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Author

Topic

Dee Votion

I start counting

Posted - 07/12/2009 : 22:20:06



33 Posts

Apologies if this topic has been covered before but it has been floating around among the cobwebs of my darker recesses for a while now

With all the hype surrounding DSB's (The Bassegy not the bulletin!) new album I just wondered if anyone knew of any stories or interesting facts about the two divas relationship, professional rivalry, comments about each other etc over the years.

It just interests me as we have heard comment from Lulu, Cilla, Pet and Sandie about Dusty but I have never come across Shirley talking about her except on this clip recently re-posted:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_o9d-eqM67Y

I remember in very early solo interviews when Dusty was asked what kind of career she would like she mentioned Bassegy as perhaps one eye on the future but that's about all I can remember.

Of course DSB is only a couple of years older than what Dusty would be now if she were alive so it can't help but make the mind wonder what glorious songs could have been written around our own heroine.

Oh but that's another topic!

Can anyone help shed any light?

thanks

Andrew (Dee Votion)

Posted - 07/12/2009 : 22:26:24

daydreamer

Moderator



United Kingdom
5404 Posts

The fact that Shirley was my mum's favourite, while Dusty (obviously!) was mine, always made her seem so much older than Dusty and far less cool. Way at the back of my mind is Pat telling me a story about Shirley coming to Dusty's dressing room but I can't remember what it was about! Bloody useless I know. If it comes back to me, I'll obviously post.

There have been a few songs written about Dusty, but not ones she would sing herself like Shirley does with The Girl From Tiger Bay. Blossom Dearie's "Dusty Springfield" for instance, plus "Mary O'Brien" by Maximo Park, "Dusty" by Souvenir and "Dusty Heartfelt" by Win.

Carole x

"There's a part of you that's a part of me..."

Edited by - daydreamer on 07/12/2009 22:40:20



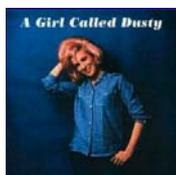
Cardiff Bluesgirl

I'll try anything



Posted - 07/12/2009 : 22:44:17

well two of my favourite ladies as people on here probably know. being



United Kingdom
1809 Posts

from Cardiff our family grew up with Shirley as a huge favourite in our lives. my Parents loved her and we always watched her when she was on TV. she gives everything she has on stage and is a remarkable performer as her latest CD testifies. I had my Fav, Dusty and she remained the top of my list, but I do love "our Shirli" I don't recall any real interaction between them but then they were in very different fields of the music business. I am sure they would both have had a lot of mutual respect for each other. I think the power of her pipes sets Shirley aside from most singers as she still has a voice after all these years even though she is famous for her partying!!
Dusty unfortunately had ruined her voice and so she and we were robbed of her wonderful vocal interpretations. it is weird that they were close in age as like Carole I always thought Shirley seemed from a different era altogether. I think that was down to the different styles and career paths though.
Dusty seemed to reject the sort of career that she surely could have had as she sang the "standards" so well when she included them in her small venue appearances. I don't think she had the confidence to think she was good enough for that role and yet everyone else knew she could have done anything she was so talented and versatile.
not sure we will ever know if they met up that much and Shirley spent a lot of time abroad when Dusty was at her height here in the UK. 🤔

"every day I find you're in my heart and on my mind"

liz.



humboldt
I'll try anything
★★



United Kingdom
1704 Posts

Posted - 09/12/2009 : 00:08:24

No disrespect to Shirley but I'm so glad that Dusty did not follow the same musical path. Dusty followed her heart and her soul. Shirley took the road to supper clubs, Las Vegas type venues and a much older audience. Both have a huge gay following but I for one never quite got her except for a few songs with this being my fav. A classic that Dusty would have also done well.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M8sFupDAwvo>



Humboldt



memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
★★★



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

Posted - 09/12/2009 : 02:14:56

I think Dusty (slightly) touched Shirley's territory with her big ballads. But they are such different artists that they are too hard to compare. They had very different careers, were very different people, and probably lived and worked in different worlds.

I was always impressed by Shirley Bassey. When I was too young to know anything about singing it was her power, emotion, drama and show biz splendour that caught my eye and kept me watching. Then when I was older it was the James Bond themes. Now, I can hear her artistry as her Voice is reined back to reveal her excellent interpretations in front of her still awesome power. It was 'Moonraker' that made me realise the subtlety behind the power and now I can hear it in many of the songs she recorded. I was amazed by her latest album. I love it.

I would doubt that Shirley's studio albums are as interesting or as groundbreaking as Dusty's and I can't imagine me collecting Shirley like I have Dusty. Shirley remains in a certain torch singing genre and I keep thinking of Liza Minnelli (and her Mum and even Edith Piaf) when I think of comparisons. Dusty was not of that genre even though some would categorise her in that way. Dusty was mostly very contemporary but in an eclectic, changeable and personal/willful way rather than a fashionable total pop way and that's one of the reasons why she never sold millions and millions from her third album on and that's why she will always be cool. She really was out there on her own and doing her own

thing with her musical boundaries moving and shifting in time with whatever music and influences she was into at a particular moment when she happened to be recording. Not all, but a lot of her catalogue is timeless.

With Shirley we usually get what we expect. Shirley does not often move out of her comfort zone yet through the last decade or so she has worked with young song writers and producers and kept her profile current by recording great new songs. On her 'Performance' album she sings a song by the Pet Shop Boys. It is the perfect 'The Performance of My Life' which gives us Shirley in a nutshell and references, from the distance of age and wisdom, her earlier tour de force 'The Greatest Performance of my Life'.

I will add to Clive's 'Reputation' thread but for now I think The PSB were more suited to the more consistently dramatic Liza and Shirley. Dusty was too complex aka difficult and too subtle; she never belonged to one genre or another. We can hear this on all her CD albums (also because they allow us to listen to B sides and otherwise unreleased tracks). The PSB Dusty tracks are fabulous but I don't think they could have sustained a whole Dusty album. In the end Dusty is elemental, multi-gifted (and therefore difficult to pin down) and in comparison Shirley is made of rich earth and she is much stronger and much more consistent and more tangible (and, boy, has she kept her Voice in great nick!). I love them both (I am re-discovering Shirley as her new album meant me to do). In their own distinctive ways they are both great artists, true and rare Divas, and ground-breakers too.

Memphis
Ever since we met...

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 10/12/2009 00:52:08



paula
Moderator
★★★★★



USA
5012 Posts

Dee Votion
I start counting

Posted - 10/12/2009 : 02:52:52

i agree with your Dusty/Shirly comparisons / non-comparisons, Memphis. spot on.
Andrew, no apologies..there is always something new to add to an old topic that is worth sharing. 😊
paula x



Posted - 10/12/2009 : 23:39:22



33 Posts

bobbie
I start counting

Posted - 16/12/2009 : 15:46:41



USA
75 Posts

Thanks for all your thoughts and enlightenments on this one everyone....Good to know that I'm not the only one who wonders about such things!
Andrew x



2010-07-27

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