



## The Archives of Let's Talk Dusty!

Home | Profile | Active Topics | Active Polls | Members | Search | FAQ

Username:  Password:

Save Password

[Forgot your Password?](#)

All Forums

Let's Talk Dusty! The Forum

Getting It Right

THE DUSTY I KNEW

Forum Locked Topic Locked

Printer Friendly

Author

Topic

**Gypsy Rose Lee**

I'll try anything  
★★

USA  
1535 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 14:19:09

### THE DUSTY I KNEW

I have never really spoken up about my on-again/off again friendship with Dusty; however, so much misinformation is floating around these threads that I thought it was time to speak of the real Dusty that I knew.

Dusty had a wicked sense of humour - dripping with Irony and sardonic wit. If she heard another singer go flat or sharp, she'd burst out laughing and sing the correct note - then goof on them by going sharp and/or flat around that same note. It was very funny. Not that she wasn't self-effacing when she did the same thing. Even though she did about a million takes on each record she made, there are a few where the flat/sharp notes went uncorrected - there's a flat spot in "The Look Of Love" and on the album "Brand New Me", she goes sharp a few times on that "Philly Sound" almost falsetto material. Dusty knew it and wouldn't listen to certain songs because they drove her nuts and she wanted to get back into the studio to correct them.

Dusty had many gay male friends - even in AA. Fact is, I was a several AA meetings with Dusty - both in West Hollywood and the Upper West Side of Manhattan. In fact, the very last time I saw Dusty was when we had coffee after a meeting in the West 70's in 1989. We hadn't spoken in 17 years due to a huge fight we had back in 1972 - the details of which I shall spare you. I would not speak to Dusty and used to duck into shops or restaurants when I saw her coming down Columbus Avenue with the Billie Jean Brigade. Dusty and I buried the hatchet that night and laughed about our 17 years of estrangement.

The Dusty I knew wanted no part of the Lesbian Folk Music Scene - she and I mocked it on more than one occasion. She was a hard-core Soul Music fan - and never the twain shall meet. Dusty cut her musical teeth on Stax Records long before there was a Motown. We had pretty much the same taste in music - Mavis, Rufus & Carla Thomas, Etta James, Otis Redding - the real hard-core Black soul singers along with the latter-day Motown Stable - Martha & The Vandellas, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, David Ruffin, et al.

Now, that's all I'm going to speak about Dusty. The personal details will stay personal. Dusty was smart, funny - had a broad musical knowledge; a legendary temper; and a penchant for wild mood swings(hell, who doesn't?). **Dusty was first and foremost a human being.** That's all I'm ever going to say about her.

Hopefully, for those who never had a chance to meet or know Dusty, this clears up a few of the misrepresentations and erroneous depictions of that English girl who could "sing American".

Love,  
Ro

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 14:24:03

Thanks for that Ro! So pleased you made up in the end.

Love Jonathan

**Jonathan**

Little by little



United Kingdom  
458 Posts



**Gypsy Rose Lee**

I'll try anything  
★★

USA  
1535 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 14:30:14

Yes, Jonathan, so am I 😊

Love,  
Ro



**Tim**

Where am I going?  
★★★



United Kingdom  
3422 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 14:35:00

Thank you Ro - I'm glad you got back on speaking terms with Dusty and that was a lovely insight without breaking any vow of privacy.

Lately I was starting to feel if I had met Dusty she wouldn't have related to me. But maybe she would. Of course I might not have related to HER. LOL

T x



**Gypsy Rose Lee**

I'll try anything  
★★

USA  
1535 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 14:38:09

Oh, Tim, Dusty would have loved you - your witty and creative/talented... her kind of people 😊

Love,  
Ro



**allherfaces**  
Administrator  
★★★★★



USA  
14235 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 15:07:34

Thanks for sharing these memories of Dusty and insight into her, and in a respectful way.

Not surprising she wanted no part of a folk scene, as she was not a folk singer. And all she sang, including songs that might not be called "soul," I think were sung from her soul.

If you feel like commenting on this, I'd like to know who was in the Billie Jean Brigade?

"Yesterday's gone. Love lead me on."  
~Roll Away



**Gypsy Rose Lee**

I'll try anything  
★★

USA  
1535 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 15:10:10

Hi, Nancy

The "Billie Jean Brigade" changed its "cast" from time to time - mostly it was Billie Jean, Rosie Casales, Dusty and one or two other women whom I didn't know.

Love,  
Gypsy



**Jane**

Little by little  
★

United Kingdom  
239 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 15:29:38

quote:

*Originally posted by Gypsy Rose Lee*

**THE DUSTY I KNEW**

Now, that's all I'm going to speak about Dusty. The personal details will stay personal. Dusty was smart, funny - had a broad musical knowledge; a legendary temper; and a penchant for wild mood swings(hell, who doesn't?). **Dusty was first and foremost a human being.** That's all I'm ever going to say about her.

Love,  
Ro

---

Thank you Ro - that's what I call RESPECT.

Janie xx



**paula**  
Moderator  
★★★★★



Posted - 18/11/2006 : 16:33:22

---

Ro,  
Thanks for the story. It's nice that you and Dusty had the chance to make ammends when you got the chance.  
paula x



USA  
5012 Posts

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



Posted - 18/11/2006 : 16:49:12

---

Thanks for sharing this Ro. I'm glad you made it clear she was a human being too because some people forget that.

Clare xoxo

"I'm not Mama's little baby no more..."



Australia  
5805 Posts

**Birdie Breeze**  
Little by little  
★

USA  
248 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 17:22:02

---

Actually, Dusty sang folk songs, solo, with her guitar, in her very first gigs, pre-Lana Sisters - when she was a teen, and, again, with The Springfields. She also sang them on some of her TV shows. This obviously isn't ALL that Dusty sang, anymore than techno pop was, but, that's all abit glaring, isn't it?

She could and did sing, just about everything....and the Springfields were very much a folk group.

Her first hit was "Silver Threads and Golden Needles" and she covered such classics as "Goodnight, Irene"

Birdie

quote:

---

*Originally posted by allherfaces*

Thanks for sharing these memories of Dusty and insight into her, and in a respectful way.

Not surprising she wanted no part of a folk scene, as she was not a folk singer. And all she sang, including songs that might not be called "soul," I think were sung from her soul.

If you feel like commenting on this, I'd like to know who was in the Billie Jean Brigade?

"Yesterday's gone. Love lead me on."  
-Roll Away

---

Edited by - Birdie Breeze on 18/11/2006 18:00:20



**Jane**

Little by little

United Kingdom  
239 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 17:53:33

quote:

*Originally posted by Birdie Breeze*

She could and did sing, just about everything.

*Birdie*

Can't argue with that one either!!

Janie xx

**Birdie Breeze**

Little by little

USA  
248 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 17:57:30

[quote]*Originally posted by Gypsy Rose Lee***THE DUSTY I KNEW**

I have never really spoken up about my on-again/off again friendship with Dusty; however, so much misinformation is floating around these threads that I thought it was time to speak of the real Dusty that I knew.

Well, good for you, darling....that is what we are all here for. Dusty. And, now what might all that misinformation be?

Dusty had a wicked sense of humour - dripping with Irony and sardonic wit. If she heard another singer go flat or sharp, she'd burst out laughing and sing the correct note - then goof on them by going sharp and/or flat around that same note. It was very funny. Not that she wasn't self-effacing when she did the same thing. Even though she did about a million takes on each record she made, there are a few where the flat/sharp notes went unattended - there's a flat spot in "The Look Of Love" and on the album "Brand New Me", she goes sharp a few times on that "Philly Sound" almost falsetto material. Dusty knew it and wouldn't listen to certain songs because they drove her nuts and she wanted to get back into the studio to correct them.

Oh, yes...many sensitive and easily pained people use humour to cope. It's a fact of life. Dusty - besides being sensitive and easily pained and having a terrific sense of humour had...perfect pitch. Which had everything to do with how she heard things AND all the different musical styles and accents she could master.

Dusty had many gay male friends - even in AA.

Quelle Surprise!!! AA is crawling with gay men, especially in West Hollywood. They were always around, socially...out of the house. But, in her personal life - at home and running around...she hung out with the girls. This includes, at AA meetings. She'd usually have one guy, typically a fan, that she could call on to help her with moving etc. Later, back in the UK, she had Simon, Andy Richards, etc that she ran around with. She definitely, preferred the company of women. Going out, and saying hello or being in meetings with gay men, is different than hanging out with them in your personal life.

I would not speak to Dusty and used to duck into shops or restaurants when I saw her coming down Columbus Avenue with [the Billie Jean Brigade](#).

Exactly, the whole Billie Jean King period is a perfect example...and she never ran around with gay men in the same way she did with women.

The Dusty I knew wanted no part of the Lesbian Folk Music Scene - she and I mocked it on more than one occasion.

Well, she changed her mind, as the years went by. It was such a big scene, by the late 70's, and many of the top performers were big fans of hers.

She was a hard-core Soul Music fan - and never the twain shall meet.

She was SERIOUSLY into classical music, as well...and...irish folk songs and big italian ballads....and music coming out of Nashville...and and you get the idea.

I understand that you weren't into everything Dusty was into and so your relationship, reflected that....whatever you were into, at the time.

Now, that's all I'm going to speak about Dusty.

Thanks doll...it's always nice to hear other perspectives.

Birdie

Edited by - Birdie Breeze on 18/11/2006 18:05:05



**Tim**

Where am I going?



Posted - 18/11/2006 : 18:24:00

Dusty had several cultures going for her, I guess... (he said diplomatically)



What was it Simon Bell said recently - different people knew different aspects to her. I'm sure we are all a little like that.

T x



United Kingdom  
3422 Posts

**Sophie**

Where am I going?



2302 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 18:27:48

thanks for sharing that, Ro - i too am glad you & Dusty made friends again in '89 😊



**allherfaces**

Administrator



Posted - 18/11/2006 : 18:32:25

Birdie,  
Instead of contesting Ro's experience on the thread she started titled THE DUSTY I KNEW, the better thing to do would be to place your own memories/versions of events on your own thread. You give us your memories of Dusty on many threads, and I think it's okay that Ro can have one of her own.



"Yesterday's gone. Love lead me on."  
~Roll Away



USA  
14235 Posts

**Teda**

Little by little



USA  
384 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 18:52:40

Loved it Ro. A breath of fresh air and truth. Soon. What a month can do. Teda.



**Birdie Breeze**

Little by little



USA  
248 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 18:59:12

Interesting point - and, I have often marvelled at how different she was with various people. She was very sensitive and empathic...which helped make her the extraordinary singer she was, but, it also made her calm around calm people and violent around violent people. So, how people describe how she was around them, generally speaks absolute volumes about the folks themselves.

No doubt, Pat, Simon, Douggie, etc are very kind, feet on the ground, supportive, intelligent, well balanced people. ...and, they brought that out in her, so, their stories reflect that...

I was very aware of how her behaviour was swayed by those around her. Some people were really really good for her, and others were not. ...however...I think, what Simon may have meant is that she showed different parts of herself to different people, which is true, too.

She was open in ways with women that she wasn't with gay men or straight people and so on....whatever she felt was most appropriate for her own privacy and/or their sense of comfort. Most people are that way. But, because she was famous, it was more pronounced.

quote:

---

*Originally posted by muuz*

What was it Simon Bell said recently - different people knew different aspects to her. I'm sure we are all a little like that.

---

T x



**Gypsy Rose Lee**

I'll try anything  
★★

USA  
1535 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 19:00:20

The Dusty I knew loathed most Folk Music - in fact, she told me that one of the reasons she left The Springfields was the hokey material - another reason, battles with Brother Tom - another reason, so many offers for her to go solo from Music Moguls of the day - and, her being madly in love of the Brill Building Music and Sound. This is what she wanted to sing - Carole King; Burt Bacharach; Ellie Greenwich and Jeff Barry; Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil - the entire Kirshner "stable" plus she was in love with the Spector "Wall Of Sound".

I left Los Angeles in 1972 after 4 years of residency - moved to New York. So, I only saw Dusty when I visited L.A. or she was visiting friends and/or working in NY. She would haunt the West 46th Street restaurants - Joe Allen's in particular = with a coterie of gay men. How do I know? - because I virtually lived on West 46th in those days with my little coterie of gay men... some of which were "cross-overs" from Dusty's coterie.

And EVERY creative sensitive and pained person uses humour to survive and get out the anger from taking so much abuse as a child. Ergo, the wickedly sardonic wit one finds in the Creative Arts. Dusty was no exception so she didn't stand out in that crowd of wickedly funny and sardonically "gifted" writers, musicians, and performers who tended to 'over-indulge' in certain substances - be they legal or not.

Yes, Dusty could sing the damn phone book - however, she was very picky in her musical preferences. Classical, yes - I also love Classical - so it was played at my place when she dropped by - along with some funky Blues and a lot of Motown. We both we cursed with "perfect pitch" - ergo, mostly people singing sharp made our skin crawl - thank God Dusty didn't live long enough to see "American Idol" - sharp is the order of the day on that show. 🤖

Whilst the Lesbian folkies may have been fans of Dusty, Dusty was no fan of them by the time we talked in the late 80's... we goofed on them for over an hour - Dusty did a perfect imitation of many of them.. and we made up the Lesbo "love songs" as we went along - it was great fun.

Fact is, Dusty & I talked music, music and more music - being in the same industry but in 2 different aspects of it - it was an enlightening experience for both of us. But, we were smart enough to never work together... it would have been a disaster! I didn't have patience for her 80 takes and she didn't have patience for my "just do it" style. The world was spared World War III on that one. 😊

That's about it. That's the Dusty I knew.

Love,

Ro



**Birdie Breeze**

Little by little



USA  
248 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 19:06:06

I'm pretty much done here, Nancy. I don't need my own threads. But, thanks, and she is free to continue with her comments on anything I have posted....and to start as many threads as she wants.... I tend to ignore them. This time, I didn't. Birdie

quote:

*Originally posted by allherfaces*

Birdie,  
Instead of contesting Ro's experience on the thread she started titled THE DUSTY I KNEW, the better thing to do would be to place your own memories/versions of events on your own thread. You give us your memories of Dusty on many threads, and I think it's okay that Ro can have one of her own.

"Yesterday's gone. Love lead me on."  
~Roll Away



**allherfaces**

Administrator



USA  
14235 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 19:19:29

Birdie, you seem to miss my point completely. Perhaps you don't need your own threads, but as you comment about your memories of Dusty on so many threads, I thought the right thing to do would have been to give Ro a little space of her own. It's so obvious that there is disagreement here, so why stir the pot, unless you wish to cause trouble? We don't need it, honestly. We're trying to keep an open community here, but we need everyone to cooperate. Thanks for your consideration.

"Yesterday's gone. Love lead me on."  
~Roll Away



**Mark**

I've got a good thing



United Kingdom  
5309 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 19:52:19

I'm all for as many memories of Dusty as possible, we all have our own, wether we knew Dusty personally, just managed to get an autograph, or our only memories are via a TV screen!

Mark



**Jonathan**

Little by little



United Kingdom  
458 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 19:54:53

Ro, excellent point regarding sensitive, creative people using humour to combat the world.  
Thanks for your erudite post.

Love Jonathan



**Gypsy Rose Lee**

I'll try anything



USA  
1535 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 20:04:34

Thank you for you kind comments, Kids! 😊 Mostly, Dusty was great fun and a pretty caring person - any negatives have already been done to death... no need to go there. Whilst we may have fought, I liked Dusty - she was a good gal. And, we ALL miss her terribly. 😞

Love you all,  
Ro 😊



**Teda**  
Little by little  
★

USA  
384 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 20:12:22

Ahhhhhh. I'm breathing. Love Teda.



**Jonathan**  
Little by little  
★

United Kingdom  
458 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 20:16:48

At the HoF ceremony, Bacharach said that he missed her and that EVERYBODY misses her. I thought he was going to cry. Terribly touching.

Love Jonathan



**Sophie**  
Where am I going?  
★★★

2302 Posts

Posted - 18/11/2006 : 20:41:47

well i think it's great that people who knew Dusty are able to share their memories with us - it's much appreciated 😊 thanks, Ro.



**Mads**  
Where am I going?  
★★★



Posted - 18/11/2006 : 21:45:35

Thanks Ro, I was hoping you'd do this 🙏

Love,

Mads xxx



Australia  
3323 Posts

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



Posted - 19/11/2006 : 14:41:01

Hi I am sure glad I found this thread.I hope everyone saw my tape with Dusty.I am so happy its been seen so meny times.THAT'S THE DUSTY I MET AND LOVED.  
Mary



USA  
5821 Posts

**Jonathan**  
Little by little  
★

United Kingdom  
458 Posts

Posted - 19/11/2006 : 15:00:24

Yes, it's gorgeous Mary and, of course, it's on YouTube.

Love Jonathan



**David**  
Little by little  
★



Posted - 19/11/2006 : 16:12:27

Just read this...thanks Ro for sharing your personal memories of our heroine! Incredibly interesting.

Dustily yours, David



USA  
498 Posts

**Teda**  
Little by little  
★

USA  
384 Posts

Posted - 29/11/2006 : 00:41:44

I love rereading. I love my memories. Great ones. Love to Ro Teda.



Topic

Forum Locked Topic Locked

Jump To: Select Forum

 [Printer Friendly](#)

The Archives of Let's Talk Dusty! © 2006-2009 Nancy J. Young, Laura Howard, Rob Wilkins, Corinna Muller 

Powered by   
Snitz.com