

Let's Talk Dusty!

The Ultimate Forum for Dusty Springfield Fans

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[West End musical has its Dusty](#)

by [Sweetbaby](#) » Fri Feb 17, 2017 4:04 am

Of course there's already a thread on the Dusty jukebox musical planned for the West End next year but as I feared this hopefully significant tidbit might get lost I'm giving it its own thread. As indicated in the MailOnline article reproduced below - click to enlarge - the projected West End Dusty jukebox musical has made what one hopes is a portentous advance, the casting of its leading lady having been announced: it also bodes well that a script is completed and that the musical is set to be "workshopped" as soon as April.

I WANT TO DO DUSTY PROUD - FLAWS AND ALL, SAYS KATHERINE



© Dawn Bennett/Getty Images

Katherine Kingsley will portray the acclaimed singer in a musical called Dusty

Katherine Kingsley grew up listening to the music of Dusty Springfield.

"My mum loved her, so from a very young age I heard Dusty's songs," said the actress (pictured).

Which is good, since she will portray the acclaimed singer in a musical called Dusty, written by Jonathan Harvey using material he gleaned from interviews with key people in the artist's life.

Kingsley, who is in the delicious production of *She Loves Me*, on now at the Menier Chocolate Factory (it runs until March 4), said she found Harvey's script "really raw and really authentic". It's a play with songs, rather than a jukebox musical, and starts in the Sixties, after Springfield had gone solo.

It follows her to America, where she recorded Dusty in Memphis: an album she often derided but which has since been hailed as one of the seminal records of the era.

Kingsley stressed that her portrayal will not be an impersonation.

"I hope to capture an essence of who Dusty was," she said. "There will be a few iconic Dusty moments."

Harvey's text and Maria Friedman's direction will show the singer's flaws, too. "She did go to a dark place," said Kingsley. "But it's not all doom and gloom — she had some laughs, too."

"Dusty paved the way for people like Amy Winehouse and Adele. She was legendary. It's a no-brainer for me to do it."

The show's song list is still being decided, but it's likely to run to around a dozen numbers, including *You Don't Have To Say You Love Me* and *Son Of A Preacher Man*.

"You can't have them all," Kingsley commented, "otherwise it will sound like a catalogue show."

Friedman and producer Eleanor Lloyd will do a workshop of Dusty in April, and the plan is for the show to open in the West End in 2018. In the mean time, catch Kingsley in the BBC adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's *Decline And Fall*, in which she plays game-huntress Pamela Popham.

I'm not sure if Katherine Kingsley will be familiar to my board buds: she seems to have an impressive theatrical resume with West End appearances in **Singin' in the Rain** in 2012 ("Kingsley's Lina nails her every moment" - David Benedict/ *Variety*) and **Dirty Rotten Scoundrels** in 2014 ("Kingsley sings with effortless power and performs with comic vitality. It's almost worth seeing the show for her alone." - Dominic Maxwell/ *The Times*). Interviewed just prior to opening in **Scoundrels** Ms Kingsley stated: "I'm not sure I've had a BIG break yet.. Hopefully that's still to come." Maybe next year?!

I fear Katherine may not be every fan's dream choice to portray Dusty: in another interview promoting **Scoundrels** she not only states: "I'm 5'9'" but adds "[I] have incredibly long legs, so my proportions make me look even taller"! Speaking for myself - any evocation is going to be unlike the real Dusty in some

respect or another: I understand if some fans would prefer a more compact casting choice but hope their reaction to Ms Kingsley's casting isn't unduly tarnished.



[Sweetbaby](#)

Wasn't born to follow



Posts: 2647

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[Re: West End musical has its Dusty](#)

by [Duster](#) » Tue Feb 21, 2017 11:05 pm

Well, I think she looks more like Dusty face-wise than others I've seen in the role. And as for the leg issue: column dresses, Column Dresses, COLUMN DRESSES.

-Mike



[Duster](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 111

Joined: Wed Aug 24, 2016 7:04 pm

Location: York, PA

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[Re: West End musical has its Dusty](#)

by [Sweetbaby](#) » Wed Feb 22, 2017 4:05 am



Well as I said the height is really a non-issue for me but I recall other board members expressing concern over some prior projected Dusty castings on the basis of height. And I fully respect their concern while personally maintaining that any evocation is going to differ from the real Dusty in some respect: IMHO being taller isn't necessarily a dealbreaker.

I was interested that to this point Katherine's stage career seems strictly focused on lighter musical roles: I wonder if casting her rather than an actress who's appeared in the likes of *Chess* or *Les Miserables* indicates that the makers of the Dusty musical mean to take a decidedly lighthearted direction?



[Sweetbaby](#)

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Posts: 2647

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[Re: West End musical has its Dusty](#)

by [Duster](#) » Wed Feb 22, 2017 2:43 pm

A little more weeping with *joy* wouldn't hurt...
-Mike



[Duster](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 111

Joined: Wed Aug 24, 2016 7:04 pm

Location: York, PA

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[Re: West End musical has its Dusty](#)

by [daydreamer](#) » Sat Feb 25, 2017 6:00 pm

Lighthouse would be a bonus, that's for sure. A friend of a friend who knew about this casting actually said something along the lines of the producers like Katherine Kingsley's sense of humour. I'm one of the "not too tall please" brigade. It's about the fact that Dusty was such a small girl to have that massive voice. Many thought she was taller than she was because of the heels and big hair. A tall girl with the addition of those things is going to be touching 6 foot



The chosen actress in either a film or stage has to be young enough as well. Some of the big names that are mentioned are way too old for the sixties Dusty.....even if she did think her face was "old-looking"!

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

Carole x



[daydreamer](#)

Moderator



Posts: 3667

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:17 am

Location: Cheshire, England

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