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daydreamer

Moderator



Posted - 15/02/2007 : 22:59:38

Setting Top of the Pop's dressing room, 1968



United Kingdom
5404 Posts

Dusty Springfield's dressing room at TOTP's last Thursday was like a dress rehearsal for a Mad Hatter's Christmas party.

Dusty was in fine form. A star entrenched. Round her were boxes of false eyelashes, a hair drier, two large plastic bags with dresses, one large fur coat, a bag full to bursting with bracelets and belts, another bag full of make-up, a bottle of vodka, three cans of Coke, two packets of hairpins, three combs.

She was there to promote her new single, "Son of a Preacher Man". It seems hard to believe that after all this time and so many hits and having become International in every sense of the word, Dusty still has to slog round all the TV plug programmes when a new single comes out.

"I wonder how many TOTP's I've done (like Ready, Steady, Go's)? I've lost count," she asks. "I can't get out of plugging new singles. That's the way the business runs. It's like going to Mass when you're a kid - you're accepted by doing TV appearances.

Dusty's stardom goes much farther than being a household name ("I'm a happy knocker-upper and I wake them with a cuppa and a slice of Mother's Pride").

It's an odd thing with REAL stars. They can sit in ordinary dressing rooms at TV studios and turn them into something completely their own.

Madeline Bell was there practising her backing voice for SOAPM. Dusty's hairdresser John, was there looking very pale and rushing around putting the finishing touches to her hair while she fixed eyelashes in place.

The door opened and in walked the Sweet Inspirations. Much laughing and giggling ensued and a great cry of "Have you seen Kitty - she came over with Booker T. "How's so and so"? and then Dusty learned to her consternation that an old friend of hers called Pinky ("a great big loveable man who was everybody's friend") had just died. "Oh", she sighed as the door closed behind the Inspirations, "I do MISS them all. Isn't it incredible how all the black people know all the other black people in America"?

"It's through the church" said Madeline (who started singing that way herself) "They all start singing in church and when they realise if you stay gospel singing you starve, they turn to more commercial music."

Fred Perry - stage show producer and close friend of Dusty's, careered into the room. Since an organ player from New York called Bernie had also just arrived and meant six people in a room that normally holds only two, the cast of Dusty Springfield's Christmas gathering repaired to the canteen.

The Sweet Inspirations said how great that Dusty had such a big hit in America with Preacher Man.

"It's a very white record really," she said. "When I did it I kept saying to Jerry Wexler 'But I sound terrible, terrible, let me do it again.' And he was very calm and said it was fine and that was that.

"I do it in what I call my Mary Poppins voice. I had two voices in Memphis. One was my World War Three voice which was very heavy and hard, and the other was my Mary Poppins one which was very British and shy".

The Springfield table in the canteen took on the appearance of her dressing room half an hour before. There she sat prodding chips and peas round her plate, with her friends all round her, everyone making lots of noise, and being called on by other stars and people connected with the show.

Dusty held audience between long bouts of "Do you remember...."? and the times she wont be able to go back to certain hotels because she held broom dances all over her bedroom or burnt holes in the carpets with hot irons she had forgotten she'd left on!

"I want to clear up something I said a long time ago about not wanting to appear on TOTP's waving my arms around anymore. What I meant was I couldn't face doing ballads anymore - because I've run out of arm movements.

"But" - and she giggled - "watch my feet!"

SHE NEVER CHANGES!

Carole x

PS - Anyone tell me what a "broom dance" is? Is it something I've missed out on in life?

allherfaces
Administrator
★★★★★

Posted - 16/02/2007 : 00:19:56



When we were kids, I mean kids, we used to sometimes "dance with the broom" at a slumber party....I guess if you didn't have a partner you danced with the broom. Hard to imagine Dusty doing that. Maybe they're thinking of something more along the lines of Fantasia?

Thanks for the article. Another gem.

P.S. Love Dusty's sense of humor.

USA
14235 Posts

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UK and EU: <http://astore.amazon.co.uk/letadu-21>



paula
Moderator
★★★★★

Posted - 16/02/2007 : 02:15:06

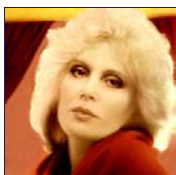


Carole,
thanks again for another page out of Dusty's life...just another day on the set w/ Dusty 🤪.funny, I haven't picked up on that 'World War III' voice...though I think I've heard a little of that 'Mary Poppins' voice. 😊...sounded like a good time was had by all. 😊
paula x

USA
5012 Posts

Tim
Where am I going?
★★★

Posted - 16/02/2007 : 05:51:07



That's great reading Carole.

x

United Kingdom
3422 Posts



dusty_freak
I've got a good thing
★★★★★

Posted - 16/02/2007 : 07:44:50



Thanks Carole 😊

Clare xoxo

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



Australia
5805 Posts

Mads
Where am I going?
★★★

Posted - 16/02/2007 : 09:51:37



Thanks so much Carole 😊

WATCH HER FEET!

hahaha 😂

Australia
3323 Posts

Love&&more love



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