

Let's Talk Dusty!

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

Dusty at the Blue Room, Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans

<http://www.dustyspringfield.org.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?f=8&t=5948>

Dusty at the Blue Room, Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans

Page 1 of 1

by LilCajunGirl

Posted: **Mon Jan 27, 2014 7:43 am**

I believe in 1972, Dusty played The Blue Room, a dinner/show club at the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans. Anyone know if any photos/films exist of these performances? Would love to get my hands on at least a photo.

It's driving me crazy knowing she was 5 miles away from me in 1972, even though I was only 10 at the time!!



Re: Dusty at the Blue Room, Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans

by Clive

Posted: **Mon Jan 27, 2014 2:49 pm**

Sorry I don't have any photos JoAnn

But you may be interested in a journalist's recollections of that time.

"It was such a pleasure to meet and spend a little time with Dusty Springfield..

She didn't want to do interviews when she played the Roosevelt Blue Room in New Orleans, (this must have been early 1970s), so she said she'd only talk to press after her two shows, at 1 a.m. or after. I was the only one who took her up on it and it wasn't so much an interview as a conversation and it went on for something like three hours.

How can you resist someone who sprawls on the floor with you and serves you tea and vodka and just free-associates about whatever pops into her head?

She said, "Look, turn off your tape recorder and put your pen down and if I say something that's halfway interesting or funny or worth saving, we'll write it down, all right? That way, we can talk like real people, not like we're doing a job. I did my job tonight. and you've been doing yours. Let's get something different from the same old Q&A."

Re: Dusty at the Blue Room, Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans

by LilCajunGirl

Posted: **Mon Jan 27, 2014 8:29 pm**

I know, I saw that. Was just wondering if there was anything floating out there. My next thing is to contact the Roosevelt Hotel directly and see if they have anything in their archives. I'm just about 5 miles away on the other side of the Mississippi River. Can go pick up what ever they may have. If they do, I will certainly share!



Re: Dusty at the Blue Room, Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans

by daydreamer

Posted: **Sat Feb 01, 2014 3:22 pm**

I've been away and so only just seen this. There is this interview which includes a photo taken in the kitchens of the Roosevelt Hotel, plus another couple from my files. The written page should hopefully come up large enough to read.

Dusty Says Tardiness Comes from Her Fear

Miss Springfield Tells Her Inhibitions

By DAVID CUTHBERT
It's the wee small hours of the morning in Dusty Springfield's hotel suite and her road manager is waving his arms none too subtly and pointing at his watch—a hint Dusty should stop talking and give her instructor the go.

Dusty's aristocratic Starmoon Grover chooses to glide in at this moment ("Our lives revolve around Grover," the road manager says) smiling out the window. A humidifier on the floor belches wispy little puffs of hot air as Grover stares at the bottle of Therafin on the round coffee table: "a tasty vitamin-mineral protein nutritional supplement for cats," the label says.

Dusty seems to be ignoring the frantic sign language. There's just so much to talk about—her passion for jazz and June Haver music, the times she was deported from South Africa, her brother's hangup with Carmen Miranda.



—Times-Picayune staff photo by Jim Beach.
BLUE ROOM STAR DUSTY SPRINGFIELD
Primping in the kitchen before going on.

know—I dug my heels in. I'd worked clubs in England, but I'm ultra-familiar there. Here it was a case of being a coward. I guess. I was afraid about having—I don't know—to PROVE myself all over again. I imagined the audience would be angry but they're not, they're so warm and responsive!"

Mention of her opening song "But Alive" prompts her to spring up and recreate the first scene of "Applause" in which the song is sung by Lauren Bacall as an anthem of survival.

"I'd like to do a musical, but I'm scared," she says. "I'd like to act—maybe break in on those TV movies to have some confidence. I know I can do it, but I have these inhibitions—I have to be TOLD I can do it."

But what is she afraid of?

AFRAID OF EVERYTHING

"I'm afraid of everything," she says quietly. "When I sing and wave my arms around, I'm asking for the recognition that I need! Some people don't need too much. I need a lot. I don't know why. I came from a very loving family, my head's pretty well together. . . ."

SESAME STREET

She sprays from the couch to act out what seems like an entire episode from "Sesame Street," the voices for the various Muppets being as accurate as her Ethel Merman imitation.

There are people who shake their heads when she turns up late for her performances. "She's a very talented girl," they say, "but she's got this star complex."

"You need a screen test to talk to her," you hear from another corner.

Her road manager Fred Perry has worked with her for nearly nine years and explains that she's very shy.

Yet the best explanation comes from the lady herself who quite unexpectedly and matter-of-factly tells you, "I'm afraid."

"I'm afraid of everything," she says. . . .

Onstage at the Fairmont-Roosevelt Blue Room, she makes fun of her reputation for tardiness. "Well, the astronaut finally landed on the moon, but I can't seem to make it down

here from the eighth floor on time."

Bright beaded flowers dance over her clinging hot pink Ray Aghayan gown as she coos to a dreamy "Look of Love." In her upbeat numbers, she comes across like a full-volume juke box in a classy dive. She does fast little dance steps as her back-up trio of black singers do the Motown precision bit.

QUEEN OF 60S POP

You can see why she was the queen of the vibrant, big pop sound before she pulled an abdication of sorts.

"I wasn't really away," she says. "It was a touch and go thing. I'd touch down and—go!"

She laughs and continues: "I did some TV in England, England and Tom Jones and a wonderful Barry Bacharach special over here that was up for an Emmy. But I just didn't follow any of it up. I was frightened, I was getting no direction from my management."

"I had to take some time off to stop! And think!"

While working on a couple of

shows for Andy Williams, she met Alan Bernard who managed her now and is bringing her "back" before the public.

"When Alan expressed an interest in me I didn't take it too seriously — my criticism, I guess. But the way he talked intrigued me and I signed with him."

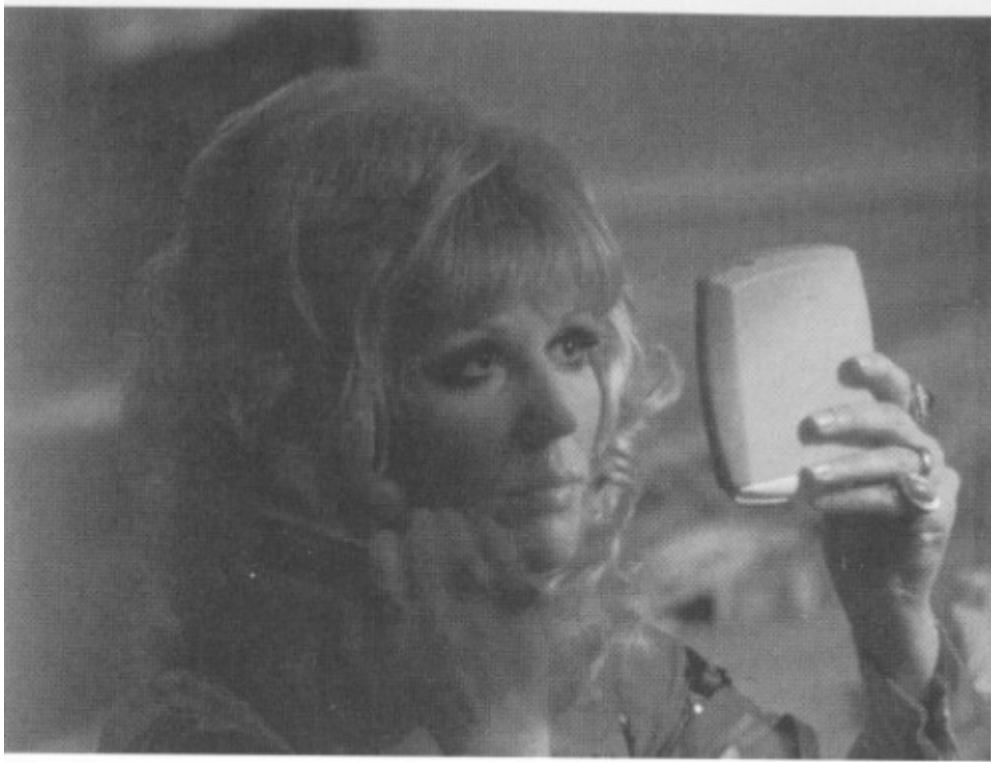
"He has my absolute trust and respect. He looked after Andy for 13 years, up until six months ago. The man who managed me before that was an extremely nice person, but he didn't have the hard-nosed attitude that is such a necessity in this business."

U.S. CUSTOMS

All of her onstage chatter seems to be rooted in fact. Another line she says is about her managers pleading with her to do night club work. "Dusty," she quotes them as saying, "You've got to turn up in American senseplaces other than U.S. Customs!"

It's true. "They kept offering me nightclub jobs here begin-
ning five years ago but I don't





Re: Dusty at the Blue Room, Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans

by LilCajunGirl

Posted: **Sat Feb 01, 2014 4:40 pm**

THANK YOU, CAROLE!!!

YOU ARE AWESOME!!!

Re: Dusty at the Blue Room, Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans

by allherfaces

Posted: **Sat Feb 01, 2014 6:00 pm**

What a great read, Carole. Thanks. Gives a real window into Dusty, especially at that point in her career. 😊

Re: Dusty at the Blue Room, Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans

by pat.dunham

Posted: **Sat Feb 01, 2014 8:16 pm**

Thanks Carole. I thought when I saw this photo earlier on the board that she was in a kitchen. What a way to make an entrance - enter stage left via servery. Life was never glam for our Dusty-Today's "Diva" would demand a special room adjacent to stage with all mod cons and more..

Enjoyed the article too.

Re: Dusty at the Blue Room, Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans

by Clive

Posted: **Mon Feb 03, 2014 9:33 am**

thanks Carole, hadn't seen this article before.

The quote I saw before was from the same journalist who wrote the article I think.

Re: Dusty at the Blue Room, Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans

by darren2722

Posted: **Mon Feb 03, 2014 9:47 am**

Great Read, Thanks Carole. 😊