



The Archives of Let's Talk Dusty!

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New Dusty Play?

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Author

Topic

wally
Little by little

Posted - 03/10/2008 : 09:26:04



See today's Independent, it indicates that a writer by the name of Walsh who has produced for the National, is researching a new play on Dusty that wil feature grey areas and her lesbian tendancies in the early 60s

Wally x

855 Posts

humboldt
I'll try anything

Posted - 03/10/2008 : 10:01:28



I'm not sure that I want to know about anyones 'grey areas'!



Humboldt

United Kingdom
1704 Posts

daydreamer
Moderator

Posted - 03/10/2008 : 10:02:32



This is what Wally is referring to...to be honest, it all gets so flippin' boring!

By Arifa Akbar
Friday, 3 October 2008

Ever since Dusty Springfield burst onto the music scene with her "blue-eyed soul", her sexuality has been much questioned and commented upon. Was she definitively gay, bisexual or straight (-ish) in her 1960s musical heyday? Now, the open question will be treated head-on in a major new biopic penned by Enda Walsh, fresh from his success at the National Theatre with his play "The Walworth Farce". Walsh has enlisted the help of her former band, among others, to research every aspect of her life, and he suggested that he wouldn't be shying away from the grey area of Springfield's lesbian leanings during her musical high point, from 1962 to 1967, when she was very buttoned-up about which way she swung, if any. Many have argued that, for these years, she kept her lesbianism under wraps and claimed men were just too daunted by her success to wed her. It was only years later she admitted to liking both men and women by saying: "Am I gay?... If you want to know the truth, ask the people who go to bed with me."

Carole x

"The days have come and gone since you were here..."





USA  
14235 Posts

much less Dusty history. If so, he would know that coming out as anything at the height of her career would have killed it. Duh. It wasn't "many" years later when she acknowledged she was just as capable of having her head turned by a woman as by a man--whether courageously or foolhardy, Dusty was, as usual, way ahead of her time. Perhaps if the press had been kinder to her v. hounding her for decades, she might have concocted fewer cover stories.

~You thrill me with a holy kind of bliss. . . .So closer (closer)



**MissDustyFanatic**  
Where am I going?



Posted - 03/10/2008 : 23:26:34



USA  
2606 Posts

quote:

*Originally posted by Hampson*

Oh dear God - give me his address and I'll write to him whilst I'm in belligerent mood.

Wend

I've got a big bag of feathers and the tar's still warm, Wend!

"And the answer will come back to you...like laughter in the wind..."



**allherfaces**  
Administrator



Posted - 04/10/2008 : 00:39:55



USA  
14235 Posts

In Dusty's words--see bottom of page. Always interesting to ponder in times like these.

<http://www.dustyspringfield.info/NewDustySite/Dusty/words3.html>

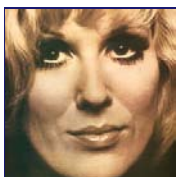
~You thrill me with a holy kind of bliss. . . .So closer (closer)



**memphisinlondon**  
Where am I going?



Posted - 04/10/2008 : 00:54:00



United Kingdom  
3565 Posts

Simon Bell reports that this is a TV film not a stage play.

<http://www.simonbell.com/DUSTYNEWS/DustyNewsblog/E9530558-4540-4BCC-AC63-ED2293FDFC46.html>

The words Carole has posted are those of Arifa Akbar not the playwright Enda Walsh. Walsh is a well regarded award winning playwright. All he appears to have said is he'll include Dusty's sexuality, not that he'll salaciously focus on it. As an aside, his favourite song is the Doobie Brothers 'What a Fool Believes' - that's a good sign I think because Dusty loved that track too. If he treats Dusty with respect, and it's well acted we just might be in for something special.

Being gay/bi-sexual in the 1960s could be tough. One of the reasons Dusty left for the States was to find a kind of freedom. I'm interested in this part of Dusty because it must have helped to provide fuel for her art as well as forced her to live a double life. It's a big part of Dusty as a woman after all and an obvious point of interest that can't remain closed off, in the closet and suffocated. I'm keeping an open mind to a point. It had just better be good, and, sympathetic ....if we ever get to see it.

Memphis  
Ever since we met...



**allherfaces**  
Administrator



Posted - 04/10/2008 : 01:24:26

Yes, recall the quote from Annie's book that was blown out of



USA  
14235 Posts

proportion. It's possible to talk about Dusty's sexuality in all kinds of ways beyond the "tragic lesbian" stereotype/simple storyline. I think we all agree that the music is what is most important--we wouldn't care much about her life if she hadn't been a musical legend. I also think that whether it matters or not or whether it's boring may depend upon one's own sexual orientation/perspective. Crickey, I hope I don't get slammed when Annie's book comes out. Hopefully it will explain my point of view better than I am doing here. My interest in her personal life is not in place of my interest in her music, but in addition to, and the two are often deeply connected. We all bring our life experiences to our appreciation fo Dusty, whether we are the housewife with swollen ankles eating her scampi at that Northern club, or those letting out a butch roar or a girlish shriek who are sorting it out for ourselves. Or the young straight girls who followed Dusty around the country, copying her hairstyle and makeup, and seeing every concert they could. Part of the beauty of Dusty is how she speaks to so many of our identities. I think Dusty deeply appreciated all of her fans. She certainly spoke to us .... all.

-You thrill me with a holy kind of bliss. . . .So closer (closer)



**memphisinlondon**

Where am I going?

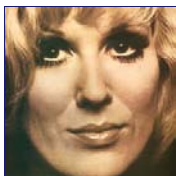


Posted - 04/10/2008 : 02:33:15

Yes, absolutely. Of course I agree.

You used the word 'Crikey'. Are you British undernieth all that charming Bostonian sophistication?

Memphis  
Ever since we met...



United Kingdom  
3565 Posts

**daydreamer**

Moderator



Posted - 04/10/2008 : 09:42:22

What I find boring is that yet another musical/biopic/stage play is being touted using the same focus on Dusty's sexuality to advertise it's subject. And how many of them over the last 10 years have actually made it to the stage or screen? A couple of musicals. I wouldn't expect anything that did make it through to the end to ignore any part of who Dusty was but the music has always got to be the most important part, as Nancy says, we wouldn't even know who Dusty was but for that voice.

Carole x

*"The days have come and gone since you were here..."*



**MissDustyFanatic**

Where am I going?



Posted - 04/10/2008 : 13:00:08

quote:

*Originally posted by memphisinlondon*

Yes, absolutely. Of course I agree.

You used the word 'Crikey'. Are you British undernieth all that charming Bostonian sophistication?

Memphis  
Ever since we met...



USA  
2606 Posts

Don't forget, Memphis, she's Texan underneath it all, despite her physical location. I lived in Texas once, and believe me, even if you leave there, it never quite leaves you ;)

"And the answer will come back to you...like laughter in the wind..."



**allherfaces**

Administrator

Posted - 04/10/2008 : 16:50:49



USA  
14235 Posts

Thanks for that clarification, Carole-- I agree 100%. We wouldn't know, and we wouldn't care! There must be search engines that look for terms like 'lesbian' v BRITAIN'S GREATEST POPULAR SINGER EVER. I don't know how else that came up with that tidbit from Annie's book, while ignoring the rest of it. Hate to sound like a broken record, but she really does break some ground with it, and it's not with the revelation of Dusty's sexuality!

I'm glad we are having this discussion. I know that many tire of references to Dusty's sexuality--my point was that it really does matter to some of us who have struggled with acceptance because of society's discrimination. When I found out that Dusty dated girls it absolutely blew the top of my head off! (cowboy hat and all). I then got more and more (and more) into her music. She changed my life and I'm forever grateful.

~You thrill me with a holy kind of bliss. . . .So closer (closer)



**Sweetbaby**

I'll try anything  
★★

Canada  
1466 Posts

Posted - 04/10/2008 : 18:26:07

Well there *is* in fact a new Dusty play - **Dusty Springfield...With You** is currently running (September 17-October 11) at the New Phoenix Theatre in Buffalo New York with local performer Lorraine O'Donnell playing Dusty. According to *The Buffalo News* the play "**chronicles the imagined last days of the recording icon, an ill and cranky Dusty — in reverie & second-guess, reliving fame, tinged with booze bouts & sexuality questions & trying to recapture the magic for a greatest hits-type album. Joe [Eric Rawski], a recording engineer & unabashed super-fan, is along to help. The show lasts a little more than an hour. It is choppy & infantile at times, featuring Joe in a Dusty wig, Joe cuddling with a Dusty dress, Joe lipsynching lyrics. But, in the end, this production works because of Loraine[sic] O'Donnell's magnetism and her way with songs of love — found, lost or unrequited. The girl can sing. Her voice certainly isn't 'smoky', as playwright [Richard] Lambert [NPT's executive director] describes it, but *All I See Is You* gets wonderful treatment, *Son of a Preacher Man* brings down the house, *Wishin' & Hopin'* is infectious *You Don't Have to Say You Love Me (Just Be Close at Hand)* — a song Springfield always referred to as 'good old schmaltz' [really?] — almost starts a sing-along. Dusty Springfield...With You is a tour de force for O'Donnell, who is often spectacular."**



Posted - 04/10/2008 : 20:04:15

**Will**

Wasn't born to follow



United Kingdom  
7603 Posts

There is indeed a new Dusty play. In fact, it has had a couple of mentions on the Grapevine thread over the last couple of weeks..

[http://www.dustyspringfield.info/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC\\_ID=3633&whichpage=10](http://www.dustyspringfield.info/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=3633&whichpage=10)

.. and one or two rather good reviews :)

**Will**

*"..I tried so hard, all summer through.."*

**Blog- <http://askyofhoney.com/>**



**Sweetbaby**

I'll try anything  
★★

Canada  
1466 Posts

Posted - 04/10/2008 : 21:02:17

🙄Forgive the redundance - I admit the I Heard It Through the Grapevine thread has flown under my radar! As I have brought up the Buffalo play in this thread I'll add if I may that Lorraine O'Donnell - the NPT website refers to her as Lorraine but it appears Ms O'Donnell is in fact a one-woman - is a professional TV & radio personality based in Buffalo New York (altho she lives in Allentown PA). Even pursuing performing as a secondary career she's landed such plum roles as Darlene in **Leader of the Pack** - obviously this Darlene was not

supposed to be Darlene Love as in the original but Loraine did sing *River Deep, Mountain High* wearing a wig that one critic opined made her look "like some odd hybrid of Marlo Thomas, Jacqueline Susann and Grace Slick". It was likely her '06 turn as Darlene that put Loraine on the road to playing Dusty: here's how she looks in real life -



**memphisinlondon**

Where am I going?



Posted - 15/10/2008 : 22:18:36



United Kingdom  
3565 Posts

From Simon Bell's site. A little more on the Enda Walsh TV play which isn't even written yet. If it's a Film4 movie it may well have a cinema release...

*Fears that the forthcoming Film4 movie on Dusty might focus on her private life now seem less likely. Writer Enda Walsh is keen to explore the relationship between the artist & her voice. A script for the TV movie is a way off yet, but news will appear here as it happens.*

Sounds good to me. 😊

Memphis  
Ever since we met...



**Will**

Wasn't born to follow



Posted - 15/10/2008 : 22:29:56



United Kingdom  
7603 Posts

>>..I'll add if I may..<<

Of course you may! :)

**Will**

*"..I tried so hard, all summer through.."*

**Blog- <http://askyofhoney.com/>**



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