☆

Posted - 26/08/2009 : 21:39:20



United Kingdom
3422 Posts

Love the album - from cover to cover.

May be my imagination but I always think Dusty sings 'This GIRL's in love with you as if it were in italics - a kind of mischievous double entendre with a second subtext..

'I still like Daffy Duck. Can't think of anyone I like better. Actually that's who I'm having an affair with. Difficult but rewarding!'



ErgoFergo

I'll try anything
☆☆

Posted - 26/08/2009 : 22:48:11



United Kingdom
1047 Posts

It is a great album - and particularly special because these tracks really are Dusty's personal choices.

I bought it for £2.99 (criminal - that's less than 20p per track!) with no preconceptions. Within three seconds, the opening track had me dancing around my living room like a loon. I was cock-a-hoop by Love Power.

And then 'side 2', with the beautiful Who (Will Take My Place) and I Think It's Gonna Rain Today, eased me gently back down to earth again.

(And I reckon it's the smashing crockery too...)

Vicky
x

Edited by - ErgoFergo on 26/08/2009 23:17:09



Sue

Little by little
★

Posted - 27/08/2009 : 17:47:52



Hello to Memphis 😊😏 and Vicky 😊😏

I've decided that you both get the clown and wink, seeing as both of you got it before the day was out.



United Kingdom
428 Posts

Now, what interests me about this is, was it listed on the original vinyl album? If not, how much of a shock was it? 🤔 Luckily, when i first played the album, i had my nose in the Paul Howes book at the same time, so i knew what to expect, but, it made me wonder how many fans rushed to the next room to see if a couple of bricks had been thrown through their window... 🤔🤔

Love your description, Tim, of 'This Girl's In Love With You', possibly another little touch of Dusty humour? Hmmmm, i'm going to have to listen to that track a few more times, not that it bothers me at all... 😊

Sue xx



dancer8595

Little by little



United Kingdom
690 Posts

📅 Posted - 27/08/2009 : 23:04:26 🗨️

Dusty... Definitely was a defining moment in the second phase of my Dusty voyage (phase one: *In Memphis*, about ten years ago; phase two: all the other sixties albums plus a couple from the 70s, about three years ago; phase three: everything else plus joining LTD and, well, taking the lid off my Dusty love and just letting it boil right over). I loaded the tracks onto my personal minidisc player (how quaint!) before I'd even played the CD and went out for a run. By the end of 'Ain't No Sun Since You've Been Gone' I think I'd run from one end of the country to the other, like I was rocket-propelled or somethin' (it still has this effect). If you're going to start an LP, that's how to do it: a muddy, dirty, low-down bass, drums that appear to have been let loose after a lengthy period of confinement, and that little burst of horns that sounds like it should be announcing some kind of hi-energy burlesque show: brassy, ballsy, strident. And then there's the voice: supremely relaxed and laid-back here, until you listen to the words. This is why it's an extraordinary record. It's a *sad* song, you think, IT'S A SAD SONG, and I don't get it because it's making me want to do backflips over the sofa and swing from the light fittings! We all know about Dusty's incomparable ability with this kind of thing (upbeat energetic stuff allied to lyrics of loss and heartbreak), but is there a more extreme example than this?!

I can't talk about 'Take Another Little Piece Of My Heart' without mentioning the most well-known of other artists' readings. I am a fan of Janis Joplin. Properly. I've read a lot about her and I have most of her records. However, were Dusty and Janis to have an encounter on the tennis court, it would be a Nadal vs. Federer-type situation: power against subtle beauty. Janis would stand at one end, tearing out her insides and flinging them onto the hallowed Wimbledon lawns (sorry to be graphic but there's really no other way to describe it), growing increasingly wild of hair and dishevelled of dress, trying to wear Dusty down with sheer force and noise. Ms Springfield, composed and immaculately beehived, would recline leisurely at the other end on some sort of luxuriously upholstered *chaise longue*, deftly batting away Janis's 100-mph forehands without looking up from her copy of *Melody Maker*, other than to politely acknowledge the ball boy who's brought her a vodka and tonic. She'd win in straight sets without creasing her gown or smudging her mascara.

I love the gentle, bittersweet bossa nova of 'Who Will Take My Place'; it's another example of that anxious, questioning, uncertain thing she does so well. While I accept that 'Second Time Around' is 'supper-club material', it was one of my favourite Dusty songs for a long time - before I got to know the full range of her material really well - simply because I think it's an astonishing vocal. Her timing is extraordinary: she does this very clever and sophisticated thing rhythmically where she hangs on to the tempo so that she almost doesn't get there in time - as though she's singing on the 't' of the 'beat'. I'd love to know if this was recorded line by line, because (sorry to use a dancing analogy again) it's like a long, slow adage sequence in ballet, with the tension suspended and then let out a tiny bit at a time.

Her definitive interpretation of 'I Think It's Going To Rain Today' should have had Randy Newman worshipping at her feet for the rest of her days. If I'd written a song that had been handled as delicately and as

movingly and as absolutely perfectly as this, I'd make it my life's work to gush profusely about the singer in question in every interview I ever did. Newman's apparent lack of regard for Dusty's interpretation of his songs is utterly baffling; I'm only glad that Madeleine Bell and others have singled this song out as one of her finest recordings.

I've kind of exhausted myself now but I adore 'Love Power' almost as much as the opening track, especially now that we have that wonderful TV performance with her checking the words on her hand; she makes 'This Girl's In Love With You' sound both mellow and urgent at the same time (how do you do it, Dust? How?!); and then you have some of greatest ever recordings (the Norma Tanega songs) as bonus tracks! And Spooky!

Heavens.

PS Sue (thank you so much for starting this thread by the way!) – the vinyl sleeve notes are identical to the inside front cover of the CD booklet.

Rosie x

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

Edited by - dancer8595 on 27/08/2009 23:06:23



Chrispld
I'll try anything
★★

Posted - 27/08/2009 : 23:28:39



Thanks for that amazing post Rosie. I shall be relistening to Dusty Definitely with new ears.!!Thanks also to Sue for starting this topic.!

Chris



United Kingdom
1075 Posts

memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
★★★

Posted - 28/08/2009 : 00:46:32



Just to say that I thoroughly enjoyed reading Rosie's excellent and heart-felt post. 😊😂 I loved the Dusty voyage and the Janice Joplin bit made me smile too and remember 😊

I went through a little Janice Joplin phase back in the 1980s. There was a good documentary about her, then I read a biography and Bette Midler's 'The Rose' movie was loosely based on her - I saw that movie about 4 times. It's funny. Maybe it's just age but nowadays I never play Janice and don't rate her anymore although I appreciate how powerful she was in her day and she remains interesting even though she had such a tragically short career. I've ended up very happily with Dusty and a bunch of other true greats - the ones that left behind quality catalogues and were able to develop their artistry over time and make their mistakes and produce their great works. Time has sifted out the also rans which include some over-hyped artists that still haven't been debunked yet (I'd include Janice here 😞 probably because she was just too rough edged and visceral and she left behind no real catalogue of work).

The magic of Dusty, for me, is there was no hype about her except the grapevine worship of DIM - which turned out to be perfectly reasonable. I knew nothing about her promotion in the 60s. Even now, with all the original articles we have here to savour, I can see that Dusty's true achievements were often downplayed or not really noticed apart from DIM and some of her classic masterworks on 45; it's only really nowadays that I can read articles now and then that really appreciate the breadth of her achievements yet still her albums, such as DD, are not treated that seriously. But she is treated as a Great.

Dusty's catalogue was hidden away for so long. We are so lucky to have such easy access to it today. It was artists like Janice Joplin and the other young blues rockers as well as the 60s african-american soul greats that eclipsed Dusty just at the time she should've have been welcomed as a True Great. Dusty must have looked and sounded out of time and out of place in comparison. But, if Dusty had been 25 in 1968 (and not trapped in her constructed persona) she'd have belted 200mph balls of vocal fire back at Janice and won even on Janice's terms!

Memphis
Ever since we met...

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 28/08/2009 00:59:21



Sue

Little by little



United Kingdom
428 Posts

Posted - 29/08/2009 : 00:57:52

Hi Memphis 😊 and Rosie 😊

I agree with what you say Memphis, about Dusty being eclipsed at just the wrong time and this album being overlooked as a result. And yes, we're are extremely lucky to have such easy access to the Dusty catalogue these days.

Rosie, i loved that post of yours, and you make some very good points, yet again you have shown me a few things i've missed completely. The impeccable timing in 'Second Time Around', i'm so glad you are here to explain these technicalities. Randy Newman's silence on Dusty's covers of his songs, is very puzzling, it's something i'm trying to find more information on, but i don't think i'll get far.

Meanwhile, we can never have enough Dusty on this forum, can we? Here's a couple of clips, the first one of Dusty singing 'Ain't No Sun...', when the beat comes in and she starts dancing as though she really wants to RAVE, then the hair wobbles a little at the back, and i think she (quite wisely!) decides against it, LOL!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXmmAQh6dqw>

Then, we also have Dusty on the 'Liberace Show' singing 'Second Time Around'. Not sure whether or not she's miming here, no matter, i love this. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ty-KRdGBOWA>

Sue xx



Sue

Little by little



United Kingdom
428 Posts

Posted - 30/08/2009 : 21:55:34

So, not many of you like this album, then ? 😬 A bit strange, if that's the case. It would be interesting to hear from some of Dusty's long term fans who were around when the album came out. How did you feel about the album at the time? Were you expecting something a little different? Or did you feel that Dusty was getting boring?

I must admit, brilliant though i think this album is, it doesn't seem to have a sixties feel to it....it seems a little ahead of its time.

Sue xx



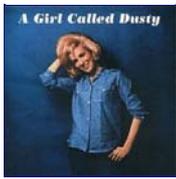
Brian

Where am I going?



Posted - 30/08/2009 : 22:26:53

I LOVE this album...especially the cover 🍷



United Kingdom
2058 Posts

Sue
Little by little
★



United Kingdom
428 Posts

Brian



Posted - 30/08/2009 : 22:28:40

Which are your favourite tracks, Brian?

Sue xx

quote:

Originally posted by Brian

I LOVE this album...especially the cover

Brian



memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
★★★



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

Posted - 30/08/2009 : 23:30:05

Well at least I can tell you that in a Survivor thread for DD the last 3 tracks were:

- I Can't Give Back the Love I Feel For You
- This Girls In Love With You
- I Think It's Going To Rain Today

I Can't Give Back was eventually knocked out.

It was a tough Survivor and the last one I properly participated in. It was exhausting! 'Ain't No Sun' was knocked out early. I can remember thinking Whaaat?! I GET this album. But I think I bought this album around 2000-2001 and it was easy to GET it then. The choice of tracks is very eclectic and very interesting. I think it might have been beyond the UK pale in 1968 unless the listener was a music afficianado/geek in the way Dusty was at that time and was maybe listening to international allsorts like she was and therefore able to give her the kudos she deserved.

At that time for instance I bet most pop journalists didn't even know who Charles Aznavour was (the track 'Who'). And Norma Tanega? And if they knew the A side tracks they'd know they were all covers. Maybe it wasn't a great album at the time but it is now. It's another instance where Dusty shows us she could sing anything and she was a musicologist. To me her albums are like master classes in the history of pop.

Memphis
Ever since we met...



Baby Blue
Where am I going?
★★★



USA
3185 Posts

Posted - 30/08/2009 : 23:40:55

As many of you already said, I love the album, especially the breathtaking cover!

Marty



mssdusty
I've got a good thing
★★★★★

Posted - 31/08/2009 : 00:19:08

I GOT EVERY LP DUSTY PUT OUT BACK IN THE DAY...



USA
5821 Posts

Sue
Little by little
★



United Kingdom
428 Posts

😊M😊



THE LOOK OF LOVE IS IN YOUR EYES!
Watch my video with Dusty on YouTube!



📅 Posted - 31/08/2009 : 00:23:11 🗨️

You're right, i think, Memphis. Dusty it seems knew more about music than your average sixties pop fan. On the album proper (not including the bonuses) there's only one with Norma Tanega input, the fab 'Morning (Bom dia)'. Wonderful track though it is, i wonder if, maybe, it was not quite sixties stuff? The same could be said for 'Ain't No Sun/Another Night/Love Power'....apart from 'Take Another Little Piece Of My Heart' i think the same could be said for the rest of the album, but, Dusty was educating us in her music. Even if nobody really knew who Charles Aznavour was, surely they could'nt fail to notice what a wonderful song 'Who (Will Take My Place)' was?

What about a little 'then and now' quiz from some of you older/long standing fans?
How did you feel about the album in 1968? Did you actually buy it back then?
How do you feel about the album now?

I notice that several people have commented on the cover, and it's fantastic, Dusty in THAT dress and THAT wig, she looks amazing, surely that would have been enough of an incentive to buy the album?



Sue xx



📅 Posted - 31/08/2009 : 00:28:32 🗨️ 🚩

mssdusty
I've got a good thing
★★★★★



USA
5821 Posts

mssdusty
I've got a good thing
★★★★★

HI SUE LOVED IT THEN LOVE MOST OF THE SONGS NOT HAVEING A TURNTABLE TO PLAY IT 😞 I ONLY WISH I HAD ONE

😊M😊



THE LOOK OF LOVE IS IN YOUR EYES!
Watch my video with Dusty on YouTube!



📅 Posted - 31/08/2009 : 00:29:40 🗨️ 🚩

AND YES I BOUGHT I T BACK THEN...🙏

😊MARY😊



THE LOOK OF LOVE IS IN YOUR EYES!
Watch my video with Dusty on YouTube!



USA
5821 Posts

Sue
Little by little
★

📅 Posted - 31/08/2009 : 00:34:53 🗨️



Hi Mary 😊 That's interesting because we didn't have a record player in our house until '68-69, i was a bit young for Dusty records at the time.

Sue xx

quote:

United Kingdom
428 Posts

Originally posted by mssdusty

HI SUE LOVED IT THEN LOVE MOST OF THE SONGS NOT HAVEING A
TURNTABLE TO PLAY IT 😞 I ONLY WISH I HAD ONE



THE LOOK OF LOVE IS IN YOUR EYES!
Watch my video with Dusty on YouTube!



dancer8595

Little by little



United Kingdom
690 Posts

Posted - 31/08/2009 : 13:24:56



I'm surprised and indeed a little dismayed to learn that Ain't No Sun was knocked out early on in a round of Survivor. I think it's a stunning record, and it's certainly become one of my Dusty favourites over the last couple of years. The album itself is another reminder - along with her BBC TV series - of just how much Dusty's reputation and legacy have been shaped and consolidated by the fact that she was allowed a certain degree of creative freedom and control over what she sang and where. It's unfathomable now that a young female singer, who was aimed very much at the mainstream, was a) gifted with her own TV series in the first place, and b) given carte blanche over what she wanted to sing and which guests she wanted to invite; and that she was also allowed to do what she did on this album - choose songs simply because they were her favourites. It simply wouldn't happen today. I think the capacity of current artists to produce material that will ensure them a long-lasting credibility and reputation is being dangerously stifled by the fact that in many cases they are afforded little, if any, creative freedom.

Dusty...Definitely is a standout album for me (my use of this phrase is becoming less and less credible given that there are five or six Dusty albums that I would call favourites 😊) for many reasons. It features some of her finest pre-*In Memphis* vocal work (Second Time Around for me in particular); it includes two great big irresistible stonking roof-shaking ravers (Ain't No Sun and Love Power); it reveals a great deal about Dusty's very sophisticated and eclectic musical tastes and understanding; and there are two solid-gold examples of her ability to brilliantly interpret the work of Bacharach and Newman.

Sue - thank you for your comments. 😊 Again I must stress that when I talk about the technical aspects of Dusty's singing I don't wish to appear as though I absolutely know what I'm talking about; I'm really just saying what I think. Somebody who was a genuine expert might disagree with me (although I don't how they could about her timing and control in Second Time Around - I mean come on, it's incredible!)

Memphis 😊 - I'm glad you enjoyed reading and I hope you had/are having a lovely Bank Holiday weekend. The Joplin biog I've read that just ASTOUNDED me is by Alice Echols and it's called 'Scars of Sweet Paradise'.

Rosie x

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



memphisinlondon

Where am I going?



Posted - 31/08/2009 : 23:08:22



I read 'Buried Alive'. Not the greatest title and perhaps not the greatest book but I remember it well and still have it.

Memphis
Ever since we met...



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

Sue
Little by little
★



United Kingdom
428 Posts

Posted - 01/09/2009 : 00:03:34

Rosie, i think that Dusty was allowed those freedoms and control over what she sang because those in the know, in the music business, could see exactly how talented she was, they knew she wouldn't let them down and they were probably aware of her music knowledge and tastes. However, i do think that possibly, just a tiny bit of her being able to get her own way, was because she knew she could wrap them round her little finger if she chose.

Also, i have to disagree with you, a little, when you point out that you are no expert! What i was trying to say was, you know a lot more than me and you have pointed things out about breathing/voice control etc, that i wouldn't normally pay attention to, so thank you for that. It got me thinking about that clip with Dusty and Johnny Pearson, it's completely irrelevant to this thread, but tell me, that bit at the end where she sings "peee-eee-eeel me a gra-aa-ape", is that what they call a vibrato, or a tremelo? Take a little look.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SM1Hmngqi6U>

I love the look on Johnny Pearson's face at the end there, on that last note, now, if that's not admiration for what she's doing, what is?

Sue xx



memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
★★★



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

Posted - 01/09/2009 : 00:51:47

I think it was just that Dusty was a megastar. She was voted No. 1 female singer several times. Dusty was powerful. Much more powerful and in control than probably any female pop singer in the 60s. I don't think she was 'allowed' anything or that she had to 'wrap anybody around her little fingers'. She was Dusty and she could call her own shots. The relative failure of her albums at this time must have been a huge blow to her ego but she never compromised herself until IBA IMHO.

Memphis
Ever since we met...



Sue
Little by little
★



United Kingdom
428 Posts

Posted - 01/09/2009 : 01:11:17

Hi Memphis 😊 She was indulged a fair bit for her BBC series and selected a lot of the music herself. That 'wrap them around her little finger' bit was just tongue in cheek....i bet she could have done so....if she wanted, but she probably didn't need to anyway!

Yes, she was a megastar, but i was referring to the BBC series to begin with, i should have been clearer, i don't mean she could've wrapped them around her finger in the recording studio.

Sue xx

quote:

Originally posted by memphisinlondon

I think it was just that Dusty was a megastar. She was voted No. 1 female singer several times. Dusty was powerful. Much more powerful and in control than probably any female pop singer in the 60s. I don't think she was 'allowed' anything or that she had to 'wrap anybody around her little fingers'. She was Dusty and she could call her own shots. The relative failure of her albums at this time must have been a huge blow to her ego but she never compromised herself until IBA IMHO.

Memphis
Ever since we met...



memphisinlondon Posted - 01/09/2009 : 01:22:09

Where am I going?
☆☆☆



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

Hi Sue!

I don't know much about the making of her TV series but I would bet Dusty wanted them her way or no way. I can't imagine her accepting less at the height of her popularity. She wasn't born to follow! Probably TV was a lot more relaxed in those days in any case. For instance, both Lulu and Dusty were able to get Jimi Hendrix on their shows. Amazing!

Memphis
Ever since we met...



Topic

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