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ABC/Dunhill June 1975 Destruction of Dusty Reels

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ABC/Dunhill June 1975 Destruction of Dusty Reels (#p114029)

by **Kyles Beguiles** » Mon Mar 04, 2013 7:13 pm

In the Dusty "Bible" there is reference to ABC/Dunhill destroying three recorded reels upon the expiration of Dusty's contract with the label in June 1975; the reels may have contained mono mixes of the Cameo singles plus possibly music and/or vocals for unreleased tracks *It's All Been Said Before*, *When The Boys Come Out To Play*, *Ben*, and *I Can See Clearly Now*.

My question is, why would a record label destroy anything an artist recorded during their tenure? The money has been spent on sessions, musicians, etc. so why not keep a record of it in case the artist should experience a resurgence in popularity and the public might thirst for new or rare material? I realize Cameo was a flop and Longing was abandoned before completion, but did ABC/Dunhill really not see the potential in keeping a Dusty archive? Or were they contractually bound to destroy select and/or all recordings upon expiration of a contract?

I read somewhere that Dusty took the masters from the Longing sessions, which is why they were eventually able to see the light of day. Not sure if ABC/Dunhill kept masters for the Cameo tracks and alternate takes, or if the only remaining copies were the ones given to Philips (now Universal?).

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Re: ABC/Dunhill June 1975 Destruction of Dusty Reels (#p114149)

by **Clive** » Wed Mar 06, 2013 8:34 am

Interesting question Joe, seemingly Dusty's weren't the only tapes destroyed by ABC, according to this article it was their policy.

<http://bsnpubs.com/abc/abcstory.html> (<http://bsnpubs.com/abc/abcstory.html>)

"The mid-1970s at ABC were an unfortunate time for music lovers. To save space, and consequently a few dollars, ABC systematically went through their vaults and discarded all tapes except the finished masters for most artists. Consequently, few multitrack masters or outtakes exist for early ABC material, and the ABC masters on compact disc sound worse than they could have if the "cleanup" program hadn't occurred. Some masters, such as the Ray Charles masters which reverted to him after his leaving the label, escaped from this short-sited "cost savings," but in general, the ABC catalog of today is nothing like what it should be, given the rich musical heritage of the label. "

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Re: ABC/Dunhill June 1975 Destruction of Dusty Reels (#p114192)

by **Kyles Beguiles** » Wed Mar 06, 2013 8:15 pm

Many thanks for sharing that article, Clive!

So apparently it wasn't just the TV networks that engaged in supposed cost-saving measures such as wiping, destroying, etc. Such an abomination to the history of the companies and their colleagues, but hindsight is often 20/20 isn't it?

Thankfully at least a few alternate takes survive from Dusty's Cameo sessions, including "I Just Wanna Be There" and "Tupelo Honey" though they have yet to receive official release. There is also the "duet" version of "The Other Side Of Life" mixed with separately recorded B.J. Thomas vocals that awaits release. Unsure as to the whereabouts of the *Say Goodbye*, *Maggie Cole* version of "Learn To Say Goodbye".

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Re: ABC/Dunhill June 1975 Destruction of Dusty Reels (#p114208)

by **allherfaces** » Thu Mar 07, 2013 12:51 am

I need a drink. 🍷

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Re: ABC/Dunhill June 1975 Destruction of Dusty Reels (#p114216)

by **jeffery** » Thu Mar 07, 2013 6:16 am

Clive wrote:

Interesting question Joe, seemingly Dusty's weren't the only tapes destroyed by ABC, according to this article it was their policy.

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🤔 This makes me suspect that the ABC/Dunhill executives were just that. Mere business men, and not musicologists. Not even close. Closer to sub-human. Wiping = cost cutting method of saving money for their precious coke (sniff-sniff). 🤔

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Re: ABC/Dunhill June 1975 Destruction of Dusty Reels (#p114227)

by **pat.dunham** » Thu Mar 07, 2013 8:27 am

Its so sad that so many companies, record, TV,radio etc destroyed so much work not only of Dusty

but others. As money motivates they would all have made a load more!
How many times have we all said "I use to have one those" and today you realize its worth a few quid.

Last edited by [pat.dunham](#) ([./memberlist.php?mode=viewprofile&u=678](#)) on Thu Mar 07, 2013 8:33 am, edited 1 time in total.

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Re: ABC/Dunhill June 1975 Destruction of Dusty Reels (#p114228)

by **Kyles Beguiles** » Thu Mar 07, 2013 8:28 am

allherfaces wrote:

I need a drink. 🙄

How come? 😞

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Re: ABC/Dunhill June 1975 Destruction of Dusty Reels (#p135924)

by **Kyles Beguiles** » Wed Oct 16, 2013 6:16 am

It's a shame that *Cameo* producers Barri | Lambert | Potter didn't keep copies of the finished but shelved tracks from their sessions with Dusty. Jeff Barry kept stereo reference copies of the intended final mixes of the tracks intended for Dusty's shelved third Atlantic album, which enabled their release years after the Atlantic master tapes were lost or destroyed. Maybe then we could have eventually heard the four unissued tracks.

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