

# Let's Talk Dusty!

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

## Looking For .....

<http://www.dustyspringfield.org.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?f=8&t=4064>

Page 1 of 1

## Looking For .....

by **viper**

Posted: **Thu Jun 28, 2012 12:15 pm**

Hi folken.

Got a little spare time right now to catch up on some things. I'm looking for a good detailed biography on Dusty. Suggestions please. 😊

## Re: Looking For .....

by **viper**

Posted: **Thu Jun 28, 2012 1:35 pm**

Just been looking through these - [http://astore.amazon.co.uk/dustyspringf ... TF8&node=1](http://astore.amazon.co.uk/dustyspringf...TF8&node=1)

Any recomendations ?

## Re: Looking For .....

by **Corinna**

Posted: **Thu Jun 28, 2012 9:51 pm**

Here are a few suggestions for you:

The Complete Dusty Springfield by Paul Howes. It's a song by song book with extensive comments on Dusty's recordings and live performances, as well as Lana Sisters and Springfields. Dusty Queen of The Post Mods by Annie Randall concentrates on Dusty's music and is a great read.

As for biographies, there is Dusty Springfield by Lucy O'Brien, A Girl Called Dusty by Sharon Davis, both highly recommendable books. Others are A Life In Music by Edward Leeson,, Scissors and Paste by David Evans, and Dusty Springfield: In the Middle of Nowhere by Laurence Cole, if you can get hold of a copy of any of these.

And of course, there's the highly debated Dancing With Demons by Penny Valentine and Vicki Wickham.

A great complement to the books are the various TV programmes/documentaries about and with Dusty, such as Full Circle, Southbank Show and Definitely Dusty, which you can find on YouTube or here.

## Re: Looking For .....

by **viper**

Posted: **Fri Jun 29, 2012 5:32 pm**

*Corinna wrote:*

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Thanks Cor. 😊

Ordered Laurence Cole yesterday. Seemed a good place to start. Can't get hold of Lucy O'Brein, out of print I'm told.

Might try the Sharon Davis one after M.O.N..

Got a copy of 'Full Circle' (very amusing). Will check out Southbank and D.D..

Those first two look/sound interesting, but I think I'd better bone up on the background first before I tackle them.

## Re: Looking For .....

by **mnmcv1**

Posted: **Sat Jun 30, 2012 4:22 am**

*viper wrote:*

*Corinna wrote:*

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Hey Viper-

going along with Cor's suggestions, if you're looking for a straight bio the Lucy O'Brien and Sharon Davis books both fill the bill. The Edward Leeson book is an in-depth review of her musical career (although i find myself disagreeing with him quite often). Laurence Cole's book is more an academic study of her cultural impact- not really a bio but a book I highly recommend. Annie's book is in a similar vein but with some unique insight and is

also a worthwhile read.

The Complete Dusty Springfield is an exhaustive overview of virtually every song Dusty ever recorded (along with live performances)- not really a book with a narrative but an invaluable resource.

PS- There's a link to the Southbank show under the "Don't Forget About Me" section of the forum.

## Re: Looking For .....

by viper

Posted: **Sat Jun 30, 2012 12:50 pm**

*mnmv1 wrote:*

*viper wrote:*

*Corinna wrote:*

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PS- There's a link to the Southbank show under the "Don't Forget About Me" section of the forum.

Thanks Markus.

Looks like I picked the right starting place then. Got a degree in Cultural History. 😊

If anyone knows where I can get a copy of the Lucy O'Brien one, I'd be grateful if you can tell me.

Got halfway through 'Definitely Dusty' before life got in my way yesterday. Interesting but comes across so far as an overview. More later .....

## Re: Looking For .....

by **jeffery**

Posted: **Sat Jun 30, 2012 5:17 pm**

Never trust a hippie ? 😊 Trust is relative. 😊 Sometimes you just have to gamble. 😊  
Around here (Ohio) I find second hand book, and media sources everywhere, and on Amazon.  
Buy them all, read them all, view them all. 🍷 Welcome to the love of Dusty ! 🌹  
When in doubt refer to your friends on LTD. 🍷

## Re: Looking For .....

by **IWannaBeABluesSinger**

Posted: **Sat Jun 30, 2012 7:10 pm**

*viper wrote:*

If anyone knows where I can get a copy of the Lucy O'Brien one, I'd be grateful if you can tell me.

The blue cover paperback is the updated 1999 volume. If you have an eBay account you can get it here for £0.99 +£3.95 shipping :

[http://stores.ebay.co.uk/World-of-Books ... ubmit.y=15](http://stores.ebay.co.uk/World-of-Books...ubmit.y=15)

Maggie

## Re: Looking For .....

by **viper**

Posted: **Sun Jul 01, 2012 2:42 pm**

*jeffery wrote:*

Never trust a hippie ? 😊 Trust is relative. 😊 Sometimes you just have to gamble. 😊  
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Buy them all, read them all, view them all. 🍷 Welcome to the love of Dusty ! 🌹  
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Hi Jeff,

was it you I met at the bar at this years D-Day ?

Strangely Dusty has been around all my life. I just didn't realize it until a couple of years ago.

Dusty departed this world the day after my Mam's last birthday. Though niether she nor I had any Dusty recordings (except The Tourists) we both picked up our ears if she was playing on the radio. Ma left this world eight months later. She had cancer too.

I'm not sure that she got to see Dusty sing but she did used to go to The Cavern.

Of course its the music that really matters, and its odd to find that a lot of the songs I've been listening to by other artistes for decades have turned out to be Dusty songs; Marc Almond, The Icicle Works ect.

Interesting documentary 'D.D.'. 🍷

Thanks Maggie, but no, I don't do E-Bay and I like to support local buisness if I can. If I'm meant to read it a copy will come my way sooner or later one way or another.

I'll let you know how I progress. 😊😊

## Re: Looking For .....

by **viper**

Posted: **Mon Jul 02, 2012 6:16 pm**

Got my book, so tomorrow's taken care of. 😊

## Re: Looking For .....

by **Corinna**

Posted: **Tue Jul 03, 2012 11:01 am**

Happy reading! 📖👍

## Re: Looking For .....

by **viper**

Posted: **Wed Jul 04, 2012 6:03 pm**

*Corinna wrote:*

Happy reading! 📖👍

Just finished Part 1 of the book. So far I can't find anything to take issue at in the acerbic observations of Cole. I love his caustic wit. Seems I've come to a lot of the same conclusions he has, though obviously with less biographical detail, about her sound development and interpretation by the contemporary culture of the surrounding day.

Of course its all well and good having a theory. Its another to find and prove the evidence.

Now I can put into better context the evolving 'sound' coming out of blues, into and out of gospel, the doo wop/girl group/Phil Spector, to Motown and that landmark show 'The Sounds Of Motown' 1965 I can't help but think of just how truly inspiring it must have been for Pauline Black to see and hear.

See [http://www.viperslair.co.uk/vll\\_pages/reviews/black.htm](http://www.viperslair.co.uk/vll_pages/reviews/black.htm)

Came across these as a supplement to my reading this daylight stretch.

Martha Reeves and The Vandellas performing No...





Motown Greats - Mickey's Monkey (Ready Steady...



Finally, this one. Which appears to be the only version up on YouTube. Odd, not only that it's the only version up there, but also culturally as it tries to somehow link the Olympics to Dusty ...!?? Makes you wonder just what's going on there doesn't it ?



## Re: Looking For .....

by **IWannaBeABluesSinger**

Posted: **Wed Jul 04, 2012 8:26 pm**

Viper:

Have you ever seen this version of NOWHERE TO RUN? It stands up pretty well to Martha's, I'd say:

Dusty Springfield - Nowhere to Run



Maggie

## Re: Looking For .....

by **viper**

Posted: **Wed Jul 04, 2012 11:58 pm**

*IWannaBeABluesSinger wrote:*



Viper:

Have you ever seen this version of NOWHERE TO RUN? It stands up pretty well to Martha's, I'd say

Maggie

I have. 😊😏

A faithful cover, but as Cole states 'enhanced'. Dusty's version is slightly faster tempo and delivered with more urgent force. The effect is to up lift the song and elevate it whilst giving it the acceptable commercial face of the cultural and political climate of the day. 🤔

I like her version better.

## Re: Looking For .....

by viper

Posted: **Mon Jul 16, 2012 3:30 pm**

Just finished the book.

Very interesting read and a good cultural study. Learned a few things there, and some ideas I hadn't considered. I do have some points to take up on it though.

Firstly; my own ears have never heard Dusty's vocals as black. Her voice patterns, pronounciations, and vocalisations to me sound unmistakably White Southern English woman.

Having said that her 'sound', her musical genre choice of expression has an unmistakably black influence/style/origin. To me it comes across as no more than a logical musical progression of the sound emerging from America at the time. Stood next to the syrupy popular music ballads of the 'Hit Parade' the girl group/Phil Spector musical progression stands out as exciting, passionate, and thrilling like its only rival musical genre competitors Rockabilly and Rock N Roll.

It seems only logical that any person bitten by the bug of the beat, the sound, the excitement of those styles would want to sing their own versions or interpretations and progress the sound picking it up and putting it down "*past where you found it.*" in much the same way as Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis, The Beatles, and The Rolling Stones, and this is no less true of all the bands inspired by the Sex Pistols, The Cramps, and The Meteors.

Second; Cole talks of Amy Winehouse being a modern day Dusty. Apart from the dubious connection to the beehive hair style I'd have to disagree. Amy's influence are most definately rooted in the girl group/Phil Spector thing and her hair is unmistakably more a Ronettes makeover than anything else. Just think about the covers she's recorded, there isn't one Dusty track amongst them.

Third; the Queer perspective is not something I've come across as a concept before. I'm familiar with 'otherness', a concept I studied as part of my degree in Uni along with concepts of identity construction and destruction. Something which seems to fit all the criteria concepts of race/gender/sexuality/class/sanity/madness discussed within the book. This leaves me wondering is the 'Queer Perspective' a cultural specific concept in itself ?

Where for example does 'kinky' fit, or concepts usually associated with fetishism and BDSM into the 'Queer Perspective' ? Wouldn't 'otherness' be a more inclusive and more open as an exploritive concept ?

Whilst I found the examination of the idea interesting I feel it rather detracts from the singularly most important aspect of what Dusty was about, the music, which is barely examined outside of the concepts of race and sexual identity.

Fourth; the constant use of the word 'and' to start his sentences like some ignorant tabloid hack really began to grate on me. What is this new obsession with starting sentences with 'and' ?

Fifth;

"Although many of those who voted for her probably did not know who the original Dusty Springfield was," - p.109.

I would subject that the exact opposite is a truer statement if you consider just who Saturday evening light entertainment programmes usually appeal to and are aimed at.

It was hearing that voice singing those songs that has inadvertently led me here like a stream runs to a river. Staring through the television a million miles away from where I sat oblivious to all but the study of why I felt so ill it was the sound my ears drank in that brought me back into the room long enough to forget my troubles for a few minutes.

Now while I'd always been a 'secret' Dusty fan I've heard many singers slaughter Dusty tracks. This was different. What I heard really was, "*outside the norms of Saturday evening entertainment*", and it leaves me utterly baffled as to why, to date, there has never been any follow up on that win. Indeed, apart from my own scribbings (which are not doubt deplored) not a single review of the many gigs this girl has since performed are to be found anywhere.

I could go off on one and offer some analysis and comparissons, but I'm not going to, .....

I submit that even if, "*many of those who voted for her probably did not know who the original Dusty Springfield was*", it was the sound they heard that they were reacting to/voting on.

It always all about the music, the sounds that move you and set you free. Without them our lives are narrower, smaller, and stifled. The window into Dusty is in the sounds and the music she made and enjoyed. Like Bob Marley said, "*Music is the universal language.*", "*One good thing about music. When it hits you it feels O.K..*"

So, ..., which book do you goodly folken think I should follow this train of thought up with and read next ?

## Re: Looking For .....

by IWannaBeABluesSinger

Posted: **Mon Jul 16, 2012 5:08 pm**

Try DUSTY: QUEEN OF THE POSTMODS by Anne Randall. It's a scholarly, as opposed to sensational, look at Dusty and her career.

Maggie

## Re: Looking For .....



by jeffery

Posted: **Tue Jul 17, 2012 10:23 pm**

*IWannaBeABluesSinger wrote:*

Try DUSTY: QUEEN OF THE POSTMODS by Anne Randall. It's a scholarly, as opposed to sensational, look at Dusty and her career.

Maggie

You'll like A.Randall examining Dusty's theatrical use of hand gestures,  and her comparisons to silent film icon Sarah Bernhardt. 

## Re: Looking For .....

by viper

Posted: **Wed Jul 18, 2012 12:01 pm**

Thanks folken.

I'll look into that. 

## Re: Looking For .....

by viper

Posted: **Wed Jul 18, 2012 12:12 pm**

Ooooooh, .....

*"Randall reevaluates Springfield's place in sixties popular music through close investigation of her performances as well as interviews with her friends, peers, professional associates, and longtime fans. As the author notes, the singer's unique look--blonde beehive wigs and heavy black mascara--became iconic of the mid-sixties postmodern moment in which identity scrambling and camp pastiche were the norms in swinging London's pop culture. Randall places Springfield within this rich cultural context, focusing on the years from 1964 to 1968, when she recorded her biggest international hits and was a constant presence on British television. The book pays special attention to Springfield's close collaboration and friendship with American gospel singer Madeline Bell, the distinctive way Springfield combined US soul and European melodrama to achieve her own musical style and stage presence, and how her camp sensibility figured as a key element of her artistry."*

Sounds just what I'm looking for. LOL, the rows I had with postmodernists on the nonsense of postmodernist theory. 😊

### Re: Looking For .....

by viper

Posted: **Wed Jul 25, 2012 9:02 pm**

Got the Randall book today. I wonder what the Viper Perspective will be ? 😊

### Re: Looking For .....

by jeffery

Posted: **Thu Jul 26, 2012 3:52 am**

*viper wrote:*

Got the Randall book today. I wonder what the Viper Perspective will be ? 😊

😊 Keep an open mind, and dry fangs. 😊

### Re: Looking For .....

by viper

Posted: **Thu Jul 26, 2012 10:49 am**

*jeffery wrote:*

*viper wrote:*

Got the Randall book today. I wonder what the Viper Perspective will be ? 😊

😊 Keep an open mind, and dry fangs. 😊

..... 🙄 😊 😊

### Re: Looking For .....

by Hampson

Posted: **Fri Jul 27, 2012 2:18 pm**

LOL Jeffery - it might take Viper a while to get through Annie's book, before we get her/his excellent review, dry fangs n all, I await with interest.

I love Annie's take on all the madness of the era, having lived through it, and constantly go back to it. It is a book you can read over and over because there is always something you have overlooked and need to go back and check it out, as it is not just a Dusty book to us oldies but a reference of our past life. LOL

Wend

## Re: Looking For .....

by jeffery

Posted: **Sat Jul 28, 2012 11:02 pm**

*Hampson wrote:*

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Wend

Yes Wend, I really have to start going to bed earlier and catch up on re-reading DQOTPM.



I was viewing this vid on another thread then on youtube. It is so pixelated I wonder if it can be seen in a "cleaned up" version somewhere else ?

Dusty Springfield The look of love (Andy Williams...



## Re: Looking For .....

by viper

Posted: **Sun Jul 29, 2012 6:08 pm**

*Hampson wrote:*

LOL Jeffery - it might take Viper a while to get through Annie's book, before we get her/his excellent review, dry fangs n all, I await with interest.

Wend

Why thank you Hampy. 🤔

You say the nicest things. Flattery may get you everywhere. 😊

I'm twenty odd pages in. Most interesting.

## Re: Looking For .....

by Hampson

Posted: Sun Jul 29, 2012 9:22 pm

viper wrote:

Hampson wrote:

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Hanging on your every word, and await with interest.

Wend

## Dusty Springfield Album It ~Begins Again

by loveemmy2016

Posted: Sun Jul 29, 2012 9:24 pm

I am looking for the album Dusty Springfield "It Begins Again" on album or tape. Thank you Robert.

Dusty has some great photos on e-bay at the moment, wonderful. xx

## Re: Looking For .....

by Frans

Posted: Mon Jul 30, 2012 10:52 am

I was looking for this Spanish EP for more years than I care to remember. I'm done looking, found it on Ebay, and it's mine, ALL mine, for only fifteen dollars!

 Image

## Re: Looking For .....

by jeffery

Posted: Mon Jul 30, 2012 6:51 pm

🎉 I know how good that feels Frans. 🎉🎉 Congratulations !

## Re: Looking For .....

by viper

Posted: Wed Aug 01, 2012 10:17 pm

Jus' for Hampy .....



### Re: Looking For .....

by **jeffery**

Posted: **Wed Aug 01, 2012 10:28 pm**

😄 Putting on a happy face.

I wish I could wear a MC jacket like that one.

I just don't look credible wearing one, and my employer would probably threaten an exorcism. 😬

You two however, make a dashing couple. 😊

👍 Thanks for the the photo.

### Re: Looking For .....

by **viper**

Posted: **Wed Aug 01, 2012 10:31 pm**

Yeah, that ole internationally infamous leather has a few more studs holdin' it together now. 😊

With Pauline Black of The Selecter at Liverpool Erics March 2012, and Pauline modeling it at Liverpool Philharmonic on her book tour 18/5/2012. 😊

### Re: Looking For .....

by **Hampson**

Posted: **Thu Aug 02, 2012 8:11 am**

*viper wrote:*

Jus' for Hampy .....

toyah\_viper.jpg

Oh thank you Viper, now we know if you are male of female, errr um, now which one are you. Just joking. Hope you can make it to Henley.

Wend