

Let's Talk Dusty!

The Ultimate Forum for Dusty Springfield Fans

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AVFL

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AVFL (#p5982)

by **Corinna** » Mon Feb 08, 2010 8:23 am

I've been obsessively listening to AVFL for the last week or so, and I'm still a bit puzzled as to why I'm so intrigued by it, and why I - all of a sudden - love it so much. If this album was by a different singer, I probably wouldn't even have bought it, since I normally don't listen to this kind of country-influenced music.

Of course, since it's by Dusty, I just HAD to have it 😊 but it hasn't really been on my regular playlist. Also, I never really cared about the cover art. That's not what Dusty looks like? I've always associated to Tina Turner.

It was more or less by accident that AVFL came up on my iTunes and I started listening really closely. Then I've been listening to it in my earphones on the tube to and from uni, and being in this unintrudeable musical space always is special.

Of course, AVFL holds a special magic since it was the last album Dusty recorded.

But I think what really draws me in is her intimate singing style, her singing 'close to the microphone' in much the same way as she did on DIM or Look of Love. Like she's singing in your ear, and you can hear every breath she takes, even the most subtle emotions in her voice, and all the little noises that say so much more than the lyrics and add to the whole atmosphere.

It really leaves me in awe of Dusty, what an incredibly talented artist she was.....!

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Re: AVFL (#p5983)

by **karen** » Mon Feb 08, 2010 8:58 am

This is lovely Cor , being her last , there is so much emotion in the songs , like you say she sings so close to the microphone , all her feelings and that sexy voice seem to be whispering in your ear, agree about picture , it's not her , but then everything else about it definitely is. Keep on enjoying it. 😊

Karen x

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Re: AVFL (#p5986)

by **daydreamer** » Mon Feb 08, 2010 9:10 am

Pleased you "got it" at last Cor 😊 I love the album and played it to death for quite a while. When we took that trip to Galway and County Clare about 10 years ago, I played it non stop as we drove around. Whenever I was videoing out of the car window, you could hear the music playing and a friend even removed the background sound and set the whole video to AVFL for me. Another instance of Dusty singing in your ear, and a song I never get enough of, is Live Here With You. There's so little backing, it's like she's in your living room.

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Re: AVFL (#p5997)

by **Cas19** » Mon Feb 08, 2010 10:56 am

I think for me this was an album that had to grow on me, but I play it from time to time, and I love it. My fav tracks can vary as to my mood, but 'All I Have To Offer You Is Love and 'I Can't Help The Way I Don't feel' seem to be tops with me most days.

Casx

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Re: AVFL (#p6045)

by **allherfaces** » Mon Feb 08, 2010 3:03 pm

Very pleased you got it, too, Cor. I haven't played it for a while, but I'm very fond of it. I don't really think of it as cornpone country--some of it doesn't sound country influenced at all to me. In fact the most 'country' song on it--WIAWTG--is my least favorite.

Your whisper in the ear analysis is right on. It's very intimate, and you can hear a lifetime of experience behind the words she sings.

One of my happiest memories of all time is of a few years ago, driving to Henley the Saturday before DD, with Jason, Neil, Tim and Frederika (J behind the wheel), us all singing along to the CD.

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Re: AVFL (#p6058)

by **Corinna** » Mon Feb 08, 2010 4:06 pm

I tend to prefer Dusty's early records, but it's never too late to change one's mind, I guess. 😊

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Re: AVFL (#p6060)

by **allherfaces** » Mon Feb 08, 2010 4:12 pm

They are all wonderful, really, and I think we should have a bit of a sing along-- between dancing-- on the Saturday evening. 🎵

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Re: AVFL (#p6103)

by **Corinna** » Mon Feb 08, 2010 8:51 pm







Wonderful idea, Nancy. Better be prepared for my version of 'the sound that could kill someone'.



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Re: AVFL (#p6107)

by **jeffery** » Mon Feb 08, 2010 9:25 pm

   Burt B. said she was a "breathy" singer, and that you didn't have to tell her to "breathe" here or take a "breath" there. It came natural for her... just part of what made her interpretations so believable.   

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Re: AVFL (#p6125)

by **mnmcv1** » Mon Feb 08, 2010 10:39 pm

I've had a deluge of Dusty albums arrive in the last month, including AVFL.

I confess I've had it on the backburner (*It Begins Again*, *Reputation*, *Dusty in London* and *Beautiful Soul* have been getting a workout). I gave it a couple of listens when it first arrived. I guess because a few of the tracks sound very slick, and a bit like MOR/country-lite, as a whole it didnt grab me immediately.

(the 2 big exceptions were "Roll Away", which I'd already heard and loved, and "Go Easy on Me").

i'll come around to it soon, i'm sure... 😊

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Re: AVFL (#p6132)

by **Tommy Stevens** » Mon Feb 08, 2010 10:54 pm

I think I've heard most of it on YouTube and, well, I like it more than I would if someone else had been singing. Unlike some of the responses in this thread, I would have loved to hear her do a real country album at this point. By "real," I mean Hank Williams, Merle Haggard, Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline; those people. It wouldn't have sounded right in the sixties. Country vocals are as much about the cracks in the voice as anything else and Dusty's voice didn't have any cracks. She conveyed emotion in other ways, but her voice wasn't right for country music then. By 1995, though, that voice was long gone. It happens to all singers, voices change and deteriorate, and hardly anyone sounds the same in their fifties as they did in their twenties. The interesting part is how singers handle that change. Marianne Faithfull created an intense, personal, music to go with her ravaged voice. Brian Wilson seems to ignore the change and just hope everyone enjoys listening to him anyway. (To be fair, many people do and I love his recording of Smile from a few years ago.) It sounds like Dusty asked herself "I can't sing the way I used to, so how can I bring the same feeling to my vocals." It's not a bad approach. It means that whatever she recorded is worth listening to. I wonder how she would have done "You Don't Have To Say You Love Me" in 1995. That song lends itself to a "cracks in the voice" approach as much as it does to the way she originally recorded it.

Now, the material itself doesn't impress me at all. It sounds like she just went with the best of whatever was offered her, but the material that was offered to her wasn't that great. One of my "if only"s about her later career is that I would have loved it if she'd gotten in on the Elvis Costello/Burt Bacharach collaboration a few years after this, since it resulted in some strong music and seems to have revitalized Bacharach artistically. Sadly, her medical problems probably would have prevented it, even if she had the opportunity. The result is a great singer doing material that doesn't live up to her talent. I'd make an exception for Where Is A Woman To Go. It's not the

greatest song in the world, but it fits with her vocal perfectly. My biggest disappointment was "Old Habits Die Hard," not because of the song itself, but because when I saw the title, I thought. "Cool, she's covering Doug Sahm," and it turned out to be a different song. (Actually, my thought was "Cool, she's covering Butch Hancock," but I had gotten the songwriting credits from that Sir Doug album mixed up.)

And I agree, that's an awful cover.

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Re: AVFL (#p6142)

by [Corinna](#) » Tue Feb 09, 2010 7:22 am

Tommy Stevens wrote:

I wonder how she would have done "You Don't Have To Say You Love Me" in 1995. That song lends itself to a "cracks in the voice" approach as much as it does to the way she originally recorded it.

Interesting thought. With a more intimate orchestration, and her singing 'close to the mic' this could have been something quite extraordinary. I can almost hear it.

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