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Author

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**allherfaces**

Administrator



Posted - 21/02/2007 : 17:51:58



### DUSTY VS APARTHEID



Until 1964, entertainers had appeared before segregated audiences in South Africa without causing controversy. Dusty Springfield changed all that when she became the first British artist to stipulate the inclusion of a 'No Apartheid' clause into her contract.

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She was to comment, "I've got a special clause written into the contract which stipulates that I shall play only to non-segregated audiences. That's my little bit to help the coloured people there. I think I'm the first British artist to do this. Brian Poole & the Tremeloes were supposed to do the same, but I believe that in the end they had to play some segregated concerts. If they force me into anything like that I'll be on the first plane home."

Her first two shows, in Wittebome, ten miles outside Capetown, were before non-segregated audiences but when she reached Capetown, trouble started.

Her manager, Vic Billings, said, "The police arrived just before our second show there, took us to the hotel, took our passports and said, 'We're going to have to sort out your work permit.' They came back the next day and said that we could continue, but only if we played to segregated audiences. They gave us twenty-four hours to stay in South Africa, which was tantamount to deportation. It got very nasty. Dusty was very upset, we were scared and marooned in a hotel for three days, not allowed to make calls home to London and surrounded by people who were alien and opposed to us."

They were finally allowed to return to London where the Press covered the event with headlines such as 'Showbiz Vs Apartheid' and 'Dusty: Now For A Boycott.'

Dusty was a member of both Equity and the Variety Artist Federation and an emergency meeting was held in which it was decided to boycott South African tours before segregated audiences. Fifteen MPs in the House of Commons signed a motion applauding Dusty's stand against Apartheid. She then donated her £2,000 sterling fee to black South African orphan charities, commenting, "I'm disgusted at the way I've been treated. I don't want a penny of my salary."

There had also been segregated audiences in America, but the Sixties eventually brought in a degree of equality for Afro-Americans, even though a degree of prejudice still remained as late as March 1968 when Petula Clark filmed an NBC special simply called 'Petula.'

Petula recalled, "I wanted a guest, obviously, and they said, 'Who would you like?' and I said Harry Belafonte."

There was a great deal of press coverage of the special due to the actions of an executive of the sponsors.

One reviewer wrote: "The hour received some unpleasant advance publicity. It was reported that during the taping of the show a sponsor representative objected to Miss Clark and her guest star, Harry Belafonte, touching, during a duet of 'On the Path of Glory.'

"Harry Belafonte, her lone, magnificent guest star, in that now-celebrated rendition of 'On the Path of Glory.' Celebrated? Yes, because when at the conclusion of this stirring song Miss Clark touched Belafonte's arm the sponsor's representative attempted to kill the number. He was unsuccessful, thankfully. The number was one of the most moving musical interludes of TV ever."

As Petula was to say when they performed the anti-war song, "And of course, because it's a very emotional song, I just took hold of his arm as a natural thing."

When an executive of the show's sponsor, Plymouth, saw the taping he objected to her physical contact with Belafonte.

She said, "I didn't get it. I just didn't understand what was going on."

Fearing negative reactions in the South, Plymouth threatened to pull their sponsorship unless the offending scene was cut. But Clark and her producers refused to re-shoot the song.

Belafonte commented, "The way it was for Petula Clark and everyone involved with this, how they stepped up to the table. I think it was absolutely a wonderful moment."

When the story was picked up in the press, Plymouth issued a public apology. The special aired uncut.

Associated Press issued the following story:

#### AUTO AIDE RELIEVED IN BELAFONTE CASE.

"Doyle Lott, an executive of the Chrysler Corporation, has been relieved of his responsibilities, apparently as a result of his objection to a musical number in which a white woman touched a Negro man in a forthcoming television special."

<http://www.rockandpopshop.com/articles-details.php?cat=Archives&id=191&PHPSESSID=6b783496a8a1289ba11186fc3bd1532b>

Let's Shop Dusty!

**daydreamer**  
Moderator  
★★★★★

Posted - 21/02/2007 : 18:30:10



They were ladies who stood up and were counted and should always be remembered and praised for that. The Pet/Belafonte duet 'On the Path of Glory', is on the Petula Duets album along with her duet with Dusty.

Carole x



United Kingdom  
5404 Posts

**MattMidd1**  
I've got a good thing  
★★★★★

Posted - 21/02/2007 : 18:49:50

United Kingdom  
4270 Posts

WOW! - I'm so proud of them both for standing up for what's right.

Matt.

23 weeks; then a different country, here I come!!



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