

Let's Talk Dusty!

The Ultimate Forum for Dusty Springfield Fans

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[Thinking about writing a new Dusty book/documentary?](#)

by [A Girl Called Christal](#) » Thu Jul 03, 2014 10:20 am

With the disappointment of hearing that the new Dusty biography isn't the definitive biography that was hoped for, I'm curious about if anyone here has thought about writing one?

I've been mulling over the idea of late.

It's not my intention to make this post about me, but here's a little bit of my background... I started collecting records around the age of 5, and have been studying music history for about as long. I'm now about to turn 32 and have been in the music, photography, and film industries for years. I've recently decided to switch professional gears, and am looking at programs to become a certified musicologist. Along with my resurgence in record collecting, I've been putting serious thought into getting back into writing (I remember being around 10 years old when I told my mom that when I grow up I'm going to write books about music history - weird kid!). I'm putting together some outlines for possible projects, including books about the history of different record labels, songwriters, recording techniques, etc.

Dusty is a subject that I keep coming back to and thinking about. I have a deep respect for her as an artist, and as a human that had to try to balance her personal life with her professional and artistic life... as well as all the turbulence she had to deal with along the way.

I've always related to Dusty in many ways. As a self critical, perfectionist, artist. Someone who has to deal with their sexuality in a somewhat mysonginistic and bigoted industry. As well as someone who has had similar difficulties in their personal life. I've been dealing with depression for over 15 years, and had to fight my doctor for years to get diagnosed and get help. My mom's soon to be ex-husband is bi-polar... I've been witness to the good bits and the bad bits... his struggle with alcoholism and finding help. I come at artistic struggles and mental illness with empathy and understanding. Having read Maggie's post ([viewtopic.php?f=7&t=6579](#)), it makes a lot of sense if this is accurate.

If I did write about Dusty, I'm considering if I could write one volume focusing on the music, recording sessions, recording techniques, another behind the scenes dealings... and then a second volume on Dusty's personal life. I understand that there is a hunger for more writings about the music. I think my first actions need to be to get a copy of Paul Howes' The Complete Dusty Springfield and see if there is more to be said, or if he's covered it.

I'm no where near as knowledgeable about Dusty as you all are (yet!). If this is something I pursued, I'd be using this forum to help. I haven't posted here often, but I read intently. I respect this community. I'd want to write a book that is honest, but fair and respectful to Dusty. This really would be a labor of love. I'd want Dusty to be proud, not only of the book, but of herself and how it showcases her legacy.

Anyway, just putting myself out there and thinking out loud. Gauging the interest. With my film making background, this could end up being a documentary instead of, or as well as, a book.

Any interest and/or input?

Ps, please don't judge my writing based on this post. It's 3am. Like Dusty, I'm a night owl.



Christal

[A Girl Called Christal](#)

Little by little



Posts: 82

Joined: Tue Apr 16, 2013 1:16 pm

Location: Vancouver, Canada

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[Re: Thinking about writing a new Dusty book/documentary?](#)

■ by [A Girl Called Christal](#) » Thu Jul 03, 2014 11:48 am

I just got through reading this thread. [viewtopic.php?f=7&t=5618](#)

A lot to digest. Considering that it was a commission from the Daily Mail, I shouldn't be surprised about how Karen Bartlett's turned out.

I'm going to quote SLB from that thread:

It should have been clear how unusual and brave it was for her to take the stands she did regarding race. Her love of Black culture and her ability to sing in those styles was also not the norm back in the sixties. Without framing her story around that time in history some of the impact gets lost. It just sort of gets passed over as if it's no big deal.

What she needs is an experienced biographer who is well versed in music because in the end that's why she was famous and so loved. It has nothing to do with who she slept with or what drugs she was taking.

This is a huge part of why I'm so interested in music history. Having grown up with parents who are antique dealers, I've learnt to have respect for history and its impact on social issues. I feel that art can be the mirror held up to reflect the world back on its self. For those of us who love and respect Dusty, her personal life was important for obvious reasons. But also because her personal life informs her as an artist. In the grand scheme of things, though, her music and the legacy she left is what's really important. Not who she slept with or who she did or didn't date. As an artist, she broke down barriers, in the studio, as a woman in the industry, and with her music. As much as I love the Beatles, I feel that Dusty's achievement and influence has been overshadowed. Dusty always seems to get left behind. It's a real shame. She contributed so much. Dusty deserves better.

Christal

[A Girl Called Christal](#)

Little by little



Posts: 82

Joined: Tue Apr 16, 2013 1:16 pm

Location: Vancouver, Canada

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[Re: Thinking about writing a new Dusty book/documentary?](#)

■ by [A Girl Called Christal](#) » Thu Jul 03, 2014 8:24 pm

No responses? Is there just no interest in a set of definitive Dusty books written by a fan who also knows the industry and respects Dusty's place in history? Have you all just been soured on Dusty books with this latest book? I want to write the book that the fans want to read (including myself!).

I look at the work of Peter Guralnick as a source of inspiration for how to do it properly.

Some other subjects that I plan to write books about... my favorite songwriting teams... Leiber/Stoller, Goffin/King, Bacharach/David, Greenwich/Barry... and so many others. Studio musicians, The Wrecking Crew, The Funk Brothers. The evolution of recording studio gear and techniques. The formation of many major and independent recording studios, record labels, and the inner workings, history and evolution of them. That's just the tip of the iceberg. I'm starting the process with my first music history articles on my website in a few weeks.

Christal

[A Girl Called Christal](#)

Little by little



Posts: 82

Joined: Tue Apr 16, 2013 1:16 pm

Location: Vancouver, Canada

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[Re: Thinking about writing a new Dusty book/documentary?](#)

■ by [JMFabianoRPL](#) » Fri Jul 04, 2014 4:53 am

Oh I totally agree with you! Since the fans seem to be the ones who care about Dusty the most, and care more for the ART rather than PERSONAL PROFIT, I say we all get together and make this thing happen. Contribute what we all know and put it together into the REAL biography. We can even include personal anecdotes from the fans who got to meet Dusty and etc, and stories about how she changed our lives.

So yes, DO IT DO IT DO IT. When injustice strikes we can either seeth and be silent, but that's why the wrong people are always in power today. So let's do the alternative and take justice into our own hands!!!

[JMFabianoRPL](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 187

Joined: Thu Oct 13, 2011 2:01 am

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[Re: Thinking about writing a new Dusty book/documentary?](#)

■ by [A Girl Called Christal](#) » Sat Jul 05, 2014 12:16 am

Thank you for your reply, JMFabianoRPL!

When injustice strikes we can either seeth and be silent, but that's why the wrong people are always in power today. So let's do the alternative and take justice into our own hands!!!

That's exactly it. This has been brewing in my mind for a while. I was cautiously optimistic about the new book but, obviously, it's been a massive let down. I have ZERO interest in writing another DWD or DS:LI... or feeding into the crap from VW, TB, SC, CP, etc. Re: the domestic violence that was, from what I understand, recounted in detail in this new book... it sickens me to hear that KB gave TB so much credence and allowed for that kind of spin on the situation. When you strike someone and send them to the hospital with massive injuries, it's NEVER ok to blame the victim. Totally unacceptable.

Disappointing book after disappointing book, it's actually given me more conviction that Dusty deserves much better. That she deserves a tribute from someone (or from many) who is interested in telling her story for the right reasons. At this point, I'm realizing that along with the artistic/music industry careers that I already have going, this is what I want to do with the rest of my life... musicology. No matter what other books, documentaries, etc that I go on to write, THIS is the one that I really want to write. Dusty is, without doubt, my favorite female vocalist of all time. I feel that she broke down so many barriers. Not only musically, but for women in the industry... and also helped introduce soul/Motown to the masses in Britain, was an early champion for artists like Hendrix, and Led Zeppelin. It sadens me that her influence has been largely forgotten in the wake of the Beatles.

I imagine that at this point Pat Rhodes, Simon Bell, and the members of LTD are pretty reluctant for any more, and that's completely understandable. But I'd rather set the record straight instead of let the smut books have the last word. I don't want to focus on the "tragedy". I want to focus on the triumph of Dusty's accomplishments.

It's been said that Dusty was before her time. It's really true. I've been listening to the Goin' Back / I'm Gonna Leave You single on repeat... It really strikes me that these songs were at least a decade, if not more, ahead of everyone else. I'm Gonna Leave You is one of the best B-sides out there. It could have fit very nicely on DIM, which was ahead of its time, as well. It's a shame that Dusty didn't write more.

stories about how she changed our lives.

That would make a great epilogue. Maybe one of the best tributes to Dusty. Dusty's passing isn't the end. She lives on with everyone that listens to her music. The personal anecdotes from the fans who got to meet Dusty would certainly be something that should be included, if people are willing to share their stories. In fact, I'd love as much involvement from LTD as you all want to give. Maybe I could even come and document a Dusty Day and include that in the epilogue. I don't know how much involvement Pat Rhodes would want to have in another Dusty project, but I'd make sure that she's given updates as it all comes together, and the final draft. I'd hope that I could get Pat's blessings before it was published. I wouldn't want to put something out there that wasn't deemed worthy of publication by people who love and respect Dusty.

On a side note, I've been speaking with a friend who works for a re-issue subsidiary of Universal Music. He's been asking me if I can think of any artists to look at doing re-issues of. Naturally, my first response was Dusty. It sounds like other subsidiaries get first crack at artists as big as Dusty, but it would be interesting to see if there's anything in the vaults that haven't already been plundered.

Last edited by [A Girl Called Christal](#) on Sat Jul 05, 2014 2:26 am, edited 2 times in total.
Christal

[A Girl Called Christal](#)

Little by little



Posts: 82

Joined: Tue Apr 16, 2013 1:16 pm

Location: Vancouver, Canada

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[Re: Thinking about writing a new Dusty book/documentary?](#)

■ by [A Girl Called Christal](#) » Sat Jul 05, 2014 12:47 am

I also want to reiterate that the music is what draws me most to wanting to do this. I'm sure we all have our favorite Dusty era, but pre-1970s music/music industry in general is my biggest interest when it comes to music history. Dusty was able to produce an incredible catalogue throughout her life, but her output up to around 1970 was astounding. One of the most solid catalogues that anyone has ever created in such a short time frame.

[A Girl Called Christal](#)

Little by little



Posts: 82

Joined: Tue Apr 16, 2013 1:16 pm

Location: Vancouver, Canada

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[Re: Thinking about writing a new Dusty book/documentary?](#)

■ by [JMFabianoRPL](#) » Sat Jul 05, 2014 3:14 am

Me too! But I want to be able to believe in Dusty as a person too. Maybe that's why the negative stuff bothers me.

Regarding your comments above, I will reiterate that I knew TB, aka the "tooth fairy," was not to be trusted, and I was surprised/sickened at the members of various groups who accepted her. Say, what happened to Rosemary ("Ro")? She always had it right about the TF. We needed someone like her to stand up to the star-struck masses, and I use the word "star" very loosely! I'd love to hear from her again now, probably peppering us with many deserved "I told you so's".

I agree with you wanting to have the last word...yes I am a bit competitive so I don't want to see "them" win! But for Dusty first and foremost.

Regarding Pat, Simon, et al not wanting more...do they not want, or can't they? I ask because I wonder if the tricking into the gag order stories from 14 yrs. ago were an urban legend, or ??????

[JMFabianoRPL](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 187

Joined: Thu Oct 13, 2011 2:01 am

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[Re: Thinking about writing a new Dusty book/documentary?](#)

■ by [A Girl Called Christal](#) » Sat Jul 05, 2014 3:43 am

I wasn't on the forum when TB/TF was around, but when I first joined I spent a lot of time reading the archives of the old site, as well as the past posts in the active forum. It seems to me that TB was one of what Pat Rhodes described in an interview as the "hangers on". TB was another of them many that took advantage of Dusty's fragile state.

What bothers me most is that all of these people are taking shots at and exploiting Dusty for their own gain after Dusty is no longer around to defend herself or tell her side of things. If these people cared so much for Dusty, where were they when Dusty was ill?

Yeah, sadly there was a part of Dusty's life that was really difficult. Without trying to diminish what she went through, though, I see her story as more of a story of redemption and inspiration. What about the woman who overcame her struggles? What about the woman who was able to kick addiction and get her life back? THAT is pretty inspirational. Once people go down that rabbit hole so many can never get back. People that ridicule her for her difficulties are people that could never have overcome them, like Dusty did. I have nothing but respect for Dusty in what she was able to overcome. That story of redemption deserves to be told, too.

Christal

[A Girl Called Christal](#)

Little by little



Posts: 82

Joined: Tue Apr 16, 2013 1:16 pm

Location: Vancouver, Canada

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[Re: Thinking about writing a new Dusty book/documentary?](#)

■ by [A Girl Called Christal](#) » Sat Jul 05, 2014 3:48 am

JMFabianoRPL wrote: Regarding Pat, Simon, et al not wanting more...do they not want, or can't they? I ask because I wonder if the tricking into the gag order stories from 14 yrs. ago were an urban legend, or ??????

That's a great question that I'd love the answer to, as well. There's probably someone on this forum that has some ideas about this. Pat has been so loyal and loving towards Dusty and her legacy for all of these years. She really seems like such a sweetheart. Seeing what has been said and written about Dusty must be hard for Pat.

Christal

[A Girl Called Christal](#)

Little by little



Posts: 82

Joined: Tue Apr 16, 2013 1:16 pm

Location: Vancouver, Canada

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[Re: Thinking about writing a new Dusty book/documentary?](#)

■ by [st louis blues](#) » Sat Jul 05, 2014 5:16 am

I think it would be a great idea, but a big undertaking since many people who were in her inner circle are no longer around. In addition, Simon, Pat, etc. may have been burned one to many times to want to get involved at all. I think it's worth pursuing and I could think of many people and angles that perhaps have not been addressed. How about suggestions from others here about possible ideas that might shed more light on Dusty's career for the uninformed?

[st louis blues](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 331

Joined: Wed Jun 23, 2010 1:18 am

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[Re: Thinking about writing a new Dusty book/documentary?](#)

■ by [A Girl Called Christal](#) » Sat Jul 05, 2014 6:24 am

st louis blues wrote: I think it would be a great idea, but a big undertaking since many people who were in her inner circle are no longer around.

That's why I want to get moving on this rather than waiting on it even longer. I wouldn't want to do a rushed job like so many others have been. I'd rather take longer and do it right. Over the years we've been losing so many... from people that knew Dusty personally, to people who worked with her. Even in the last 12 years we've lost... Ahmet Ertegun, Jerry Wexler, Tom Dowd, and now Gerry Goffin.

st louis blues wrote: In addition, Simon, Pat, etc. may have been burned one to many times to want to get involved at all.

That would be totally understandable. I'd feel pretty burned too, if I were them.

st louis blues wrote: I think it's worth pursuing and I could think of many people and angles that perhaps have not been addressed. How about suggestions from others here about possible ideas that might shed more light on Dusty's career for the uninformed?

Any angles and/or info, etc that anyone has, I'm more than happy to look into and try to incorporate. The social and civil rights activist in me wants to know more about the African tour. Has much info come out about that? Dusty said that she wasn't refusing to perform to segregated audiences for political reasons, she just didn't feel it was right. Has this situation been discussed in detail in any of the books? There still isn't a lot of info about Dusty's childhood. It sounds unlikely that Tom would be willing to speak after being silent for so long. What about any childhood/school friends? I remember Peter Miles was interviewed in the South Bank Show.

I've also got quite a few ideas for a book that focuses on Dusty's music... or maybe even a couple of books. I've got to do some digging to see how feasible that is. I've been having a flood of book ideas... not just Dusty, but many other music history books as well. Some will intersect... Dusty will likely make appearances in some of my other projects. ex. Dusty in relation to the 60s British music industry. Dusty in relation to the Brill Building writers. Dusty in relation to Atlantic records. Dusty/the music business in relation to race, segregation, and other social issues. I need to start working on some outlines and prioritizing.

If anyone has any input, I'm all ears.
Christal

[A Girl Called Christal](#)

Little by little



Posts: 82

Joined: Tue Apr 16, 2013 1:16 pm

Location: Vancouver, Canada

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[Re: Thinking about writing a new Dusty book/documentary?](#)

■ by [JMFabianoRPL](#) » Tue Jul 15, 2014 5:14 pm

Gotta bump this, I seriously think we need to start working on this! At least put together ideas and info.

[JMFabianoRPL](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 187

Joined: Thu Oct 13, 2011 2:01 am

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[Re: Thinking about writing a new Dusty book/documentary?](#)

■ by [A Girl Called Christal](#) » Tue Jul 15, 2014 8:37 pm

JMFabianoRPL wrote: Gotta bump this, I seriously think we need to start working on this! At least put together ideas and info.

Thank you, James! 🍷👍

The planning and initial research processes are already underway. I'm not quite ready to reveal all of my plans just yet, but what I will say is that the goal is to write the most comprehensive Dusty books yet. This is likely going to be a multi volume set and will take several years to complete.

I understand that there are going to be some people that are soured on Dusty books because of the way they've been spun in the past. I've very aware of the sensitive issues and am going to handle them respectfully and compassionately. I will not bow to any publisher's demand to sensationalize or libel Dusty. The music will be focused on quite a lot, as well. I hope to have an equal balance. Will look at all funding options first, but Crowd funding may become an option if need be to ensure that they remain the books we, the fans, have been waiting for.

As the process moves along, I will be reaching out to LTD for any information, leads on information, as well as your own personal Dusty stories. In the meantime, I am available privately here on LTD and through my business email: shoot@christalbeerman.com

Thank you,

Christal Beerman 🎵
Christal

[A Girl Called Christal](#)

Little by little



Posts: 82

Joined: Tue Apr 16, 2013 1:16 pm

Location: Vancouver, Canada

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[Re: Thinking about writing a new Dusty book/documentary?](#)

■ by [Douggie](#) » Wed Jul 16, 2014 2:34 am

Hi Christal

This will be a huge undertaking as I am sure that many of the people you will need to talk to will not (after the other books) talk to you about Dusty. I know where you are coming from and I agree that a book as you suggested needs to be written. However no matter what your intentions may be it will be a long road. For the passed 15 years I have been jotting down odds and ends with this in mind. I did do a couple of interviews for DWD and for the new Dusty book (the only books), but as usual only a very small section of what I had to say was used. I should have learnt my lesson from DWD when I sent Penny Valentine 14 pages of answers in reply to her questions only to have it reduced to one and a bit paragraphs. It made me wonder if they had their minds made up about what they wanted to write in the first place. They must have been looking for more sensationalism as against my recollections. Too much has been written and based upon her rotten times which I believe have to be included as she was a human after all. It shouldn't be the main focus of any book, that should be her music, her voice and the incredible legacy she left the us with memories and her recordings.

If you do get some co-operation from those that knew her good on you. Sadly not everyone does these things for the right reasons, sometimes they may do it only for themselves.

I wish you all the very best in your undertaking.

Stay true to the cause of Dusty!!

Love Douggie



Dusty



Music



xx

The Truth is Out There



[Douggie](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 184

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 11:07 am

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[Re: Thinking about writing a new Dusty book/documentary?](#)

by [LilCajunGirl](#) » Wed Jul 16, 2014 3:29 am

I think this is awesome! Go for it Christal!

I would be willing to help proofread, etc. !!!

JoAnn

(Lil Cajun Girl)

XXOO

"...So I'm packin up my bags, gonna make my getaway..."



[LilCajunGirl](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 240

Joined: Sun Jan 12, 2014 7:37 am

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana USA

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[Re: Thinking about writing a new Dusty book/documentary?](#)

by [A Girl Called Christal](#) » Wed Jul 16, 2014 10:17 am

Thank you so much for your support Douggie and JoAnn!! It means a lot!

Christal  
Christal

[A Girl Called Christal](#)

Little by little



Posts: 82

Joined: Tue Apr 16, 2013 1:16 pm

Location: Vancouver, Canada

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[Re: Thinking about writing a new Dusty book/documentary?](#)

by [donellac](#) » Wed Jul 16, 2014 10:33 am

Can I also add my thanks Douggie and JoAnn?  

It will be everything to finally produce a proper biography of Dusty!

Donella x

Yesterday when I was young the taste of life was sweet as rain upon my tongue!



[donellac](#)

Where am I going?




Posts: 704

Joined: Tue Feb 26, 2013 10:58 am

Location: Glasgow, UK

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[Re: Thinking about writing a new Dusty book/documentary?](#)

 by [JMFabianoRPL](#) » Wed Jul 16, 2014 5:46 pm

Call on me anytime if you have a place or job for me in this project!

[JMFabianoRPL](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 187

Joined: Thu Oct 13, 2011 2:01 am

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