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Let's Talk Dusty! The Forum

Getting It Right

Perfect is the Enemy of Good

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Printer Friendly

Author

Topic

allherfaces

Administrator



Posted - 29/01/2007 : 05:21:19



USA
14235 Posts

I was recently introduced to this saying which apparently it quite old 😊 but it really got me to thinking. I can be a terrible perfectionist and this really slows me down so I can't complete things on time or end up with part of a project well done and part of it thrown together. Or maybe I don't even try.

ANYWAY, I can see the point that perfect is the enemy of good in some instances.

I'm wondering, was this always Dusty's philosophy about recording? And was it her philosophy in life? Was she in general a perfectionist? Did things have to be "just so"? (Maybe this explains in part the release of throwing food and dishes?)

Do you think that perfection was an enemy of good when it comes to her recordings, particularly in later years? Might she have done more, and even wonderful work, if everything hadn't had to be so perfect?

Was it all perfectionism? This business of drowning out her voice....?

Well maybe this is too speculative for "Getting it right" but I would like to hear some musing or facts on this, if anyone has them.
Thanks.

"Yesterday's gone. Love lead me on."
~Roll Away

insomniacafe

I'll try anything



Posted - 29/01/2007 : 08:55:39



Netherlands
1509 Posts

Perhaps Dusty would have been more prolific has she not been such a perfectionist, but then it would have affected the recordings that we already have and love. For instance, however slowly and meticulously she may have recorded the vocals for 'In Memphis', what emerged was as close to perfection as anyone else has ever reached. I guess the question is quantity or quality?

I think this is best answered by someone who has had the experience of seeing and hearing Dusty live a number of times. If she was equally capable of being consistent and emotionally invested in songs in an environment where there are no opportunities for re-takes, perhaps she could have sacrificed a little perfectionism for more of her good (by which I mean a higher quantity of recordings).

Interesting topic.



daydreamer

Moderator



Posted - 29/01/2007 : 09:05:16



United Kingdom
5404 Posts

Think about 'Lose Again', could she have got it any more perfect in a studio? Or 'Poor Wayfaring Stranger'? I don't think so. I've heard a few studio cuts that weren't the choice end vocal and she sang wonderfully, from beginning to end, not bit by bit. I think that only came to light with the PSB's when she lost confidence in her ability and they talked about her syllable by syllable recording. She sang 'Nothing Has Been Proved' on a TV awards show, pre recording it that day, and not until the very end did I realise it wasn't the actual record. She was a perfectionist, no doubt, but I believe she could be even more passionate singing live....even with the odd bum note.

Carole x



Gypsy Rose**Lee**

I'll try anything

USA
1535 Posts

Posted - 29/01/2007 : 14:33:00

Right-O, Carole

I find many of the studio recordings to be 'stilted' by all the patchwork quilting done by Dusty in the studio. Live she just sang so much more honestly - even with the clunker here and there. I supposed that's why I like "Butterflies" - not because it's a good song - it certainly is NOT; but, it was left there with all the clunkers and a certain emotional rawness not found on Dusty's other recordings. Dumb song, though. 😊

Love,
Ro 😊

Sometimes Like Butterflies - Most Times Like Caterpillars!

**Birdie Breeze**

Little by little

USA
248 Posts

Posted - 29/01/2007 : 18:47:08

Perfectionism can be a trait developed when you have hyper critical parents. It also is common in adults who had at least one parent who was an alcoholic and/or who grew up in otherwise stressful environments.

Dusty's upbringing instilled it.

She recorded tracks on AVFL live.

Birdie

quote:

Originally posted by allherfaces

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"Yesterday's gone. Love lead me on."
~Roll Away

<http://www.myspace.com/birdiebreeze>

**giota**

Little by little

Greece
159 Posts

Posted - 29/01/2007 : 18:51:48

I think that sometimes you have to let things go..all this perfectionism did damage her voice and her soul!Trough her life we see a person giving and giving and never getting.How could batteries fill if not resting for a while?And I mean soul's resting in laying on someone that can really encourage you....to bad that there was no one and I mean NO ONE for her...

kisses, Giota

**Gypsy Rose****Lee**

I'll try anything



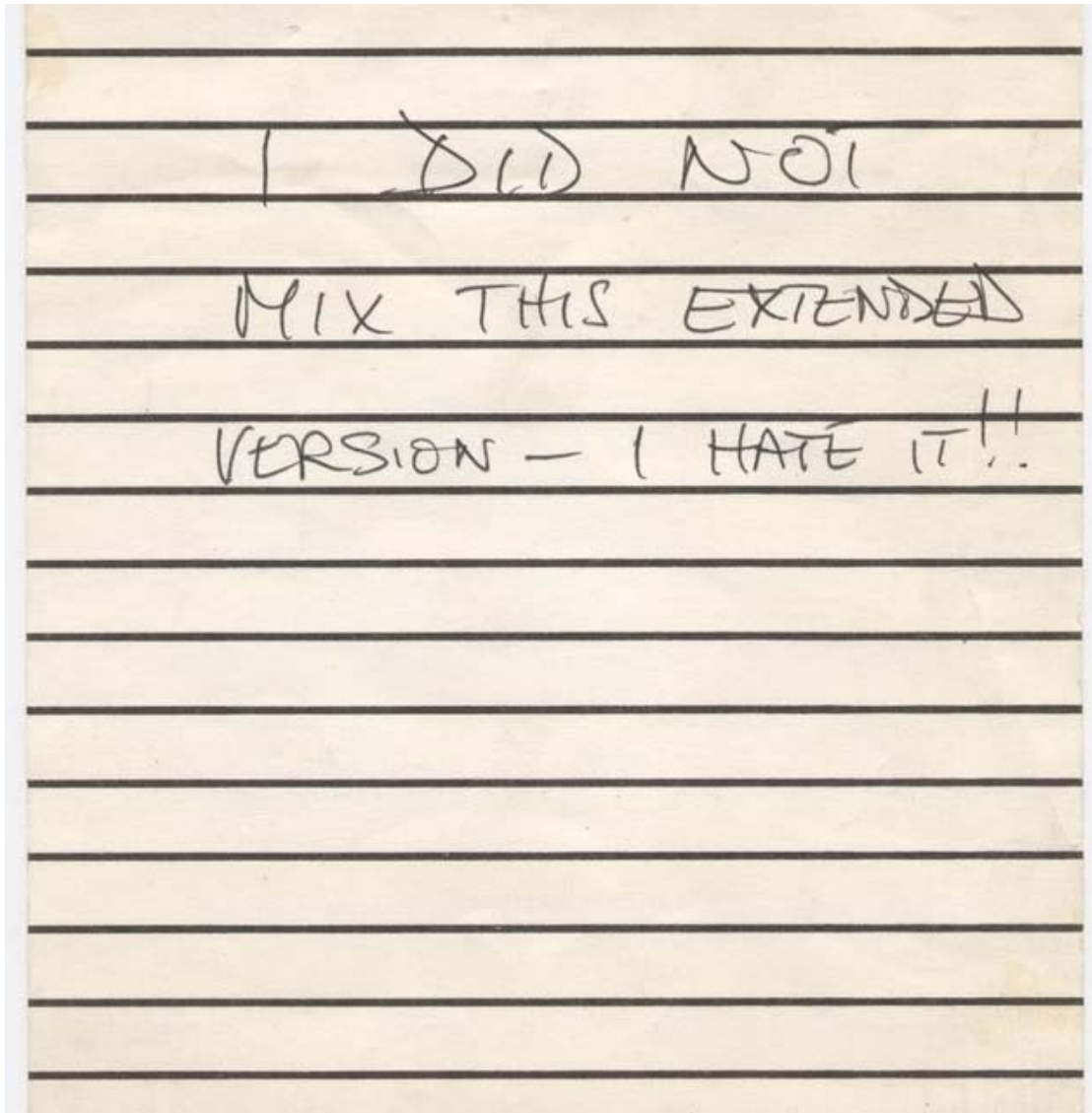
Posted - 30/01/2007 : 02:02:12

Hi, Giota

USA
1535 Posts

Au contraire, mon amie. Dusty had plenty of people there for her; and, they gave her quite a bit... Pat, Simon, Peggy and quite a few others come to mind. Can we dispell this rumour that Dusty was some poor woeful, pitiful person? She was not. She was feisty and even a tad bossy. She was bright and funny - not a tragic figure by any stretch of the imagination.

To illustrate - here is a hand-written(by Dusty herself - thanks to Teda) - it's her personal opinion of that dreaded recording of "Sometimes Like Butterflies".



Love,
Ro



Teda
Little by little
★

Posted - 30/01/2007 : 02:11:07

Dusty was a fine Lass. She knew what she was doing, and she cared for others. People were there for Dusty, and the best was Peggy, who had no other motive, but love and sobriety. I'm the same way about perfection. Nothing bad about that. Why do it if you can't get it right. Teda.



insomniacafe
I'll try anything
★★

Posted - 30/01/2007 : 02:12:27

I hate when history defines people by their lives' tragedies too.

Thanks for posting the note Ro!



Netherlands
1509 Posts

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

Posted - 30/01/2007 : 12:58:19

Aww it's so nice to see something Dusty wrote, thanks for sharing Ro and Teda 😊

Clare xoxo

"I'm not Mama's little baby no more..."



Australia
5805 Posts

Sophie
Where am I going?
★★★

Posted - 30/01/2007 : 16:18:18

i don't think Dusty's perfectionism was necessarily a bad thing - i agree with what Mr Cafe said about DIM; it probably wouldn't have been nearly as amazing if she hadn't been so meticulous with the recording process.

but it's also true that she didn't *need* to be such a perfectionist - her live performances sounded just fine to me, too - but we all know how she didn't like to listen to her own recordings; probably due to a lack of self-confidence on her part. it seems she never thought her voice was good enough, which is a shame..

BTW i'm not trying to portray Dusty as tragic, here - i know she wasn't, and i'm aware the negative aspects of her life have been highlighted & even sometimes exaggerated, in the past - i'm just stating my opinion. 😊



allherfaces
Administrator
★★★★★

Posted - 30/01/2007 : 17:18:02

Thanks for all the comments; I look forward to more responses. And yes, I'm talking about music, but also life, so feel free to reread the original prompt.

Love
Bosseh

"Yesterday's gone. Love lead me on."
~Roll Away



USA
14235 Posts

Teda
Little by little
★

Posted - 30/01/2007 : 20:44:02

I put Music and life together. Love Teda



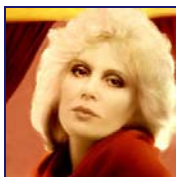
USA
384 Posts

Tim
Where am I going?
★★★

Posted - 31/01/2007 : 00:00:06

I like that.

T x



United Kingdom
3422 Posts

allherfaces
Administrator
★★★★★

Posted - 31/01/2007 : 02:01:44

It could be maddening to be a perfectionist about everything. Wasn't there any area in which she let herself go?

"Yesterday's gone. Love lead me on."
~Roll Away



USA
14235 Posts

Teda
Little by little

Posted - 31/01/2007 : 07:12:45



USA
384 Posts

Affection she let herself go. She was glad she did it. She knew the people, and they called me up to say thanks for asking Dusty to do it. I didn't like doing it. I knew her heart wasn't in it when she got home. But perfection is Dusty. She heard my version of it she liked it. But nobody was thrilled. Love Teda.



allherfaces

Administrator



Posted - 31/01/2007 : 13:11:10

Sounds like she wasn't a perfectionist about her glasses either.



"Yesterday's gone. Love lead me on."
~Roll Away



USA
14235 Posts

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