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Skip to content

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In the Land of Make Believe - the album

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23 posts • Page **1** of **1**

In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p11287)

by [daydreamer](#) » Thu Mar 18, 2010 2:31 pm

I posted this ages ago on the old site and just came across it again. It always makes me smile, especially when Mariah Carey gets to serve tea and scones 🍪

The Lives They Lived: Dusty Springfield, b. 1939; The Sound of ... Pop

By Rob Hoerburger

Published: January 2, 2000

. .When I met Dusty Springfield in 1995, she was in the pocket -- a musician's term akin to "in the zone" for athletes. She was enjoying renewed acclaim for her 60's recordings, which covered a virtually unplottable graph of moods and styles, from the girl-groupy joy ride of "I Only Want to Be With You" to the breathy eroticism of "The Look of Love." She had just won a round in her battle with cancer and seemed in no hurry to get back to the recording studio. "Although, if someone let me record an album of every cover I've ever dreamed of singing, I might think about it," she coolly intoned.

Sadly, she never got to make that album. But here's what it might have sounded like:

Track 1: "Star Dust." The Hoagy Carmichael standard gets a torchy blues treatment, no sweat for Dusty but not dissimilar to countless others. Never one for convention, she changes gears mid-song and spins into a techno fever dream, inspired by the breathless version recorded in the 60's by Shirley ("The Name Game") Ellis. Synthesizer programming: Moby (a lifelong fan). Background vocals: Cher (a lifelong fan).

Track 2: "Son of a Preacher Man." Dusty covers Dusty. She first recorded this Southern-fried R&B song in 1968 for her legendary album "Dusty in Memphis," but always claimed to prefer Aretha Franklin's later version. Here Dusty mimics Aretha's phrasing, emphasizing the "who" instead of the "ever" in the line "the only boy/who could ever reach me." After 97 takes, she realizes what everyone else has known for 30 years: that Aretha was wrong and she was right.

Track 3: "Purple Haze." Rock critics were stunned when Dusty held her own with Jimi Hendrix on her BBC-TV series. She turns his signature song into a bossa nova breeze, thus wedding Hendrix with another guitar god, Antonio Carlos Jobim. "There was so much Jimi could have done," she writes in the liner notes.

Track 4: "If." Just so rock critics don't get too possessive of her, Dusty offers this double scoop of

70's treacle, originally recorded by the supersoft group Bread. To madden the crits further, she sings the third verse in French with Charles Aznavour. Guitar solo: Jimmy Page.

Track 5: "Billie Jean." Michael Jackson's cautionary tale of sexual ambiguity moonwalks off Dusty's lips -- she was a forerunner of the gay revolution, having come out way back in 1970, but after that she never kissed and told. She was a gay icon more for her skyscrapered hair and geologic makeup than for her love life.

Track 6: "My Heart Will Go On" (love theme from "Titanic"). A song that someone born after 1975 will recognize. Background vocals: Lulu, Petula Clark. Handclaps: Celine Dion. Tea and scones: Mariah Carey.

Track 7: "1999." Prince's electro-funk apocalypse. Background vocals: Anthony Newley, Mel Torme. Trumpet solo: Lester Bowie.

Track 8: "Eleanor Rigby." Dusty never had much use for the Beatles, but recording "Eleanor" appeals to her perverse sense of humor: she lost the first of two Grammys she was nominated for to Paul McCartney, who, absurdly, was separated out from the group for this song and thrown into a gender-bending category -- Best Pop Vocal Performance -- with Dusty and Nancy Sinatra. Dusty's majestic "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me" was thus a victim of the Great Grammy Robbery of 1966. Background vocals: Peggy Lee (Dusty's other Grammy spoiler).

Track 9: "You Only Tell Me You Love Me When You're Drunk." Written by the Pet Shop Boys, who engineered Dusty's comeback in the late 80's, it's especially pointed because so many people in the business thought, after Dusty's travails in the 70's, that she'd have an exit la Garland or Holiday. But she outlived the dire predictions, and many of the predictors.

Track 10: "I'm Still Here." In the 80's, Dusty auditioned for the London revival of "Follies," hoping to sing Broadway's ultimate ode to survival. "I wanted it because I could sing one song, stop the show and go home," she said. But then, she didn't need a part in "Follies" to do that.

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p11290)

by **allherfaces** » Thu Mar 18, 2010 2:36 pm

Brilliant. 🥰 Thanks for posting again.

That song from Follies (no. 10) would have been perfect for her.

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p11295)

by **Corinna** » Thu Mar 18, 2010 3:02 pm

>>After 97 takes, she realizes what everyone else has known for 30 years: that Aretha was wrong and she was right. <<

Absolutely right! 🇩🇪 🥰

Did she really audition for Follies??? 🤔 And yes, the song would have been perfect. 🌹

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p11297)

by **Cardiff Bluesgirl** » Thu Mar 18, 2010 3:20 pm

I love this list and she would have been great singing them all anyway.

I also would have loved her doing,

"I'm still here" 🌟🌟

I love our Shirley Bassey singing this but I think Dusty would have been fantastic on this. 🤔
she could have released it on a double A side (remember those folks?) with "I'm coming home again" 🤔

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p11299)

by **Sweetbaby** » Thu Mar 18, 2010 3:26 pm

😄 I don't think she auditioned for **Follies** - or anything else - but Dusty did say that the part of knocked-around veteran showgirl Carlotta would be her "dream role" as every night she could just sing *I'm Still Here* & go home.

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p11312)

by **trek007** » Thu Mar 18, 2010 4:59 pm

Fun article.

The tea and scones would only have been served if the room was on the ground floor..Miss Carey don't "do" stairs 😊

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p11321)

by **Cas19** » Thu Mar 18, 2010 5:24 pm

What an Album this would have been, love the idea.

Casx

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p11371)

by **mnmcv1** » Thu Mar 18, 2010 9:49 pm

that would've been quite the experimental album!

i wish she had gotten the opportunity to do a covers album.

I can think of quite a few songs that she would've fit Dusty to a tee.

"Feel Like Makin' Love" by Roberta Flack...no offense to Roberta, but Dusty would've killed that mug!

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p11400)

by **Carole R.** » Thu Mar 18, 2010 10:37 pm

Fab and funny article. 🍷

Didn't think I knew the song 'I'm Still Here' so found it on youtube.

Here's Dolores Gray (introduced by Dusty's mate, the late great Danny La Rue) with 'I'm Still Here:

[youtube]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TrPkz4XnHE>[/youtube]

CR xx

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p11479)

by **ErgoFergo** » Fri Mar 19, 2010 1:16 pm

Thanks for posting this, Carole. 😊 I've never seen it before. It's written with great affection.

I had no idea Moby was a Dusty fan! Or Cher for that matter.

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p11493)

by **daydreamer** » Fri Mar 19, 2010 2:49 pm

Rob Hoerbunger always writes about Dusty with great affection Vicky. He wrote the liner notes for The Anthology and interviewed her in the 90's for this article.

<http://www.cptelecom.net/mbayly/article1.htm> (<http://www.cptelecom.net/mbayly/article1.htm>)

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p11766)

by **Tommy Stevens** » Mon Mar 22, 2010 12:50 am

daydreamer wrote:

Rob Hoerbunger always writes about Dusty with great affection Vicky. He wrote the liner notes for The Anthology and interviewed her in the 90's for this article.

<http://www.cptelecom.net/mbayly/article1.htm> (<http://www.cptelecom.net/mbayly/article1.htm>)

I'm pretty sure "One label switched overnight and told me my entire promotion budget had been given over to Yoko Ono. So I said, 'Excuse me, fine, goodbye.'" was a joke. Yoko wasn't on a record label during the late 70s until she and John signed with Geffen in 1979 and I don't think Dusty was on Geffen in the early 80s. Besides, what would a promotion budget have been for a solo Yoko Ono album have been? A dollar seventy five or so?

This seemed a bit sad: It seemed to fill in the details of a sad inevitability, now that so many of her contemporaries - four of the five original Temptations, a Shirelle and a Marvelette, at least one Shangri-La - had made their final big headlines.

He didn't even know how many Shangri Las were dead or alive then. There had been some confusion about which Ganser sister had died in 1970. Unfortunately, that was cleared up the next year, when the other one died, too.

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p11767)

by **Tommy Stevens** » Mon Mar 22, 2010 1:13 am

daydreamer wrote:

Track 5: "Billie Jean." Michael Jackson's cautionary tale of sexual ambiguity moonwalks off Dusty's lips -- she was a forerunner of the gay revolution, having come out way back in 1970, but after that she never kissed and told. She was a gay icon more for her skyscrapered hair and geologic makeup than for her love life.

I'm not sure how that song had anything to do with sexual ambiguity, though it would if Dusty recorded it, since she would be singing in a male persona. (It's not as easy for a woman to say "the kid is not my son")

Personally, I could do without Dusty singing a song where the audience is supposed to sympathize with the deadbeat father.

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p63212)

by **Rob H.** » Sun Jul 10, 2011 10:42 pm

D,

I was just thinking about that tea-and-scones line yesterday. Thanks for reviving!

RH

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p63360)

by **mnmcv1** » Mon Jul 11, 2011 10:05 pm

thanks for bumping this thread, Rob!

Tommy Stevens wrote:**daydreamer wrote:**

Rob Hoerbarger always writes about Dusty with great affection Vicky. He wrote the liner notes for The Anthology and interviewed her in the 90's for this article.

<http://www.cptelecom.net/mbayly/article1.htm> (<http://www.cptelecom.net/mbayly/article1.htm>)

I'm pretty sure "One label switched overnight and told me my entire promotion budget had been given over to Yoko Ono. So I said, 'Excuse me, fine, goodbye.'" was a joke. Yoko wasn't on a record label during the late 70s until she and John signed with Geffen in 1979 and I don't think Dusty was on Geffen in the early 80s. Besides, what would a promotion budget have been for a solo Yoko Ono album have been? A dollar seventy five or so?

actually Tommy, while Dusty may have been being a bit facetious in her account, the scenario is possible- Yoko's 1982 album *It's Alright (I See Rainbows)* was on Polygram, released at nearly the same time as *White Heat*. Dusty was on Casablanca, which was a subsidiary of Polygram and was in financial freefall at the time.

So yeah, Dusty's version of events is actually quite plausible.

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p63362)

by **allherfaces** » Mon Jul 11, 2011 10:14 pm

Rob H. wrote:

D,

I was just thinking about that tea-and-scones line yesterday. Thanks for reviving!

RH

Are you THE Rob H, who wrote about Dusty so fabulously? 🤪 🍷 🤩 🎵 ?

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p63382)

by **daydreamer** » Tue Jul 12, 2011 6:57 am

If you are, then thank you for writing about Dusty in such a great way, I read those articles over and

over. I love the liner notes for the Anthology too 🙏

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p63918)

by **Rob H.** » Fri Jul 15, 2011 9:40 pm

Guilty. Thanks so much for the kind words, but Dusty deserves most of the credit.

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p63973)

by **trek007** » Sat Jul 16, 2011 9:59 am

She does deserve the credit Rob...but so do you for writing such a nice, amusing article 😊

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p64060)

by **allherfaces** » Sat Jul 16, 2011 10:52 pm

Rob, we would be *so* thrilled if you shared any of your memories of interviewing Dusty or even writing about her...start a thread? 🙏

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p64063)

by **SweMaria** » Sat Jul 16, 2011 11:18 pm

allherfaces wrote:

Rob, we would be *so* thrilled if you shared any of your memories of interviewing Dusty or even writing about her...start a thread? 🙏

YES! Please share any of your memories of interviewing Dusty... 🙏

It would be so interesting to read! 😊

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p64088)

by **Corinna** » Sun Jul 17, 2011 10:06 am

We would love to hear anything you have to share, Rob.

Top

Re: In the Land of Make Believe - the album (#p64125)

by **charlotte** » Sun Jul 17, 2011 3:11 pm

Ditto to what they said Rob.. 🙏

Top

Display posts from previous: Sort by

Post a reply

23 posts • Page **1** of **1**

Return to You Set My Dreams To Music

Jump to:	<input type="text" value="You Set My Dreams To Music"/>	<input type="button" value="Go"/>
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