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Author

Topic

Will

Wasn't born to follow



United Kingdom
7603 Posts

Posted - 17/03/2009 : 18:06:58



I'm listening - yet again! - to the BBC's "DUSTY IN MEMPHIS" documentary, presented by Paul Sexton and originally aired on Radio 2.

There really is little (if any) doubt that Dusty In Memphis is La Dust's best single piece of work, at least in terms of albums. One comment made on the show is that it was the only album where Dusty spoke of every single track with pride.. and deservedly so, of course.

How strange that the album could be so under-recognised in its day; and yet now, it is - thankfully - recognised as the masterpiece it most surely is. About time, too.

Well done, Dusty - this really is "pure klass" :)

Will

"..so catch me if you can - I'm goin' back.."

Gallery: www.askyofhoney.com

Posted - 17/03/2009 : 20:51:34

brokenblossom

Little by little



United Kingdom
587 Posts

I completely agree with you, Will. This album is flawless, I could listen to it non stop, even now, i never tire of it

Clare
X



Will

Wasn't born to follow



United Kingdom
7603 Posts

Posted - 17/03/2009 : 21:17:59

"Flawless" is the perfect word for it.

Will

"..so catch me if you can - I'm goin' back.."

Gallery: www.askyofhoney.com



memphisinlondon

Where am I going?



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

Posted - 17/03/2009 : 21:27:28

Thanks Will. I agree with you and Clare.

I've seen the album questioned over the last months. Was it really so great especially as Dusty said it was 'over-rated'. Even Annie is disappointed that Dusty wasn't encouraged to use her 'chest voice' on this album. For me this is the Dusty I first heard on the radio when I was 11 or 12. It's the Voice I fell in love with without knowing who Dusty was.

The thing about this album for me is it's been a favourite album of all time ever since I got to hear it in 1980. Although I appreciated Dusty I wasn't really a fan at this time and so I was able to listen objectively. The album blew me away. And the great thing about it is it still does today. It is not dated and still sounds so fresh. It was born out of a troubled collaboration of musical geniuses (genii to be pedantic) and it's a work of highest musical art. It's one of the most outstanding albums ever made - because of Dusty and because of the production. That might sound a bit over the top but it really isn't. I'll never, ever be without this album.

Memphis

Ever since we met...



ErgoFergo

I'll try anything



United Kingdom
1047 Posts

Posted - 17/03/2009 : 21:37:02

It is perfect. It's a 'dream team' of an album. I still get butterflies in my tummy when I sit down and listen to it properly. (As I write this I can hear the opening bars of So Much Love in my head - beautiful.)

It's also probably the most sharable of Dusty's albums. It has such kudos and "klass" that you can happily give it as a gift to someone who would never dream of listening to something like A Girl Called Dusty or ECUD (more's the pity).

Vicky

X

Edited by - ErgoFergo on 17/03/2009 21:37:49



Will

Wasn't born to follow



United Kingdom
7603 Posts

Posted - 17/03/2009 : 22:06:50

>>It's one of the most outstanding albums ever made - because of Dusty and because of the production. That might sound a bit over the top but it really isn't.<<

No, it really isn't :)

>>genii to be pedantic<<

Is that like a combination of several somethings from an old lamp and a teacher? lol..

Will

"..so catch me if you can - I'm goin' back.."

Gallery: www.askyofhoney.com**memphisinlondon**

Where am I going?



Posted - 17/03/2009 : 22:14:15

United Kingdom
3565 Posts

It's the plural of genius! But they were good musical geniuses too!

Memphis
Ever since we met...**daydreamer**

Moderator



Posted - 17/03/2009 : 22:59:39

United Kingdom
5404 Posts

I remember Lucy as a wayward teen asking if she could have my copy of Dusty In Memphis. It was around the time of Pulp Fiction and I willingly gave it to her (it wasn't like I only had one copy!) I think Dusty felt the same about Windmills as she did later about I Just Want To Stay Here, she did it to please someone else, but to me they both work. I really love Memphis, but, I love Everything's Coming Up Dusty even more 😊

Carole x

"There's a part of you that's a part of me..."

**humboldt**

I'll try anything



Posted - 17/03/2009 : 23:00:43

United Kingdom
1704 Posts

I have said on here before that I think that 'Dusty In Memphis' is overrated. Oh it's good and some of it is even excellent but IMHO Dusty recorded much better albums like 'Ev'rything's Coming Up Dusty', 'See All Her Faces', 'Cameo' & my special fav 'A Brand New Me'. Seems to me that the so called music critics have latched on to 'Memphis', like they often tend to do with a particular album, to the detriment of all others. I blame their & some fans obsession with 'Son Of A Preacher Man' which was the first Dusty single that I didn't like and now it's become unlistenable. I just wondered if I'm on my own here or does anyone else share my views?



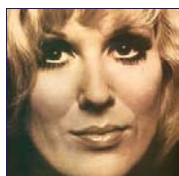
Humboldt

**memphisinlondon**

Where am I going?



Posted - 18/03/2009 : 00:02:39

United Kingdom
3565 Posts

I do agree that 'Dusty in Memphis' has overshadowed all of Dusty's other albums which is a true shame. Critics only seem to think she recorded one album. None of the others ever get a mention which is just mad. But that's the way it goes. How many Beach Boy albums can most people quote? Pet Sounds and...? 'Memphis' is superb and for overall quality it stands by itself in Dusty's catalogue and, more importantly, in the history of popular music.

If I just listen to Dusty's catalogue I'm spoiled by the amount of treasure. Every album from 1964-1974 is great. All of them sound great today. All of them are different because Dusty rarely repeated herself, she always progressed and tried out something different.

'Memphis' will always get listeners who can really hear it. It's Dusty's most modern and most adult album and it will always stand the test of time as it always has done. But I've played it sometimes and it's just background music because I'm not in the zone. But if I'm in the zone, concentrate and really listen this album is mind blowingly amazing because of the vocals, musician-ship and profound emotion. Some people haven't heard 'Son of a Preacher Man' yet. When they do they'll nearly always think to themselves 'WoW! Who's that singing this song?'.

That must be one of the reasons it's one of the most downloaded Dusty songs.

It really bugs me when I hear Dusty fans diss or undermine the greatness of this album. Is it just because people out of the Dusty clique actually like it too? But we all rate albums differently so it's OK. But I really don't understand how you can rate the compilation 'All Your Faces' or even 'Brand New Me' over Memphis. 'Cameo' is the true successor in my book and that's saying something (I love this album) but for sophistication and production values, and the calibre of the collaboration, it's not as great. 'Ev'rything's Coming Up Dusty' has true Klass too. This and 'Memphis' are, arguably, Dusty's best ever and most important albums.

Memphis
Ever since we met...

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 18/03/2009 01:12:03



humboldt
I'll try anything
★★

Posted - 18/03/2009 : 00:28:55



Well as I always say 'it's different strokes for different folks'. I get annoyed that some fans seem to be so fanatical about 'Memphis' and totally ignore anything else Dusty did apart from hits collections. She was so much more than that 😊

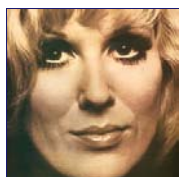


Humboldt



memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
★★★

Posted - 18/03/2009 : 00:38:51



Yes different strokes and that's fine. I love 'Brand New Me' but objectively (and that's really hard for me nowadays) it's not a great album because it's not up to Dusty's high mark of perfection and most of the lyrics are laughable. But, as I said, I love it and it's a sign of my fanatic fandom that I love it. 'Dusty in Memphis' is true, pure, enduring love. 29 years and still going strong 😊

Memphis
Ever since we met...

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 18/03/2009 00:46:14



humboldt
I'll try anything
★★

Posted - 18/03/2009 : 01:08:42



You must be a baby compared to moi 🙄 I was around when each & every Dusty album & single came out. I couldn't buy them all as I was still at school in the 60's and didn't get much pocket money. Marianne, Cilla & Motown all vied for my shillings so I had to choose what I bought carefully. I remember going into a local record store one Saturday afternoon and listened to 'Memphis' in a booth (anyone recall them) but I decided against buying it as I'd already gone off 'SOAP' and didn't care for 'Windmills' at that time. If my memory serves me well it was Laura Nyro's 'Eli & The 13th Confession' that I bought that day. Of course a few years later in the mid 70's I did buy 'Memphis'. I don't play it often because I have such a blind spot when it comes to 'SOAP' that it possibly colours my judgement of 'Memphis'.



Humboldt



memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
★★★

Posted - 18/03/2009 : 01:16:22

I wish I was a tad older sometimes so I could have listened to such



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

humboldt
I'll try anything
★★



United Kingdom
1704 Posts

great music as it came out. And you know Humboldt, I don't like SOAPM that much either (never have) but it's a very cool track. I just might have bought Laura Nyro instead too. That's another of my favourite albums of all time! 😊

Memphis
Ever since we met...

Posted - 18/03/2009 : 01:31:36

I know that this is going off topic but I always wish that Dusty had recorded some Laura songs like 'Stoney End' & 'Wedding Bell Blues' as that would have taken her down a totally different road 😊. C'est la vie!



Humboldt

MissDustyFanatic
Where am I going?
★★★



USA
2606 Posts

Posted - 18/03/2009 : 08:30:04

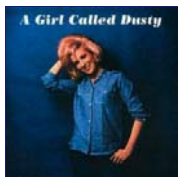
Just out of curiosity, Humboldt, what is it about SOAPM that you don't like? It's certainly not my favorite Miss Dusty track, but I do like it.

I really quite adore DIM. I think it's most often praised as Miss Dusty's definitive album because of the perfect cohesion of production values, vocal quality, and song quality. Every song is unique, and different, but they all just flow together in a way none of her other albums really do, save for perhaps 'A Brand New Me', the Jeff Barry produced recordings, and 'Cameo'.

Still, I have to say...I've never really warmed up to 'Windmills' or 'In The Land of Make-Believe'. I think they fit in perfectly on the album, and Miss Dusty performs them to perfection, so I actually don't mind listening to them, but in the hands of any other artist, I wouldn't care for them.

"I've got to be where my spirit can run free..."

Cardiff Bluesgirl
I'll try anything
★★



United Kingdom
1809 Posts

Posted - 18/03/2009 : 16:27:05

I like Dusty In Memphis but I agree it has been over hyped by the wrong critics who just decided they should talk her up. I dont like Preacher man very much,dont really know why. I love "a girl called Dusty" and "Everythings coming up Dusty" and I think "very fine love " gets forgotten and yet is wonderful. anyway each to his own as you all agree. I think most of her stuff is brilliant anyway so when she gets talked about in the music industry its good exposure for her, I just wish her less known songs would get played so that people who dont know she made so many recordings would understand how good she was.

"every day I find you're in my heart and on my mind"

liz.

humboldt
I'll try anything
★★



United Kingdom
1704 Posts

Posted - 18/03/2009 : 17:36:40

MDF asked "*Just out of curiosity, Humboldt, what is it about SOAPM that you don't like? It's certainly not my favorite Miss Dusty track, but I do like it.*"

I knew that someone was going to ask me that question. To be honest I'm not sure why I don't like it. It's 40 yrs since I first heard it. I'm sure that I expected to like it as I'd loved all Dusty's prior releases. Again I'm certain that I tried hard to like it but nothing happened. It seemed to be a rather contrived melody which I thought didn't suit Dusty and that she sounded uncomfortable with. In the end I just gave up on it and over

the years the more praise that was lavished upon it the more I would ask why. As I said I have a blind spot about 'SOAPM' and it's never going to change. I have versions by Aretha Franklin, Erma Franklin, Nancy Wilson, Mavis Staples & a French one by Sylvie Vartan all which I press 'skip'. The only version that I can listen to without reaching for the sick bag is actually Bobbie Gentry's.

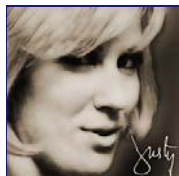
Maybe that's not much of an explanation but it's all you're going to get



Humboldt



Corinna
Forum Admin
★★★★★



Sweden
6080 Posts

Posted - 18/03/2009 : 18:06:07

Thanks everybody for these immensely interesting posts and new perspectives on DIM!

I do like DIM... just sometimes I think it's too 'smooth', too 'perfect', and then I play the more raw soul of ... sings classic soul, or Cameo or See all her Faces. 😊

Like Taylor, I don't care too much for Land of Make Believe. It's something with her voice which I don't particularly like, it's got too much air, and it's too high pitched.

I've still to read Annie's chapter on the subject... 😊

Cor xx

"I don't know what it is that makes me love you so..."

Edited by - Corinna on 18/03/2009 18:07:09



ErgoFergo
I'll try anything
★★



United Kingdom
1047 Posts

Posted - 18/03/2009 : 18:20:29

quote:

Originally posted by humboldt

...my special fav 'A Brand New Me'. Seems to me that the so called music critics have latched on to 'Memphis', like they often tend to do with a particular album, to the detriment of all others.



Humboldt

You'll like this then, Humboldt. (From the Guardian's 1000 albums to hear before you die - scroll down to the bottom of the page):

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/music/2007/nov/21/1000tohearbeforeyoudie5>



Vicky

x

Edited by - ErgoFergo on 18/03/2009 18:22:40



humboldt
I'll try anything
★★



Posted - 18/03/2009 : 18:41:51

Thanks Vicky 😊



Humboldt



United Kingdom
1704 Posts

dave the bass
I start counting

Posted - 18/03/2009 : 20:59:04

United Kingdom
5 Posts

This is one of my all time Dusty favourites. One fact I seem to remember reading was that Dusty was intimidated by the backing musicians and her vocals were recorded (I think in New York) separately. It is none the worse for that. For me she can truly do no wrong. On a side note, Tommy Cogbill's bass workout on the end of Son Of A Preacher Man is awesome.



Tim
Where am I going?
☆☆☆

Posted - 18/03/2009 : 21:21:59



My 2 penny/cent worth.

United Kingdom
3422 Posts

I like it. I respect it as a major landmark and achievement but I don't really love it.

I too would have liked to have heard the chest voice and wonderful as they are - I don't like some of the songs too much! I also find the production erm 'autumnal' - and kind of depressing in mood at times.

I do rate the material for choice quality running order and naturally the singing is exemplary throughout - with lots of new subtle shading that we know helps so much to give Dusty's music such a living breathing feeling.

I may also have negative associations with it because -as we know - having found the soul 'Holy Grail' in Memphis - it all started to go wrong for Dusty careerwise from here on in.

As an afterthought - SOAPM is such an important piece of work from this time as it has brought so many new people to Dusty. In her lifetime Dusty saw it had grown wings and of course returned to her a platinum disc - 'and I didn't even have to do anything!!

T :-)

<http://www.timlloydsmith.com>



memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
☆☆☆

Posted - 18/03/2009 : 21:57:47



Thanks to Vicky for that link. Hadn't seen that before. The beautiful 'Let Me Get In Your Way' doesn't get much of a look in here. I'm glad to see it acknowledged and I'm glad to see it's surviving quite well on the Survivor thread. Mind you one of my other favourites 'Joe' bit the dust after about 10 minutes!

United Kingdom
3565 Posts

My post script to DIM is that when I first bought the album it was Side 1 (tracks 1-6) that I loved at first hearing. SOAPM was OK but I often ended up skipping the track because I couldn't wait to hear 'I Don't Want To Hear It Anymore'. On Side 2 I would go straight to the last 2 tracks 'No Easy Way Down' and 'I Can't Make It Alone'. These tracks inc. SOAPM all go together perfectly. I didn't like 'Windmills' but now I love it. 'Just One Smile' was OK and 'Land of Make Believe' was not compelling but now I love these too (it's the music, as much as Dusty's voice, on these 3 tracks that does it for me). The only thing that irritates me on my latest CD (the Rhino collection) is the Jeff Barry tracks starting up so quickly after the knock-out blow to the heart 'I Can't Make It Alone'. But that's what play lists are for!

Memphis
Ever since we met...

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 19/03/2009 00:30:17





MissDustyFanatic

Where am I going?



Posted - 19/03/2009 : 04:06:44

quote:

Originally posted by humboldt

MDF asked "Just out of curiosity, Humboldt, what is it about SOAPM that you don't like? It's certainly not my favorite Miss Dusty track, but I do like it."

I knew that someone was going to ask me that question. To be honest I'm not sure why I don't like it. It's 40 yrs since I first heard it. I'm sure that I expected to like it as I'd loved all Dusty's prior releases. Again I'm certain that I tried hard to like it but nothing happened. It seemed to be a rather contrived melody which I thought didn't suit Dusty and that she sounded uncomfortable with. In the end I just gave up on it and over the years the more praise that was lavished upon it the more I would ask why. As I said I have a blind spot about 'SOAPM' and it's never going to change. I have versions by Aretha Franklin, Erma Franklin, Nancy Wilson, Mavis Staples & a French one by Sylvie Vartan all which I press 'skip'. The only version that I can listen to without reaching for the sick bag is actually Bobbie Gentry's.

Maybe that's not much of an explanation but it's all you're going to get



Humboldt

That's a good enough explanation, Humboldt I have similar feelings for 'In The Winter'. I don't hate it by any means, but there are lots of tracks I'd listen to over it. It's just never grabbed me the way it has so many others.

"I've got to be where my spirit can run free..."

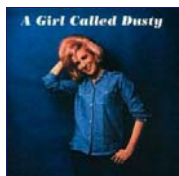


Cardiff Bluesgirl

I'll try anything



Posted - 19/03/2009 : 17:35:35



I am with you Memphis in liking the wonderful "I dont want to hear it anymore" I suppose thats why theres so much music out there,we all like different stuff. I dont like admitting if I dont like all Dusty does but she wouldnt expect us to love everything and so I think we are ok to choose? she is fab anyway.

"every day I find you're in my heart and on my mind"

liz.



insomniacafe

I'll try anything



Posted - 26/03/2009 : 02:19:16



'Cameo', and 'From Dusty With Love' are great albums in my book, but nothing has as cohesive a vision and intent as 'Dusty In Memphis', and none of her other albums offer as satisfying a listening experience.

Overrated, it certainly isn't, since this implies some sort of ingenuity. I doubt people have sufficient motive to consistently talk up a 30 year old album from a deceased artist unless they genuinely believe its something very special and should be shared amongst as many people as possible. To a lot of people, myself included, this was the album that the perfect voice finally found the perfect material as it's vehicle to the listener.

Michael



Topic

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