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West End Girl?

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West End Girl?

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by **FairyDust**

Posted: **Mon Jan 31, 2011 11:41 am**

Is it just me, or does anyone else think that the Dusty lady would have been fab in a West End/Broadway show? I am a huge lover of musicals, as I believe Dust herself was, and I think she had all of the ingredients necessary for a great musical performer. I've just been watching her 'do' Sweet Charity on her TV show and was struck again by how great she'd have been in such a role. Not only does she have the voice (and then some!) but she also has all the PERSONALITY. The older Dusty would have made a fabulous Mama Rose in Gypsy I think - in my view one of the best musical theatre parts for a woman 🤔 Anyone else have any thoughts on Dusty as a potential leading lady and any roles that would've suited her?

Re: West End Girl?

by **karen**

Posted: **Mon Jan 31, 2011 11:50 am**

Well don't know if you have seen this one Grace , but the lady definitely had talent... 🤔
[youtube]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AD3lpaO3L2I>[/youtube]

Re: West End Girl?

by **mnmcv1**

Posted: **Mon Jan 31, 2011 3:28 pm**

Karen- you read my mind! I was gonna grab this clip when I started reading Grace's post.

for some reason that big cutout of the flattened Tom Jones still tickles me... 😊

@Grace- when you mentioned older Dusty tackling Mama Rose, at first I couldn't see it, since the power of Dusty's voice had lessened by her 50's (and I kept thinking about Ethel Merman power-belting "Ev'rything's Coming Up Roses")...but then I thought about all of the "Dustyisms"...the unique nuances and phrasing she would incorporate...not to mention the more subtle moments in the score ("I had a dream, baby..."), and I do think Dusty could've pulled it off nicely. 🤔

besides, Rosalind Russell played Mama in the film, and while I love Roz, she was definitely not a singer, per se. 😊

Re: West End Girl?

by **Cardiff Bluesgirl**

Posted: **Mon Jan 31, 2011 3:33 pm**

she was talented enough for most things but she always said herself that she couldn't have turned up every day or night or both, to perform in such shows. I think she always overrehearsed and so her voice suffered and if she had tried these roles I think she

would have run for the hills before many shows were over 😊
maybe films but not stage shows even though she enjoyed them.

Re: West End Girl?

by FairyDust

Posted: Mon Jan 31, 2011 3:59 pm

@ Markus - Yeah I had wondered how she'd have coped with the vocal demands of it but, as you say, it's probably one of those roles in which it wouldn't have mattered too much if she'd struggled with some bits. I think she'd just have inhabited the role so well and really got into the mind of the character - she was such a clever lady with so much life experience by this time. And no, Roz didn't get the part on her vocal abilities but I love her in it nonetheless. Bette Midler did a good job in the remake too 😊

@ Liz - Ah yes, I remember Pat Rhodes discussing how her voice would get tired after doing several shows on the trot on the Just Dusty DVD. Ah well...it's a nice dream! Perhaps she could've done a brief appearance in one, or a film version as you say 😊

Re: West End Girl?

by FairyDust

Posted: Mon Jan 31, 2011 5:18 pm

PS Wow Karen, I've just watched your clip. How fab and funny is she? 🍷 I love her tapping and the way she runs/trots offstage at 2.12...and that accent! Definite showgirl material 😊 Watching her here and hearing her do the voice makes me think she could've done a ditz character like Audrey in Little Shop of Horrors. She could certainly have made you believe the vulnerability of someone like that....

Thank you so much for posting; I've never seen Dusty do anything like this before. I just adore her humour 🍷

Also...so THAT'S what she looked like with red hair! I don't know if I'd have recognised that it was her had it not been for the trademark eyes still being very much in evidence.

Re: West End Girl?

by edjames

Posted: Mon Jan 31, 2011 9:08 pm

To my recollection, I recall reading that Dusty was offered the leading female role in the original West End production of "Oliver," in the mid sixties, replacing Georgia Brown in the role of Nancy. The role included the fabulous ballad "As Long As He Needs Me." (recorded by Shirley Bassey!) Since Dusty's career was skyrocketing at the time and the thought of appearing on stage every night was a bit too much the offer was refused. Later in the late seventies, Dusty was offered the lead role in the production of "I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking It On The Road." It was an Off Broadway musical, with music by Nancy Ford and book and lyrics by Gretchen Cryer. It was produced by Joseph Papp and the New York Shakespeare Festival at The Public Theater, opening on June 14, 1978 and running for 1165 performances. The lead, played by Cryer, is a 39-year-old divorcee attempting a comeback as a pop star. Generally considered a feminist vehicle, the plot centers around her displaying new material for her manager without relying on showbiz clichés. The show also enjoyed a 1981 West End production. Dusty was offered the role with full creative control to do whatever she would like with the lyrics or music. Once again, Dusty's confidence and the rigorous performance schedule made her decline the offer. She speaks about the offer on the Canadian City Lights

program with Brian Linehan in 1981.

Finally, rumor has it that Dusty actively campaigned to play the part of Carlotta in the 1987 West End revival of Stephen Sondheim's "Follies" in which she would have sang that great classic song "I'm Still Here." It would have been a fabulous moment in Dusty history! A little tweaking of the lyrics to fit Dusty's own life and career would have made it absolutely fabulous!

ED

Re: West End Girl?

by **FairyDust**

Posted: **Mon Jan 31, 2011 9:23 pm**

Hi Ed. Ah yes, I remember the 'Oliver' thing now you mention it! I think she'd've made a stunning Nancy and I'm sure there wouldn't have been a dry eye in the house at her rendition of 'As Long As He Needs Me'. We know she could do the accent too 😊 I didn't know about the other offers, though, and agree that it'd have been really exciting if she'd accepted - particularly 'Follies'. I think her confidence probably was the major thing that held her back. She always undersold herself and her abilities after all....

Re: West End Girl?

by **Sweetbaby**

Posted: **Mon Jan 31, 2011 11:28 pm**

😊 I don't think Dusty would have been considered to replace Georgia Brown in the West End production of **Oliver!** as Georgia originated the role of Nancy on 30 June 1960 & left the role a year and a half later: at the start of 1962 Dusty was still with the Springfields & in my perception neither had nor desired a solo persona. There may have been some thought of Dusty coming "on board" later in the show's run which lasted until 1966.

It's been discussed here that Dusty turned down roles in the 1970 off-Broadway production of Weill-Brecht's **Mahagonny** & the West End production of **Cats** which began its run in 1981; in the latter she'd have played Grizabella & performed the show's most famous number *Memory*.

Reportedly Dusty said Carlotta in **Follies** was her ideal role as every night she could sing *I'm Still Here* & go home! Dusty auditioned to take over the role in the West End production in the summer of 1988 but the producers opted to replace Dolores Gray with Eartha Kitt. Perhaps at age 49 Dusty was deemed too young to play a woman who's "been around the block" a few more times than most of the characters including that played by Diana Rigg; at the same time Dolores (age 64) was replaced by Eartha (age 61), Diana - born a year prior to Dusty - was replaced by Millicent Martin who's five years Dusty's senior.

Personally I don't think the numbers in **Gypsy** & Dusty's voice would have done that much for each other. **Mame** would be my musical of choice for her - I think the character would perfectly showcase Dusty's warmth & brio. And she'd own *If He Walked Into My Life*.

Re: West End Girl?

by **FairyDust**

Posted: **Mon Jan 31, 2011 11:50 pm**

Wow, thanks for all this info 😊 I still have lots to learn! To my shame I don't know 'Mame' that well at all so I'm not able to imagine her in that. I'll try and have a listen to the number you mentioned though. I believe Rosalind Russell also did the film version of this if I'm not completely mistaken. Interesting to read people's thoughts on this 🙌

Re: West End Girl?

by **Sweetbaby**

Posted: **Tue Feb 01, 2011 12:12 am**

😊 No shame in not knowing **Mame!** Rosalind Russell originated the Mame character on Broadway & onscreen in **Auntie Mame** but that was a non-musical version. Angela Lansbury originated the title role in the Broadway musical; the film version starred Lucille Ball - I haven't seen it myself & will keep it that way on the strength (or weakness) of its reviews. There was talk of Barbra Streisand directing a TV remake to star Cher but that was a few years ago. BTW Barbra Streisand is angling for the rights to a film remake of **Gypsy** which she would produce, direct & star in (as Mama Rose natch).

Re: West End Girl?

by **daydreamer**

Posted: **Tue Feb 01, 2011 9:16 am**

This is Fred Perry's take on Dusty playing Nancy....he was talking about a film version rather than on stage. Personally, I could never imagine Dusty doing a long run on stage, the Martine McCutcheon debacle springs to mind 😊

She desperately wanted to audition to play Nancy in the film version of "Oliver" - but guess why she never did it? She was in the panda eye makeup phase. I said: "You're gonna have to take the eye makeup off; they never wore it in those days." So she completely scrapped any plans to even have photographs taken. She didn't mind the ratty hair and stuff like that, but it never occurred to her that in 19th-century London they didn't wear eye makeup. That was her shield. I think she would have made a wonderful Nancy.



Re: West End Girl?

by **karen**

Posted: **Tue Feb 01, 2011 10:05 am**

Would have loved to have seen her do something like this , but somehow would have not been the Dusty we knew , and obviously she wouldn't have felt comfortable without the panda eyes....strange really as would have made a fabulous Nancy I think,She had a lot of talent [apart from the singing] that we never got to really see... 🙌

Re: West End Girl?

by **FairyDust**

Posted: **Tue Feb 01, 2011 10:34 am**

Aw bless Dusty not wanting to dispense with the eye make-up. We all disguise ourselves to a certain extent I guess, but I think it's such a shame she felt she had to take it to the extreme in order to gain approval and follow the career she did. It's especially sad because, make-up or no make-up, she was so very beautiful anyway. We don't see what others see about us though... That said, I obviously love her iconic 60s image as much as the next person.

Ooh can imagine Gypsy with Barbra Streisand in full diva mode. I would've loved to see Bernadette Peters do it onstage as I ❤️ her.

Karen, I think you're so right about Dusty's hidden talents. I definitely think she'd have been a great actress - in fact she probably could've turned her hand to most things 😊

Re: West End Girl?

by **Cardiff Bluesgirl**

Posted: **Tue Feb 01, 2011 11:37 am**

Dusty was too much of a free spirit and impulsive to have done a season of shows no matter what the role.

she would have loved all these shows but she knew what she could do justice too and she certainly did that. 😊

she was a true Aries and as one myself I know she would not have wanted a long run in anything as she liked variety in life too much. She always said how bored she became so knew her strengths.

I know she could easily have sung many songs from these shows but she knew her limitations too.

I also love "I'm still here" a perfect song for lots of artists and my favourite singer for this song is Dame Shirley, I have seen her sing this several times and she loves singing it.



Re: West End Girl?

by **FairyDust**

Posted: **Tue Feb 01, 2011 12:36 pm**

Liz, my gf is an Aries too, so I completely know what you mean. Free spirit is a good description of it....and liking variety in life, in all things but partners of course in her case 🤔👉👈👉👈. Oh well, I think Dusty pursued an ideal career for herself and the choices she made were based on her own knowledge of herself and what was best for her. Good on her!

Re: West End Girl?

by **Sweetbaby**

Posted: **Tue Feb 01, 2011 7:35 pm**

😊 I can see Dusty being interested in playing Nancy in the film **Oliver!** as opposed to dealing with the exigencies of being in a live play. I've read that Carol Reed wanted Shirley Bassey to play the part but it was felt having an inter-racial relationship in the film would kill its box office in the American south.

Re: West End Girl?

by **Corinna**

Posted: **Tue Feb 01, 2011 7:54 pm**

This thread is really a well of information!

However, I'm wondering... would we be able to "SEE" (perceive, or maybe acknowledge) Dusty playing a part, i.e. creating a different persona on stage -- or would we just see DUSTY as herself (albeit with different clothes, make up and wig)?

Re: West End Girl?

by **FairyDust**

Posted: **Tue Feb 01, 2011 8:33 pm**

I'd say Dusty transformed into the character...with just enough recognisable Dusty under the surface lol. Non-committal I know. I think Markus is right about the 'Dusty-isms' there would likely be in any performance she gave - she was so distinctive, after all - but I think if she'd gone for it the perfectionist in her would've wanted to 'become' the character. And we all know that she was the Queen of self-transformation! 😊 She'd probably have loved the idea of taking on a different character...she even considered Dusty Springfield a character at times 😊

Re: West End Girl?

by **mnmcv1**

Posted: **Tue Feb 01, 2011 10:32 pm**

First I gotta say *Auntie Mame* is one of my favorite films 🍷🍷🍷 and the role of a lifetime for Roz Russell (whom I also adore).

Sweetbaby wrote:

😊 No shame in not knowing **Mame!** Rosalind Russell originated the Mame character on Broadway & onscreen in **Auntie Mame** but that was a non-musical version. Angela Lansbury originated the title role in the Broadway musical; the film version starred Lucille Ball - I haven't seen it myself & will keep it that way on the strength (or weakness) of its reviews. There was talk of Barbra Streisand directing a TV remake to star Cher but that was a few years ago. BTW Barbra Streisand is angling for the rights to a film remake of **Gypsy** which she would produce, direct & star in (as Mama Rose natch).

you chose VERY wisely in avoiding the musical *Mame*. AWFUL.

I love Lucy (pun intended 🍷), but this was an embarrassment. At 63 she's just too old for the role. Mame is supposed to be vibrant and energetic- she is neither in the movie. Lucy's voice has more gravel than your average quarry, and worst of all...she is filmed through soooo much gauze. Half the movie looks like a dream sequence! Bea Arthur as Vera is basically the only reason to even bother giving it a look.

sorry for the tangent. 😊

Re: West End Girl?

by **daydreamer**

Posted: **Tue Feb 01, 2011 10:35 pm**

On turning down the offer to star in *Mahogany* in 1970, Dusty said...

In the end I had to turn it down because I hadn't fixed things this end because I thought it might flop, because I wasn't ready for such a part and I might blow it, and because - if it were a success - it would run for a year and I'd be stuck. But the mere fact that I had the offer made me think that I shouldn't get upset at missing it. It came out of the blue. America's like that - and those things can happen here.

I actually think that Dusty was a natural actress and if the right **film** part had come along, she would have been very successful at it.

Re: West End Girl?

by **Carole R.**

Posted: **Tue Feb 01, 2011 10:46 pm**

I agree that a film part would have been more attractive to Dusty than a long running Theatre show..

I'm really unsure about her carrying off a serious role ie as Nancy in Oliver though. 🤔

I see her more of a Doris Day type film actress.

I think she would have been **very** comfortable in those musical/romantic/ comedy movies, the type in which Doris excelled... 🤔

Very interesting thread, this!!.. 🤔👍

CR xx

Re: West End Girl?

by **Carole R.**

Posted: **Tue Feb 01, 2011 11:13 pm**

Here's Shani Wallis who played Nancy in the film 'Oliver'..

Lets pretend its Dusty. 🤔😊

Btw,I do agree that she could've 'done' the accent without a problem.. 🤔👍

[youtube]http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOou59WnQHY[/youtube]

CR xx

Re: West End Girl?

by **edjames**

Posted: **Tue Feb 01, 2011 11:44 pm**

Despite never appearing in a West End or Broadway show, Dusty did record and/or sing her share of songs from Broadway productions, including:

Come Back To Me (On A Clear Day you Can See Forever)

I Only Wanna Laugh (Jimmy)

Who Can I Turn To? (The Roar of the Greasepaint, The Smell of the Crowd)

But Alive (Applause)

Gonna Build A Mountain (Stop the World - I Want To Get Off)

I Believe In You (How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying)

If My Friends Could See Me Now (Sweet Charity)

That Great Come and Get It Day (Finian's Rainbow)

Together Wherever We Go (Gypsy)

Where Am i Going (Sweet Charity)

My Coloring Book, though not a Broadway tune, was written by the great Broadway

composers Fred Ebb and John Kander who went on to write the hit show Chicago.

And, oddly enough, Dusty lost her US Grammy Award as best Female Vocalist to Edyie Gorme's recording of If He Walked Into My Life from the musical Mame!

ED

Re: West End Girl?

by **Sweetbaby**

Posted: **Wed Feb 02, 2011 12:19 am**

😊 Actually I'd say Dusty had the potential to be a good Nancy; at least in **Oliver!** - perhaps as opposed to **Oliver Twist** - I think Nancy's a lighthearted character albeit with melancholy moments. Still if Dusty couldn't bear the thought of going before the camera barefaced I think it's for the best that she didn't pursue the part.

Reportedly Jean Simmons took singing lessons in hopes of being cast as Nancy in the film **Oliver!** (Jean had sung in the film **Guys and Dolls**; she'd later originate the role of Desirée in the West End production of **A Little Night Music**).

Since there was interest in going with a known singer for Nancy - as per the Shirley Bassey biz (see #9 at <http://www.filmthreat.com/features/1874/>) - I wonder if Petula might have gotten the part had she not been tied up with the filmation of **Finian's Rainbow**. I think both Petula's late 60s' films: the other being **Goodbye Mister Chips**, are okay but they don't let her shine as I suspect Nancy would.

Still Shani Wallis I think is great in the role: apparently a producer at Columbia Studios happened to catch her perform as a guest on Ed Sullivan's TV show & phoned her the next day to audition to be Nancy.

Re: West End Girl?

by **allherfaces**

Posted: **Wed Feb 02, 2011 12:31 am**

Surprised no one has mentioned this role for Dusty. 😊👍

[youtube]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLLSqYyPD8>[/youtube]

Re: West End Girl?

by **Sue**

Posted: **Wed Feb 02, 2011 2:03 am**

Very interesting thread, Grace. I would love to have seen her do more comedy - as Karen's clip shows it was something she excelled at, and it's a shame she didn't explore this avenue because she seems so natural in these roles. Here's one i like.

[youtube]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQYMMsz9Eec>[/youtube]

Sue xx

Re: West End Girl?

by FairyDust

Posted: **Wed Feb 02, 2011 1:57 pm**

Aw, am glad that my random musings have inspired such discussion. I agree that Dusty had a real gift for comedy, Sue, and like you would have loved to see her do more. She was a naturally funny lady and seems to have enjoyed making people laugh. I can see her equally as a Doris Day and as having potential to display more depth. She might not have been as comfortable with it as she would with messing around and sending herself up, but still I think she really could have pulled off 'serious drama' very well. She had both sides to her that she could probably have tapped into if she'd acted.

Speaking of Doris has made me really want to watch Calamity Jane - a big fave of mine. Calamity Dusty? Yeah, I can see that 🤪

Re: West End Girl?

by Corinna

Posted: **Wed Feb 02, 2011 6:14 pm**

By request from Nancy....

🎵 🌟 I Want To Be A Moviestar! 🌟 🎵

Re: West End Girl?

by Carole R.

Posted: **Wed Feb 02, 2011 11:04 pm**

🗣️ Well I guess that says it all then!!... 🌟

I like the 'MOOOOOvie star pronunciation'... 😄 😊

But don't forget the song, 'Hollywood Movie Girls' for a *different* 'take' on the film industry. 🙌

CR xx

Re: West End Girl?

by allherfaces

Posted: **Thu Feb 03, 2011 12:31 am**

Corinna wrote:

By request from Nancy....

🎵 🌟 I Want To Be A Moviestar! 🌟 🎵

🙌 🙌 🙌 🙌 THANK YOU COR 🙌 🙌 🙌 🙌

I love love love it...if ONLY it had been videotaped....but thank goodness we have the audio! 🗣️

Re: West End Girl?

by **daydreamer**

Posted: **Thu Feb 03, 2011 7:41 am**

It was taped Nancy and shown on the BBC at the time but it's vanished like so many other precious shows. But, just like those shows from the TV series were found in far flung countries, we can always have hope. It's actually my greatest "want" out of all the missing or yet to be shown performances.

Re: West End Girl?

by **allherfaces**

Posted: **Thu Feb 03, 2011 7:18 pm**

daydreamer wrote:

It was taped Nancy and shown on the BBC at the time but it's vanished like so many other precious shows. But, just like those shows from the TV series were found in far flung countries, we can always have hope. It's actually my greatest "want" out of all the missing or yet to be shown performances.

You and me both, sister.

Just read the review of it you posted on the other thread. 🤔

Re: West End Girl?

by **Starlight**

Posted: **Thu Feb 03, 2011 8:32 pm**

Corinna wrote:

🎵 🌟 I Want To Be A Moviestar! 🌟 🎵

Thanks, I have never heard this before 🤔

Re: West End Girl?

by **Dougie**

Posted: **Mon Feb 14, 2011 3:53 am**

I wanna be a Movie star was the first part of the Shirley Temple routine.

It went from Movie Star into a Dance segment then Good Ship Lollipop.

I wish I could find it somewhere it was fabulous. 🤔

Keep your eyes open for it.

The routine with Englebert.

Just Love it. ❤️ 🤔 🤔 🤔

LOL Dougie xx

Re: West End Girl?

by **mnmcv1**

Posted: **Mon Feb 14, 2011 5:33 pm**

@Grace- wow! *Calamity Jane* was required viewing in my house growing up- my mom loved that movie to pieces. Still does. My little sister mockingly calls Chicago "Chicagy" 😄 , and we can all pretty much quote the thing verbatim, we watched it that much...

@Dougie- agreed, that whole Engelbert/Jonathan Winters sketch is a joy. Dusty looks like she's having the time of her life. 🤔

Re: West End Girl?

by **FairyDust**

Posted: **Tue Feb 15, 2011 8:48 am**

Lol Markus, there are probably far too many shows to which I know most of the words (and too much of the dialogue as well, for that matter!). Was convinced when I was younger that I was going to be in them, so I thought I'd better get my practise in early 🤪 . Chicago was the first thing I saw on the West End. Not sure if I can see Dusty as a Roxie or Velma - she'd NEVER have displayed that much leg 🤪. Maybe older Dusty as Mama Morton, though - would have been within her range then. Deep and gravelly and sexy 🤪

Re: West End Girl?

by **Corinna**

Posted: **Mon May 30, 2011 9:39 am**

mnmv1 wrote:

First I gotta say *Auntie Mame* is one of my favorite films 🤪🤪🤪 and the role of a lifetime for Roz Russell (whom I also adore).

This one's for you..... 🤪


Re: West End Girl?


by **mnmcv1**

Posted: **Tue May 31, 2011 3:35 pm**

Corinna wrote:

mnmcv1 wrote:

First I gotta say *Auntie Mame* is one of my favorite films 
and the role of a lifetime for Roz Russell (whom I also adore).

This one's for you..... 



Cor, you officially rock. 🙌👍 I loved this!

Re: West End Girl?

by **Corinna**

And I need to get my hands on that film! 🙏

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<http://www.phpbb.com/>

Posted: **Tue May 31, 2011 3:38 pm**

All times are UTC
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