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Rob Administrator



United Kingdom 4205 Posts

Posted - 25/02/2007 : 20:28:45

I've reproduced the words i found at this link (article dated August 1995)

http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1285/is_n8_v25/ai_17149431

When I was twelve I had a few days of celebrityhood in my school in Scotland because fate had been kind to me. I'd been on a plane and was seated in the same row as Dusty Springfield. I'd gotten to watch her eat peanuts, read, snooze, and she'd smiled at me when she caught me staring. Maybe it was the excitement, maybe it was a bumpy cloud, all I know is that the butterflies got the best of me, and for a moment or two there I thought I was going to need the "air discomfort" bag that my mother had lunged for when she saw me turn green. Another smile from Dusty and all thoughts of tossed cookies were gone.

What happened on this flight was a big deal to me, and also to my friends. We'd spent a lot of Saturday afternoons in my bedroom, singing along to her big hit back then - "I Only Want to Be with You." In the usually gray, usually cold town of Edinburgh, where excitement for teens was at a premium, we had a routine that to us felt like heaven. We'd pick up bars of Cadbury milk chocolate - it had to be milk - go up to my room, close the door, switch on the heater, and put Dusty on. While she melted our hearts we'd hold the chocolate bars in their foil close to the red-hot electric fire and, when they felt soft and warm according to our specifications, we'd devour them. The goopy chocolate was our caviar and champagne. The singer was our Maria Callas, the one who got us in our stomachs as well as inspired our first imaginings of real romance. Those afternoons were the paradise that we would lose when life got less innocent feeling.

Memories of those times were triggered when we were arranging for the piece you'll find on Dusty in this issue of Interview ("Dusty, the Celt of the Earth," page 106). As I recalled those earlier times and the day I returned from my trip (eager for once to get to school because I had a Dusty story), other things occurred to me, too. I realized that I had no memory of talking to my friends about what

I'd seen and heard and felt before I got on that plane. I'd been to visit my grandmother in South Africa, where I had lived until we immigrated to Scotland a few years before. What had been so shocking to us when we'd lived there was now even more shockingly abhorrent.

The rule of apartheid and all that came with it made South Africa feel like another planet, a terrifying, ignorant, paranoid planet where whiteness meant people were free and color meant they were not. Beyond a general discussion of how awful such a system was, I doubt that I went into the physical and emotional horror of a place where the color of one's skin was used as a right to power or the equivalent of a branding iron. My Scottish friends, who were all white and who had spent their entire lives in that tiny, sheltered, peaceful country, had no experience with these things. I probably kept them to myself. Dusty was our common ground.

Back then, I didn't analyze why I loved her voice so much. But the other day, during an editorial meeting here at Interview, we got to talking about her career as a musician and somebody said that when she first began, many people couldn't tell if she was black or white or a woman or a man. The voice crossed over so much that she couldn't be defined. That's it, I thought. It was the voice that went beyond the usual polarities of man or woman, black or white. Little did I know that there was a kind of symbolism in her being on the plane, since she embodied the opposite of the divisions that were the rule in South Africa. And little did I know, when this magazine asked RuPaul to interview her, how perfect the pairing would be. I'd just thought RuPaul was a big fan. I hadn't remembered that Dusty had this history.

Needless to say, RuPaul would not have been a VIP in South Africa in the '60s. It's doubtful whether America would have had cosmetics contracts for RuPaul back then either. Drag may have been a major part of the underground, but it sure didn't make it to mainstream pop status. Today, RuPaul is an American pop icon and would not be censored in South Africa, as would automatically have happened a short while ago. So, from some angles, we have definitely come somewhere - and there is reason to celebrate. That sense of celebration is there in the conversation between Springfield and RuPaul. You'll also find many other stories in our August issue that give reason to feel good, to laugh, or to be inspired by individuals' creativity and the way it can move things forward. There are people in these pages whose sense of freedom soars.

But you'll also come across stories that point to opposite currents in our society, forces that would take the culture backward if they could.

Our cover story in particular brings up the fact that the politicians are back at it, doing their "decency" rap. The feature is an interview with Chloe Sevigny ("Destiny Calls Chloe," page 62), who has a lead role in Larry Clark's Kids, a film that seems ripe for a Senator Bob Dole or a Senator Jesse Helms to pounce on. The movie covers many subjects from real life, such as sex, drugs, AIDS, alienation, as well as courage and friendship, subjects that always seem to bring on these people's backward thinking. What makes Kids so memorable are exactly those realities that these politicians are campaigning against as "indecent." To me, their impulse to block out, to brand, to control, to censor is what's indecent. And while it's just a few guys making hay - over the content of today's art and movies and music and literature - in order to make sure that they're in the political limelight, their ignorance and paranoia can set the whole barnyard of nervous politicians jumpin' on the backwards bandwagon. Who knows what led some of President Clinton's Secret Service officers to put on rubber gloves when they greeted a group of gay elected officials at the White House in June?

RoB

MattMidd1
I've got a good thing
★★★★★

United Kingdom
4270 Posts

Posted - 25/02/2007 : 20:30:38

OMG! - I've read that before - well done on finding it 😊 I looked for ages after I read it but I couldn't find it.

Matt.

22 weeks; then a different country, here I come!!



Rob
Administrator
★★★★★



United Kingdom
4205 Posts

Posted - 25/02/2007 : 20:33:26

This is the interview with RuPaul. Apologies if it's been posted before but better twice than not at all.

http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1285/is_n8_v25/ai_17149443

Dusty: the Celt of the earth - interview with singer Dusty Springfield - Interview Interview, August, 1995 by RuPaul

AT A TIME WHEN SO MANY PEOPLE SEEM TO BE LOOKING BACK TO THE GLORIOUS DAYS OF POP MUSIC'S PAST. DUSTY SPRINGFIELD IS A PERFECT SUBJECT. NOT ONLY INCREDIBLY INFLUENTIAL. SHE'S ALSO ONE OF THE FEW WHO'S SPRINGING AHEAD. REFUSING TO REST ON HER IMPRESSIVE LAURELS. THE '60s POP QUEEN WHO HAD A COMEBACK WITH "SON OF A PREACHER MAN" IN PULP

FICTION WENT TO NASHVILLE TO RECORD HER MOST ACCOMPLISHED ALBUM IN YEARS. HERE. SHE TALKS ABOUT WHAT MATTERS WITH '90s POP QUEEN RuPAUL

As one of the distinctive voices of the '60s, Dusty Springfield seduced legions with her rich, smoky stylings. She gave elegant pop arrangements like the lavish "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me" and Burr Bacharach and Hal David's "Wishin' and Hopin'" a depth few other singers could even hint at. Born Mary O'Brien in 1939, the British singer's defining moment came in 1969 with *Dusty in Memphis*. Recorded with top American soul and blues session musicians, the album showcased her R&B and soul-flavored interpretations of pop material and made for some of her most riveting moments, including "Son of a Preacher Man." This classic, resurrected last year in Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction*, ushered in a Springfield revival, one of the many she's had throughout the past two decades. (In 1987, the Pet Shop Boys had brought her back into the pop spotlight with a duet on their single "What Have I Done to Deserve This," and they later produced a full album for her.) Having triumphed in her battle with breast cancer earlier this year, she's just released *A Very Fine Love* (Columbia Records), recorded in Nashville with guests like Mary Chapin Carpenter and Daryl Hall. We asked her self-described biggest fan, RuPaul, whose autobiography, *Lettin It All Hang Out* (Hyperion), has just been published, to spring some questions on Springfield.

DUSTY SPRINGFIELD: Hello, Ru!

RuPAUL: Hi, darlin'!

DS: Hold on. I'm half-dressed here. I was trying some clothes on in the bathroom.

R: Were you trying to get dressed up for me?

DS: Yes, of course. If you could see me now, dear God, you'd never speak to me again! [both laugh]

R: Oh my goodness! I am so happy to be talking with you. About five years ago, someone gave me a tape of your stuff, without your name on it, and I was like, "Wait a minute, I know this voice," but I couldn't place it. And then when they told me, I was like, "Of course!"

DS: That happens to me a lot. People either know the name but they can't think of what I sang, or they know the record, but they go, "Now who was it who sang that?" It's been my cross to bear in life.

R: Ever since I got that tape I have been your biggest fan. And when I try to describe you to people, I say, "Well, her name really describes the way she sounds." How did you get that name?

DS: Oh, the first part I have no idea - it grew up with me, and I can't pin it on anyone. The Springfield came from the group I was in. We had one huge hit in the States, "Silver Threads and Golden Needles." Nashville people thought we were a country act! And we didn't know how to sing country. We just happened to be bellowing

away on that record. We landed up in Nashville with them under the impression that we could do an album. But my heart wasn't there at the time, so I didn't stay. [southern accent] I'd probably own a whole town by now!

R: [southern accent] And drive a big Cadillac!

DS: Yeah, and own a theme park and everything!

R: Was it easy to become another name?

DS: It was kind of strange. The Springfields used to play very posh places and sing folk songs while I was still in school. I was destined to become a librarian at that point - I had awful glasses, unstyled hair, and thick ankles, which I still have. And one day I went to Harrods and came back with this black dress on, and my hair had been done in French rolls, with endless pins in it. I just suddenly decided, in one afternoon, to be this other person who was going to make it.

R: WOW. Isn't it interesting how one can beckon the call of the universe? Now, what other singers do you listen to?

DS: I'm terrible about listening to music. I feel like this old fart who isn't clued in. But I often listen to jazz or classical; that's what I was raised on. And then I have a mad fit and dig out all my Motown records, or I dig back into the '70s funk bands like the Ohio Players, Rick James, and Bootsy's Rubber Band. But currently, the people who I think are really good are Dionne Farris and Roachford. I love Annie Lennox, Bonnie Raitt, and Terence Trent D'Arby. But my heart will always be with records like Boyz II Men, that wonderful, slushy, Chi-Lites sound. I absolutely melt.

R: How long did it take to do this new album?

DS: Far too long. Last year I had such a run of bad luck and bad health, and I got this infection when I got to Nashville to record the album. It was the coldest winter they'd had in I don't know how long. I got a cold, and I couldn't shake it. It was only afterward that I found out I had cancer, and now I realize why I couldn't get well when I was in Nashville. Obviously my body was busy elsewhere. But the cancer is all cleared up now; we're over that.

R:  B



allherfaces
Administrator
★★★★★

Posted - 25/02/2007 : 20:47:18  



Thanks for both of these, Rob. Nice for those who haven't read them or those who have to see them again. Nice for the website too.

xo
I wanna be a mooovie stah!

We're here for Dusty...
<http://www.dustyspringfield.info>

USA
14235 Posts



daydreamer
Moderator
★★★★★

Posted - 25/02/2007 : 20:58:01 

Thanks for that Rob! I hadn't seen the online version, I just had the clipping



and it was something I was eventually intending to post. No need to now 😊

Carole x



United Kingdom
5404 Posts

paula
Moderator
★★★★★

Posted - 25/02/2007 : 23:30:40



thanks Rob...what a great memory for a 12yr old..just watching Dusty eat peanuts, read & snooze 😊 In the interview w/ Ru..how I wish that last sentence were true. 😞

paula x

Edited by - paula on 25/02/2007 23:32:09



USA
5012 Posts

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

Posted - 26/02/2007 : 02:08:19



Thanks for those Rob 😊

Clare xoxo

"It's marvellous to be popular, but foolish to think it will last..."



Australia
5805 Posts

Mads
Where am I going?
★★★

Posted - 26/02/2007 : 06:27:36

Thankyou!!!



Love&&more love



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3323 Posts

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