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daydreamer

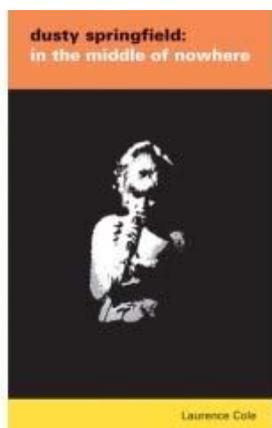
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United Kingdom  
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Posted - 27/05/2008 : 16:57:19

Three of the new books on Dusty have made an appearance on Amazon.co.uk, one called In The Middle of Nowhere by Laurence Cole is showing the cover, which is....



Sharon Davis's book is down as The Life and Death of Dusty Springfield, which I sincerely hope isn't the finished title. I was told it wouldn't be.

Annie Randall's doesn't show the cover either, though I believe it's been chosen, but the title is Dusty!: Queen of the Post Mods.

They're down to be published in Sept, Oct and Nov respectively.

Carole x

"The days have come and gone since you were here..."

Edited by - daydreamer on 27/05/2008 17:02:30

memphisinlondon

Where am I going?



United Kingdom  
3565 Posts

Posted - 27/05/2008 : 17:27:52

The Laurence Cole book will be a University Press publication so it might be the result of a PhD and could be interesting (I like the title). Sharon Davis has written respectful books about Tamla greats such as Stevie, Diana and Marvin. Apparently she has collaborated with Simon Bell and Pat Rhodes for this book. The publicity blurb runs thus (not always accurately):

'Dusty Springfield is a pop-music legend. Goddess of the sixties, reluctant recluse of the seventies, enigmatic icon of the eighties and nineties, she attracted a passionate following that has remained loyal to this day.

Yet, since her death in 1999, aged 59, she seems to have provoked more jealousy, bitterness and hostility than when alive. Two critical biographies assaulted her memory, her funeral wishes were ignored and the provisions of her GBP 6 million will kept secret. Why? This new biography, written with the active cooperation and assistance of Dusty's lifelong friend and secretary, Patricia Rhodes, and of Simon Bell, who lived with her through the last six months of her life, seeks answers to these and other questions that continue to perplex all who

knew her. It will be a timely reminder of the art and style of a performer who said of herself, "My face is white, but my soul is black."

Do you know if Annie Randall's book is promising much new? I've just found this link to an earlier Annie article. Looks like she could be the 'real thing' - for me anyway.

<http://depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/isam/NewsletF05/RandallF05.htm>

Memphis

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 27/05/2008 17:42:42



**daydreamer**

Moderator



United Kingdom  
5404 Posts

Posted - 27/05/2008 : 18:05:12

Simon has had very little input into Sharon's book, so I think collaboration is probably too strong, though with her music journalistic background, his hopes are high. She has spoken to Pat quite a bit I believe, and she is also happy with Sharon taking on the task. It's hard to know what else can be written about Dusty though, unless something is taken from a completely different angle. Annie's book will be different. She's from a musically academic background and the book will be mainly for music scholars and die hard Dusty fans....it's not a biography as such. She did a great deal of research over two or three years and I'm really looking forward to reading the finished result.

Carole x

"The days have come and gone since you were here..."



**allherfaces**

Administrator



USA  
14235 Posts

Posted - 27/05/2008 : 18:26:50

I can assure you that Annie's book will be first rate. She is a scholar/musicologist at Bucknell. If you go on amazon.com you will also see that she has written (or co-written) a book on a popular Puccini opera--The Girl of the Golden West.

As Carole says, it is not a biography; I think the term for it is a 'monograph.' Again, to echo Carole, she has done a tremendous amount of research; also, unlike other Dusty book authors, she also brings academic scholarship and theory to the project. Although it will no doubt have hundreds of footnotes and of great interest to music scholars, I have a feeling it will be quite readable and of interest to more than diehard Dusty fans. Maybe it will make some less-than-diehard fans into diehard ones along with the rest of us!

I can't wait to read it either!

Thank you Carole for the notice of other books as well. It's going to be a very Dusty fall!

**I'll put your pictures all around my wall  
I'll build a tower of love that won't fall**



**Will**

Wasn't born to follow



United Kingdom  
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Posted - 27/05/2008 : 18:28:55

Having spoken to Annie on DD about her book, I cannot WAIT to get a copy and see what she has written. I'd also be keen to read the other two, especially a bio on Dusty, which I have never yet read.

**Will**

<http://www.mactastic.net/>

"..Catch me if you can - I'm goin' back.."



**Cas19**

Wasn't born to follow



Posted - 27/05/2008 : 18:33:32

Thanks Carole for the up-dates on all these books, the Laurence Cole



8313 Posts

one sounds interesting, as of course does Annies, she was on about the title at Dusty Day.

Casx



'Something in your eyes'



Posted - 27/05/2008 : 19:49:13

**Hampson**  
I've got a good thing  
★★★★★



United Kingdom  
4703 Posts

Looking forward to Annies book after speaking to her at DD08.

Wendy



**memphisinlondon**  
Where am I going?  
★★★

Posted - 27/05/2008 : 20:16:05



United Kingdom  
3565 Posts

Annie's book sounds like it will be really good and raise Dusty's iconic star a bit higher for all the right reasons. Her historical and cultural importance needs to be much more deeply considered and recognised than it has been so far. I'll order the book as soon as I can and, no doubt, I'll end up with the other two as well.

Memphis 😊

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 27/05/2008 21:56:10



**boztiggs**  
Where am I going?  
★★★

Posted - 27/05/2008 : 21:23:59



United Kingdom  
3367 Posts

I was lucky enough to have a 45 minute chat with annie at the party in chelsea. I know it was all about dusty and the book but i cant remember what the hell was said, but it was fabulous anyway.

Neil 😊

" Here in the gloom, of my lonely room, i hold his photograph and pray ill see him soon oh-oh"



**daydreamer**  
Moderator  
★★★★★

Posted - 27/05/2008 : 22:24:21



United Kingdom  
5404 Posts

quote:

*Originally posted by memphisinlondon*

Annie's book sounds like it will be really good and raise Dusty's iconic star a bit higher for all the right reasons. Her historical and cultural importance needs to be much more deeply considered and recognised than it has been so far. I'll order the book as soon as I can and, no doubt, I'll end up with the other two as well.

Memphis 😊

It's funny what you say there because when I first met Annie, about 3 years ago, what she talked about most was the need to raise Dusty's profile in popular culture to the level she felt it deserved to be at. She still talks that way and is working on ways to it do, even though the book is finished.

Carole x

"The days have come and gone since you were here..."



**Will**

Wasn't born to follow

United Kingdom  
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Posted - 27/05/2008 : 22:34:34

>>..what she talked about most was the need to raise Dusty's profile in popular culture to the level she felt it deserved to be at. She still talks that way and is working on ways to it do..<<

Here's hoping she manages to do precisely that.

**Will**<http://www.mactastic.net/>

"..Catch me if you can - I'm goin' back.."

**memphisinlondon**

Where am I going?

United Kingdom  
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Posted - 27/05/2008 : 23:09:13

Hi Carole

I believe Dusty is very important on many levels. When I say that I mean that she was a fusion of black and white cultural sensibility - there was some of that in London in the late 1950s and 1960s but I don't know of anybody with such a high profile that publicly embodied that fusion so early on. Dusty was politically aware on that level too and then there's her sexuality and her political awareness there too. She was before her time and must have had to deal with lots of negativity because she was so truthful and always remained true to herself. Her musical genius at its best was absolutely fantastic. Of course she would be conflicted/dislocated and suffer for all these differences. I can't think of any pop icon that embodies all these levels so profoundly.

There's an important and educational story here. It's been told in bits and pieces up to a point so far. Personally, I think she's as important for the UK (more so actually) and as tragic as Elvis was for the USA. Sounds silly but it really isn't.

Memphis

PS Here's a You Tube link. See the comment about all that unstaged inter-racial affection...

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mIR\\_OYE4YKM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mIR_OYE4YKM)

Ever since we met...

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 27/05/2008 23:43:43

**allherfaces**

Administrator

USA  
14235 Posts

Posted - 28/05/2008 : 00:58:47

The comment on the youtube clip is accurate. I can recall people getting all out of shape because of the young black man on the popular 60s TV show The Mod Squad (the other two members were a white girl and white boy).

I agree with your analysis, well said, Memphis. The part I wonder about is "Dusty as tragedy." I do NOT agree with Neil Tennant who says her life simply wasn't one, that she went out on an "up." She suffered greatly from her illness, and her most recent record wasn't selling big or anything. She DID join AA and get sober, and some would argue that means her life wasn't a tragedy. At the same time, I think there are many elements that support that characterization. So, I'd be interested to hear more of how you see her as 'tragic.'

Elvis became an utter grotesque/parody of himself and died a pathetic figure. Dusty did not. I do think there are parallels between the two in terms of their importance in the history of popular music in their countries. They represent a paradigm shift--all was different before them and nothing the same afterwards (unless it was irrelevant).

Another interesting difference is that as far as I know Elvis never gave

black artists their props, whereas Dusty was a tireless promoter of black music and artists.

Hope this makes sense. Thanks for the interesting discussion.

### I'll put your pictures all around my wall I'll build a tower of love that won't fall



**paula**  
Moderator  
★★★★★



Posted - 28/05/2008 : 01:20:39

I'm excited to see the new Dusty books coming soon. Though as others have said, what could be said that hasn't already been said?...whether it be personal or public but ..I will still be interested in them all especially Annie R' as I am interested in the music theory side in relation to Dusty.

paula x



USA  
5012 Posts

**memphisinlondon**  
Where am I going?  
★★★



Posted - 28/05/2008 : 02:40:02

Hello allyourfaces,

Thanks for a great response. I'm tired and apologise for this long unedited reply

First I love Dusty's strength - that comes through everything for me and makes her admirable. The Elvis parallels are the paradigm shifts, the awe inspiring talent (he could sing anything too) and then the waste in the mid- to late 70s (OK Elvis was still recording some great tracks but his voice became weaker and he was ill). Elvis was a prescription drug addict; Dusty was a reformed alcoholic and cigarette addict. In his entire career Elvis recorded, arguably, 2 absolute classic studio albums - 'Elvis is Back' (1960) and 'From Elvis in Memphis' (1969).

Elvis had Tom Parker around his neck holding him back. To a point, Dusty had her willfulness around hers but she doesn't seem to have great management in the '70s or maybe she just wouldn't listen. The best would have been queuing up to work with her - just look at 'Beautiful Soul', Elvis Costello (who finally got to work with Bacharach - imagine if Dusty was included), Pet Shop Boys, and her final Nashville album. Her kudos were never fully taken advantage of. And of course we lost her too soon. That's the final blow. But Elvis went at 42. I guess their kind of brilliance isn't meant to be with us for long - unless it's nurtured and taken care of.

The tragedy for me is that the greatest singer the UK has produced couldn't find a place in the music industry in the late 1970s (the same fate befell lots of women artists in the 1970s). I think Dusty must have suffered terribly from trying to come back so hard and failing. That 'come back' should have been much more carefully managed. From now on I can hear her killing her voice through heavy smoking. Dusty seems to be very wise at this time too and maybe she realised there was more to life than breaking her heart for her music. I hope she was as happy as Neil Tennant says she was. I'd like to know for sure. I can't write about Dusty's illness except to say it was so unfair but it sure adds to the tragedy. I know she fought hard - that's our Dusty. I can't comment on Dusty's dark days in the 1970's (Dancing With Demons). I need to read an intelligent take on this first but those days sound close to tragedy too.

When I said she was more important than Elvis I was thinking of the credit she gave to black artists and the fact that she lived her life so differently to Elvis. Dusty was gay and that's no longer hidden. Having watched documentaries about the unpermissive 1960s, I can just about imagine how that must have put blocks in Dusty's way and caused her anxiety. On top of that she was a white woman with a rainbow soul in a white male music world.

I've loved Elvis since I was 9. Nowadays I love Dusty more.

Memphis

Ever since we met...

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 28/05/2008 03:20:57



**paula**  
Moderator  
★★★★★



USA  
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**dusty\_freak**  
I've got a good thing  
★★★★★



Australia  
5805 Posts

**Will**  
Wasn't born to follow  
★★★★★



United Kingdom  
7603 Posts

**daydreamer**  
Moderator  
★★★★★



United Kingdom  
5404 Posts

**Will**  
Wasn't born to follow  
★★★★★



Posted - 28/05/2008 : 03:19:41

all good reasons to choose the name "Memphis" 😊

paula x



Posted - 28/05/2008 : 14:25:40

Thanks for the info Carole. I'm quite excited about the new Dusty books! I don't ever read books but i'm more than happy to read a Dusty book 🍀

Also looking forward to Annie's book too.

Clare xoxo

"You know you've got it if it makes you feel good..."



Posted - 28/05/2008 : 18:15:29

>>i'm more than happy to read a Dusty book<<

Clare, they will brand new so they shouldn't be at all dusty ;)

**Will**  
<http://www.mactastic.net/>

"..Catch me if you can - I'm goin' back.."



Posted - 28/05/2008 : 21:02:21

I don't think of Dusty as a tragic figure, not at all. She had an illness to contend with that wasn't understood at the time, that happens to many people. She had some bad times in America in the 70's and early 80's with drink and drugs, but then so have many other icons of music and film. It's hard to think of one who hasn't. The greatest tragedy in Dusty's life was losing it. Almost every singer goes through bad and good times, popular and less popular. She would never have thought of herself as a victim or tragic figure, she had a lot to contend with and was a danger to herself at times but she recovered, kept her sense of humour and has earned the respect in death that she didn't always get in life. Things don't always happen the way they should.

Carole x  
"The days have come and gone since you were here..."

Edited by - daydreamer on 28/05/2008 21:02:59



Posted - 28/05/2008 : 22:48:36

You know Carole, one of the things which made me respect Dusty enormously was when she was asked why she refused to play in South Africa, to the segregated crowd there (despite the promises made to her as part of her contract). She was asked, as everyone no doubt

2010-07-28

### The Archives of Let's Talk Dusty! - N...



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knows already, if she had intended to make a political statement and she replied 'no' - she had simply done what she believed to be right.

She could have made political gain from the situation, she could have played it for all it was worth. She did neither. She simply said what she felt and what was true. I was so impressed with her for that, and so sad that other British celebrities took that as an opportunity to take pot shots at her because of it.

Because of all that, and reflecting on several things I have heard Pat Rhodes say in interviews about Dusty and the sort of person she was, I am inclined to agree with what you wrote above.

And I, for one, have a deep respect for Dusty and wish there were more who shared the qualities she had. She may not have been perfect, but none of us are; but her qualities shone like diamonds in the moonlight.

**Will**

<http://www.mactastic.net/>

"..Catch me if you can - I'm goin' back.."



**paula**  
Moderator  
★★★★★

Posted - 29/05/2008 : 01:54:15



USA  
5012 Posts