

Let's Talk Dusty!

The Ultimate Forum for Dusty Springfield Fans
<http://www.dustyspringfield.org.uk/forum/>

Dusty Interviews

<http://www.dustyspringfield.org.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?f=8&t=3812>

Dusty Interviews

by **IWannaBeABluesSinger**

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Posted: **Wed Mar 28, 2012 2:43 am**

Here's an interview from 1966 where Dusty talks about her future on the road (double-click to make it big enough to read):



Maggie

Re: Dusty Interview

by **daydreamer**

Posted: **Wed Mar 28, 2012 6:31 pm**

A nice little article and so Dusty 😊 Not one I had, looks like it could be from an American magazine (is it?), so thanks Maggie.

Re: Dusty Interview

by **Cas19**

Posted: **Wed Mar 28, 2012 6:50 pm**

Thank you Maggie, loved reading this too, its nice to read what Dusty thought about her fans. Is this for sale on Ebay or somewhere?

Casx

Re: Dusty Interview

by karen

Posted: Wed Mar 28, 2012 7:37 pm

Thanks Maggie always nice to read these.. ☺

Re: Dusty Interview

by IWannaBeABluesSinger

Posted: Thu Mar 29, 2012 10:16 am

Cas19 wrote:

Thank you Maggie, loved reading this too, its nice to read what Dusty thought about her fans. Is this for sale on Ebay or somewhere?

Casx

I believe it was for a US magazine, and it was on eBay but it's gone now, as far as I can see.

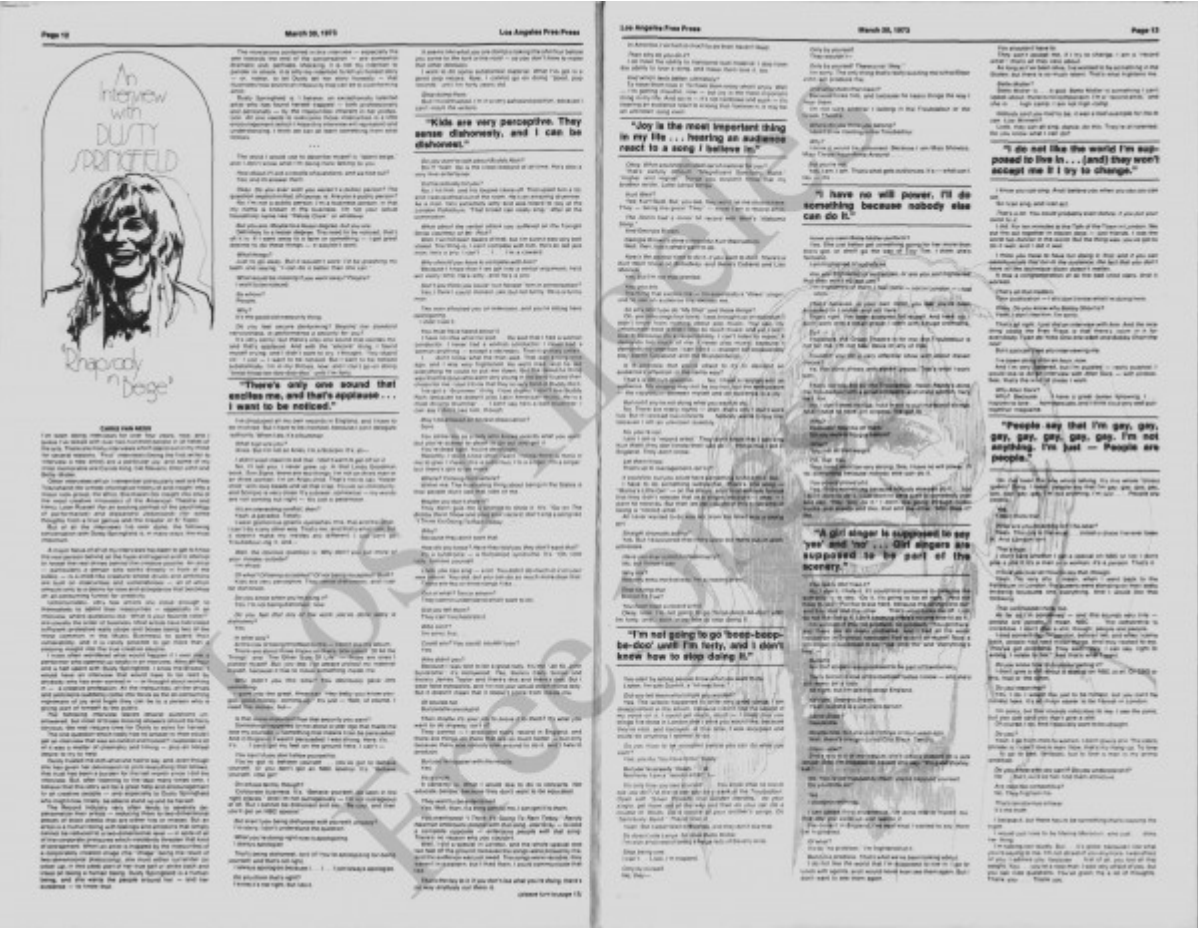
Maggie

Re: Dusty Interview

by IWannaBeABluesSinger

Posted: Thu Mar 29, 2012 10:28 am

Someone just sent me this - it's Dusty's 1973 Q&A interview from the LA Free Press. I've seen quotes from it before but reading the whole thing gives quite an insight into her thinking at the time, and the professional pressure she was under to be "a good girl":



Click on it and it will open in a new window in readable size.

Maggie

Re: Dusty Interviews

by **SweMaria**

Posted: **Thu Mar 29, 2012 12:15 pm**

This was very interesting to read! Thank you very much for posting it Maggie! 🤝
I love when Dusty says "I've got a "drummer" thing. I love drums. I don't like Buddy Rich, because he doesn't play Latin American music." 😊 🎵 🤔

Re: Dusty Interviews

by **paula**

Posted: **Thu Mar 29, 2012 4:03 pm**

thanks for the articles, Maggie. I didn't notice the date in the header of the first article.. from the way it sounded that the article was later than 1966.

Re: Dusty Interviews

by **charlotte**

Posted: **Thu Mar 29, 2012 5:42 pm**

Thank you for posting the articles Maggie 😊

Re: Dusty Interviews

by **daydreamer**

Posted: **Thu Mar 29, 2012 6:13 pm**

Unfortunately, even enlarging and using a magnifying glass, I still can't get it sharp enough for me to read. Shame because I would like to. 😞

Re: Dusty Interviews

by **trek007**

Posted: **Thu Mar 29, 2012 8:12 pm**

I could read it by double clicking and then single clicking when it opens in a new window.

Its an interesting read and the second interview is from, to my mind an unhappy Dusty who is missing London but who is hoping for America to offer something different...which it didn't.

Re: Dusty Interviews

by **IWannaBeABluesSinger**

Posted: **Thu Mar 29, 2012 10:50 pm**

daydreamer wrote:

Unfortunately, even enlarging and using a magnifying glass, I still can't get it sharp enough for me to read. Shame because I would like to. 😞

It comes up pretty clear if you have a browser that will open it in a new window. The alternative is to download it and open in Windows Picture viewer and then enlarge - but it is a little blurry that way.

Maggie

Re: Dusty Interviews

by **daydreamer**

Posted: **Fri Mar 30, 2012 8:03 am**

With a little help and a different screen, I've now managed it, thank you 😊 What an insightful interview, only a few quotes have escaped from it I think. Was there ever a person with so much talent and so little confidence? No disrespect to America, but it really wasn't right for Dusty, she should have come back at that point. I think I know why she didn't, what would she have come back to? Feeling a failure? The same old

"business" and clubs? She wanted so much from moving to America and it seems "they" knocked the stuffing out of her. I think her stubborn side shows through in the interview as well, not believing she can do things no matter how many times people tell her she can. They're not going to change her mind. She was definitely floundering. I always think Dusty's best interviews were when she wasn't being filmed and she didn't have to worry about the camera.

Re: Dusty Interviews

by **IWannaBeABluesSinger**

Posted: **Fri Mar 30, 2012 11:34 am**

daydreamer wrote:

With a little help and a different screen, I've now managed it, thank you 😊 What an insightful interview, only a few quotes have escaped from it I think. Was there ever a person with so much talent and so little confidence? No disrespect to America, but it really wasn't right for Dusty, she should have come back at that point. I think I know why she didn't, what would she have come back to? Feeling a failure? The same old "business" and clubs? She wanted so much from moving to America and it seems "they" knocked the stuffing out of her. I think her stubborn side shows through in the interview as well, not believing she can do things no matter how many times people tell her she can. They're not going to change her mind. She was definitely floundering. I always think Dusty's best interviews were when she wasn't being filmed and she didn't have to worry about the camera.

"As long as I've been alive I've wanted to be something in the States" - says it all. But she was something in the States - it's as though she didn't realize it.

Maggie

Re: Dusty Interviews

by **Clive**

Posted: **Fri Mar 30, 2012 1:18 pm**

Maggie thanks so much for posting the LA Free Press article , really fascinating. I'd seen it referred to before but never had the chance to read it.

Re: Dusty Interviews

by **IWannaBeABluesSinger**

Posted: **Fri Mar 30, 2012 7:16 pm**

Clive wrote:

Maggie thanks so much for posting the LA Free Press article , really fascinating. I'd seen it referred to before but never had the chance to read it.

You're welcome - it was quite a surprise to get it. Someone I've been corresponding with just sent it to me out of the blue.

Maggie

Re: Dusty Interviews

by **st louis blues**

Posted: **Sat Mar 31, 2012 6:53 am**

Thanks so much for posting this interview. I've always felt her biggest problem was a lack of confidence. That can be a crippling thing to suffer from. I think Dusty was so afraid of being labeled as difficult in the states that she let others take too much control. Thom Bell said as much in an interview; he said she stopped trusting her instincts and didn't want to feel she was causing a conflict. It's sad to read her feeling as if she wasn't as good as other female artists. I think she felt out of step with the blue jean laid back style that was in vogue then hence the remarks about the Troubadour. Do you think Dusty really wanted to admit her sexuality but was afraid to come out and really say it? I wonder since she more or less hinted at it in two interviews. I saw an

interview with Frank Allen and he said Dusty was attracted to two types of men: drummers and footballers. Personally, I believe she did have an attraction to men, but somewhere along the line this fear of them started. Still, I think she felt more attraction for and safer with women. Dusty seems confused and frustrated with her career in this interview. Also, I believe, homesick for London.

Maggie, what did Buddy Rich say on the Tonight Show? What a jerk he was. Are you familiar with British actress Diana Rigg? Rigg was highly regarded in Britain and by critics here in the states. Nominated for the Emmy and Tony award etc. In 1973 she was approached by NBC to star in a situation comedy about a divorced young fashion designer from England transplanted to New York. However, once Rigg started the series NBC got nervous. Her character couldn't be divorced; Rigg could not go braless as she wanted her character to do, and no hint of sex for an unmarried woman. Rigg said she America was afraid of change and they took all of the British quirkiness out of the scripts. Critics felt her talent was being wasted and no one here had any idea of what she could do. I think the same thing happened to Dusty. Rigg said she was picked up by a limo on her way to NBC the first day and taken to the airport in an old car on her last day. In many ways it reminded me of Dusty. The powers to be wanted to play it safe, Dusty lost more confidence, and her potential was never reached. It makes me so sad for her.

Re: Dusty Interviews

by **IWannaBeABluesSinger**

Posted: **Sat Mar 31, 2012 2:53 pm**

st louis blues wrote:

Maggie, what did Buddy Rich say on the Tonight Show? What a jerk he was. Are you familiar with British actress Diana Rigg? Rigg was highly regarded in Britain and by critics here in the states. Nominated for the Emmy and Tony award etc. In 1973 she was approached by NBC to star in a situation comedy about a divorced young fashion designer from England transplanted to New York. However, once Rigg started the series NBC got nervous. Her character couldn't be divorced; Rigg could not go braless as she wanted her character to do, and no hint of sex for an unmarried woman. Rigg said she America was afraid of change and they took all of the British quirkiness out of the scripts. Critics felt her talent was being wasted and no one here had any idea of what she could do. I think the same thing happened to Dusty. Rigg said she was picked up by a limo on her way to NBC the first day and taken to the airport in an old car on her last day. In many ways it reminded me of Dusty. The powers to be wanted to play it safe, Dusty lost more confidence, and her potential was never reached. It makes me so sad for her.

He said she was pretty good for a boy singer. Then he and Johnny had a few more laughs at her expense but the audience wasn't into it so they stopped.

I'm a great fan of Diana Rigg - Emma Peel to most of us. I think she's the greatest actress of her generation. I wish she'd done more movies. Her sitcom was a rip-off of The Mary Tyler Moore show and it was very juvenile and stupid - well beneath her talents. She really wanted to do a western and pitched a concept to the networks - that's how she ended up on American TV in the first place.

And yes, Hollywood is a cruel, cold place if you're not at the top.

Maggie

Re: Dusty Interviews

by **mnmcv1**

Posted: **Sat Mar 31, 2012 4:51 pm**

what an eye-opener that LA Free Press interview is!!!

Answering many questions but also raising new ones. I was surprised by the tone- the interviewer is tough but not in an abusive way...he could've pandered but he kept countering...not to tear her down, but to build her up. I can't remember reading an interview with a star where the interviewer is actually trying to encourage the subject's self-confidence- hell, even making career suggestions!

Many more thoughts, but I'll need to let them percolate for a minute.
but very, very thought-provoking...thanks for sharing Maggie.

Re: Dusty Interviews

by al14

Posted: **Sat Mar 31, 2012 6:04 pm**

daydreamer wrote:

With a little help and a different screen, I've now managed it, thank you 😊 What an insightful interview, only a few quotes have escaped from it I think. Was there ever a person with so much talent and so little confidence? No disrespect to America, but it really wasn't right for Dusty, she should have come back at that point. I think I know why she didn't, what would she have come back to? Feeling a failure? The same old "business" and clubs? She wanted so much from moving to America and it seems "they" knocked the stuffing out of her. I think her stubborn side shows through in the interview as well, not believing she can do things no matter how many times people tell her she can. They're not going to change her mind. She was definitely floundering. I always think Dusty's best interviews were when she wasn't being filmed and she didn't have to worry about the camera.

Maggie,

Thanks very much for this article. One of the best interviews on Dusty I have ever read.

As Carole mentions so accurately, America was not right for Dusty. Dusty believed that she had no control of her life in America and lost all her confidence.

If I could rewrite history, Dusty should have returned home to England in the early 70's and spent more time in other countries that would accept her as she was.

al

Re: Dusty Interviews

by Sara

Posted: **Sun Apr 01, 2012 1:16 am**

Thanks for posting this, Maggie!
I wish Dusty had come back to England too.

Sara x

Re: Dusty Interview

by BornTooLate

Posted: **Sun Apr 01, 2012 2:25 am**

IWannaBeABluesSinger wrote:

Cas19 wrote:

Thank you Maggie, loved reading this too, its nice to read what Dusty thought about her fans.

Is this for sale on Ebay or somewhere?

Casx

I believe it was from a US magazine, and it was on eBay but it's gone now, as far as I can see.

Maggie

HAHA oh yeah guys- I totally bought that thing. If there's more to it than those pictures I'll definitely upload it. I noticed it was super cheap and "Buy It Now" and I looked at ebay only a few hours after it was posted. So I snagged it up. It's probably made it to my parents house by now, but I'm not there. Yet.

Re: Dusty Interviews

by **st louis blues**

Posted: **Sun Apr 01, 2012 6:50 am**

Oh my gosh, Maggie, are you also an Avengers fan like me? I wasn't yet born when that show was on the air. I'm from the wrong decade. I discovered it on PBS. Rigg, like Dusty, deserved to be a bigger star here than she was. Like Dusty, Diana was so versatile and I thought Patrick Macnee was handsome. I'd forgotten about that western she wanted to do. It's weird but they had similar ideas about working here. In theory it sounded great, but in practice it didn't work. I remember reading that Diana wanted to spend half the year here in the states working on her sitcom. She'd get a lot of exposure and make more money. Then, when the show was on hiatus she'd go back to England and stage work. The best of both worlds, right? Dusty thought having Atlantic handle things here her U.S fans would have more access to her albums and Phillips could handle things in England. Again, it sounds good on paper, but sadly it didn't work for either of them. Two of the finest exports from Britain and the U.S. could not appreciate them.

About eight years ago I had to take a class on female fiction writers and film. One of the books/ films was "Tipping the Velvet." As a straight girl from a conservative background I'd never been exposed to that kind of writing. I thought the book was interesting as well as the film. I was surprised the star of the film was Diana's daughter, Rachael. I think she's very talented. Boy, the guys in the class didn't know what to make of it. If I could have Diana's looks, Dusty's voice, and a suave guy like John Steed, I'd be a happy girl. Again, thanks for the article. I love to read those old clippings. I find Dusty's interviews fascinating. I just finished reading one from 1964 and she used the word "funky" in describing some music. I wonder what the older British musicians thought she meant. I'm assuming that word wasn't used much across the pond in those days or was it?

Re: Dusty Interviews

by **IWannaBeABluesSinger**

Posted: **Sun Apr 01, 2012 10:45 am**

st louis blues wrote:

Oh my gosh, Maggie, are you also an Avengers fan like me? I wasn't yet born when that show was on the air. I'm from the wrong decade. I discovered it on PBS. Rigg, like Dusty, deserved to be a bigger star here than she was. Like Dusty, Diana was so versatile and I thought Patrick Macnee was handsome. I'd forgotten about that western she wanted to do. It's weird but they had similar ideas about working here. In theory it sounded great, but in practice it didn't work. I remember reading that Diana wanted to spend half the year here in the states working on her sitcom. She'd get a lot of exposure and make more money. Then, when the show was on hiatus she'd go back to England and stage work. The best of both worlds, right? Dusty thought having Atlantic handle things here her U.S fans would have more access to her albums and Phillips could handle things in England. Again, it sounds good on paper, but sadly it didn't work for either of them. Two of the finest exports from Britain and the U.S. could not appreciate them.

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I think both Dusty and Diana had idealized ideas about the US and the reality was much harsher - especially when it came to valuing talent.

I don't know if "funky" was in use in Britain at the time. It wouldn't surprise me if Dusty brought that word over when she came back with armloads of American records.

Maggie