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Let's Talk Dusty! The Forum

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White Heat

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Author

Topic

MercyMe

Little by little



United Kingdom
227 Posts

Posted - 01/08/2009 : 10:34:23

Being a newbie to LTD I would enjoy reading the comments of more experienced Dusty fans on 'White Heat,' Bought it yesterday and WOW! what a mind-blowing CD. Dusty sounds so different. I thought, at times, I was listening to Tina Turner (who is also a favourite of mine) Several pieces very heavy on the drums and synths, but I really enjoyed listening to Dusty belting it out!! At the moment, my two favourite pieces have to be 'Time And Time Again' and 'Soft Core'. The latter I thought so refreshing, so unusual, so natural; just a piano and Dust. The hot beat certainly gets the blood flowing though!! My next purchase will be 'A Very Fine Love', which I have read about from all your comments.

If this keeps up I shall have to take out a loan - just kiddin' Hope it's o.k. to open up a topic; I can see I am amongst very experienced Dusty's devotees, and it's good to be amongst you. 😊

Barbara

dancer8595

Little by little



United Kingdom
690 Posts

Posted - 01/08/2009 : 10:47:38

Fantastic, Barbara - this is just what I like to see, new members starting very interesting threads!

I shall post more of my thoughts here soon, but it looks like we have the same favourite tracks from this album. 😊

By the way you must must must get A Very Fine Love - there are a couple of inexpensive copies on eBay at the moment.

Rosie x

"she's a sweetheart except when she's moody/it's hard to get through to her then..."



memphisinlondon

Where am I going?



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

Posted - 01/08/2009 : 11:06:56

Welcome Barbara. It's great to see you starting good threads like this so soon. Here's the archive thread for White Heat. I think this was the first time we discussed the album in depth (at least in my time here):

http://www.dustyspringfield.info/forum/topic.asp?ARCHIVE=true&TOPIC_ID=3989&whichpage=1

I listened to this album so much last year that I haven't listened again since! I look forward to hearing views from our new kids on the block and others too. It's a fascinating album for many reasons.

Memphis
Ever since we met...



MercyMe

Little by little



Posted - 01/08/2009 : 14:21:20



United Kingdom
227 Posts

Thanks Rosie, I bought one from Amazon Marketplace for, I think, about £4.

quote:

Originally posted by dancer8595

Fantastic, Barbara - this is just what I like to see, new members starting very interesting threads!

I shall post more of my thoughts here soon, but it looks like we have the same favourite tracks from this album. 😊

By the way you must must must get A Very Fine Love - there are a couple of inexpensive copies on eBay at the moment.

Rosie x

"she's a sweetheart except when she's moody/it's hard to get through to her then..."



MercyMe

Little by little



United Kingdom
227 Posts

Posted - 01/08/2009 : 14:37:00

Thanks for the link Memphis. An excellent review by Taylor. I seem to agree with most of the members when it was reviewed last November. When I first heard the CD I thought 'this can't be Dusty, never heard her in this mode before' but oh, the more one listens the more it grows on you. Dust truly was a fabulous singer.....when you consider the heavy beat and dusky soul-searching on White Heat, and then listen to 'No Stranger Am I' on 'Dusty Definitely' she covers such a wide spectrum of music and style. It is a little difficult to understand the words she is singing on some pieces, but I usually listen with my headset on so no doubt all will be revealed soon!!

On first playing I wasn't keen on 'Donnez Moi' (Give It To Me) but I have since changed my mind.....I love it. It sounds sooooo HOT! Phew, I think I am ready for a cuppa now. Many thanks for the input from all members; I am envious of all your Dusty-knowledge. 😊😊



Sue

Little by little



United Kingdom
428 Posts

Posted - 01/08/2009 : 22:43:56

Wonderful thread Barbara 😊

A diverse and utterly dynamic album that threatens to explode like a massive volcano, and rock the earth from pole to pole. It's not on my list of favourite Dusty albums, i have to be in the right frame of mind to listen to it, but when i do it astonishes me more and more every time.

It's an album loaded with attitude, sexuality and a touch of defiance. There's a brilliant mixture of styles, and it's all stirred up with a kind of 'to hell what everybody else thinks' undercurrent. A necessity for every fan trying to understand what else had been going on in her life at this time, a chapter you wouldn't want to skip even if it does seem a little painful. But on the whole, this album and Dusty's attitude, makes me smile 😊

Sue xx



dancer8595

Little by little



United Kingdom
690 Posts

Posted - 02/08/2009 : 10:54:34

quote:

Originally posted by Sue

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There's a brilliant mixture of styles, and it's all stirred up with a kind of 'to hell what everybody else thinks' undercurrent. A necessity for every fan trying to understand what else had been going on in her life at this time, a chapter you wouldn't want to skip even if it does seem a little painful. But on the whole, this album and Dusty's attitude, makes me smile 😊

Sue xx

Blimey.

What a brilliant post. Two blistering paragraphs that just sum it up, absolutely. I've come here to write something, but now that you've set such a high standard I'm going away to cycle a few miles and have another think! 😊

Rosie x

"she's a sweetheart except when she's moody/it's hard to get through to her then..."



dancer8595
Little by little



United Kingdom
690 Posts

Posted - 02/08/2009 : 19:15:46



Well. I have returned from my bike ride (not terribly productive. I went about four miles, cycled past a lovely country pub, noticed that some people I knew were sitting outside it, joined them for lunch, left pub, socialised a little more, cycled home). 😊

So that my White Heat thoughts will be my own, I have thus far avoided reading the last thread on the album. I'll have a little look after I've posted this!

I've been listening with my full attentiveness (i.e. no concurrent engagement in any of the following activities: texting, emailing, reading, bicycle maintenance, boring household chores) for a couple of days, and what do you know - I like this album a whole lot more than I thought I did. It is a record that absolutely demands your attention, requires speakers with far more juice than mine have, and seems to have an almost physical, tangible presence in the room when you play it. It breathes and palpitates like a living thing. It's a beast. It's big and brash and brave and beautiful. I think I love it.

White Heat is the sound of our little Dusty in her highest heels, her biggest shoulder pads and her longest, reddest nails hoisting herself up to the top of a very, very high building, lifting a megaphone to her red-painted mouth, and yelling, "EXCUSE ME! Yes, you. The half-deaf, play-it-safe, actually-quite-stupid RECORD-BUYING PUBLIC. You foolishly appear to have not noticed my last two albums. Well, listen to this!"

It's remarkable to think that a 60s girl singer known for her blue-eyed soul and soaring ballads could deliver something so, well, raunchy and loud and searing hot. It's the brazen, unapologetic confidence of the sexuality in it that gets me. After the shiny, polished sound of *It Begins Again* and *Living Without Your Love*, this album sounds irresistibly stained and corrupted, as though it's had a crazy night out in a big city, met and got drunk with lots of other records it didn't know, lost its keys, and fell in a skip on the way home. This is not an album that floats or meanders. It struts and stomps and flings its hair around and looks you right in the eye and *demand*s to know what you think.

There's no question that it has a great deal of artistic credibility, simply because it represented such a departure for Dusty, and because it offered her the chance to have the creative control to experiment with technology and production techniques that she was surely fascinated by. Despite all the synthesizers and the guitars on some of the most memorable tracks - *Donnez Moi* and *Blind Sheep* are standouts for me - *Time and Time Again* is Dusty sounding as pleading and longing as ever, and *Soft Core* is further proof of the fabulousness that is Dusty And Piano. The expression and performance quality in her voice transforms the track from something a little strange into a song that is dramatic and exciting and ultimately moving, in true, inimitable Dusty

style. She had never sounded quite like this before, and she never did again.

I think I'm a little bit scared of this album. My ears don't generally like the rocky-electronic sound that it's known for, even though I've tried to talk them round. But artistically and creatively, it's a moment of great significance in her recording career. It deserves a wider audience.

Rosie x

"she's a sweetheart except when she's moody/it's hard to get through to her then..."



memphisinlondon

Where am I going?



Posted - 02/08/2009 : 19:33:20



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

I was waiting for this, Rosie. Saw you were signed in and thought any moment now she'll post. Well, I have to go out now so I can't hang around for too long. Just to say I think you and Sue nailed it. You don't need to read the other thread! 😊

I was driving home from another walk today and 'I Am Curious' came on in shuffle mode. The car speakers nearly popped out of their sockets! This album is a real sonic treat. It still blows my mind that Dusty recorded this album. That there was this whole other side to her, this whole other potential and she allowed us in. I'm so glad we have this album. I can't think of any other singer of Dusty's generation that did anything this brave. It's because Dusty was a true artist (she has production credits here too) and the others were not although I would give Marianne Faithful an honourable mention for 'Broken English'.

Memphis

Ever since we met...



dancer8595

Little by little



Posted - 02/08/2009 : 20:47:46



United Kingdom
690 Posts

Memphis it's good to know that you were waiting for my post, because whenever there is A Big Important Music Thread going on I have most certainly been known to sit at my computer of an evening thinking, 'come on, Memphis, post! POST!' 😊

I can imagine how I Am Curious must sound on a good car stereo system (I have no car, just a pair of bicycles!) - it's this album along with all of Dusty's others that make me think I really MUST upgrade my stereo system.

It's an incredibly brave album as you say. It must have taken nerves of steel to put this out there. What a girl.

Rosie x

"she's a sweetheart except when she's moody/it's hard to get through to her then..."



Chrispld

I'll try anything



Posted - 04/08/2009 : 00:12:09



United Kingdom
1075 Posts

Great thread Barbara and an excellent post by Rosie. Always find White Heat very difficult to listen to as it is so different from everything else that Dusty sang. I think it's slowly growing on me. I will try and listen to it again bearing in mind Rosie's comments!!

Chris



dancer8595

Little by little

Posted - 04/08/2009 : 22:46:23



United Kingdom
690 Posts

I went for a long walk in the rain this evening (as you do) with this playing on my headphones. I don't think I've played it on headphones before.

I lovelove love this record! I do. It astounds me. Every time I passed someone I wanted to give them an earphone and say, 'listen to this! This is a Dusty Springfield song! No it is, really!' 🎧

Chris - I used to feel the same way that you do. I'd approach the album from a distance and with caution, like you would an unexploded WWII bomb in a ditch. But I'm hearing it anew now. Oh yes!

Rosie x

"she's a sweetheart except when she's moody/it's hard to get through to her then..."



Sue

Little by little



United Kingdom
428 Posts

📅 Posted - 04/08/2009 : 23:18:11 🗨️

Just like to say, Rosie and Memphis, thank you for your comments. I also have to say to you both that you manage to sum things up far better than i ever could. Brilliant! 😊

Sue xx



Sara

I'll try anything



1163 Posts

📅 Posted - 05/08/2009 : 05:26:18 🗨️

I love White Heat, it's addictive. Loved it the first time I heard it and played it on repeat

Something inside has died and I can't hide, and I just can't fake it



dancer8595

Little by little



United Kingdom
690 Posts

📅 Posted - 06/08/2009 : 21:42:15 🗨️

While I'm sure many of you will have seen this before, I thought I'd post this rapturous review of White Heat. It's from the NME, dated March 1983, and a reminder of how well-received the album was at the time. It made me smile A LOT to read it.

Return of the White-Hot Soul Sister

Truly, this is the age of resurrection.

Marvin's Midnight Love, Curtis' Honesty, and now Dusty's White Heat.

Five years after It Begins Again marked an official--and patchy--comeback, Dusty Springfield has made a record that rivals the power and glory of her awesome '60s singles.

The surprise is she's forsaken the soft soul/MOR tack of her last two LPs for a driving surge of synths, guitars and heavy drums. It works, too--White Heat roars with a relentless energy that galvanizes Dusty into her most confident and committed singing for years. That's a real

bonus, because Dusty Springfield is about the best pop singer Britain's ever produced.

She hits peak form so many times on this LP: on the rapturous Philly soul of "Don't Call It Love," a beautiful track that unfolds with the cool urgency of vintage Detroit Spinners; on Elvis Costello's "Just A Memory" (cheekily retitled "Losing You"), where the fragmentary feel of the original is transformed into a stunning blues drama; on the breathy disco rampage of "Donnez Moi," the sheer poise of the vocals inverting the lyrics' banal message of need.

Three surefire hits, I'd say; and there are more highlights, too. The romantic "Time And Time Again" and the catchy pop of "Gotta Get Used To You" are more typical Springfield fare, but the closing "Soft Core" is a different kettle of fissure--a stark ballad of sexual ambivalence on which her voice superbly underscores a queasy feeling that's equal parts desire and despair.

White Heat is essentially modern music: the force of those great '60s melodramas has been reignited in an '80s context of synths, voice treatments and upfront sexuality. It's possibly a personal risk--a huge leap away from the relative security of the cabaret circuit into the dangerous currents of pop commercialism--and perhaps that's why White Heat also feeds on a tension that grips from start to finish, and pulls you through the odd hard rock excesses that mar "Sooner Or Later" and "Blind Sheep," where the voice is mixed curiously low.

White Heat--its occasional heaviness apart--is a brave and brilliant success: a white pop firmly rooted (like nearly all the best white pop is) in a devout affection for black music. And Dusty Springfield, co-producer with Howard Steele and longtime soul aficionado, must take much of the credit for this result.

I can't think of anyone I'd rather welcome back to pop stardom; and after White Heat I can't think of anyone likely to come back with such style and power and grace.

Graham Locke
New Musical Express,
12 March, 1983

<http://www.cpinternet.com/mbayly/whiteheatreview1.htm>

I really cannot convey just how much my love for this album has grown in the last few days. 😊

Rosie x

"she's a sweetheart except when she's moody/it's hard to get through to her then..."

Edited by - dancer8595 on 06/08/2009 21:44:49



trek007
I'll try anything
★★

Posted - 06/08/2009 : 23:08:17

That was a great review ..wasn't it.
I can remember reading it at the time. Nice to read it again...thanks
Rosie 😊





United Kingdom
1100 Posts

I have to say I didn't buy White Heat at the time though..it was largely not available in lots of record shops...or at least where I lived.

I of course bought it years down the track and do play it alot, mainly in the car..its great to drive to!

Trek.
often called Carole.



dancer8595

Little by little
★

Posted - 06/08/2009 : 23:12:32

No problem, Carole!

I didn't buy it at the time either. I was 3. Mind you, that's no excuse.

Rosie x

"she's a sweetheart except when she's moody/it's hard to get through to her then..."



United Kingdom
690 Posts

ErgoFergo

I'll try anything
★★

Posted - 06/08/2009 : 23:22:31

I don't think it was released in the UK until the CD was issued in 2002. Is that right?

Anyhoo, this thread has reminded me that my copy hasn't seen the light of day in a long, long time. Shocking. I'm off to reacquaint myself (perhaps via headphones...).[;-]

Vicky
x



United Kingdom
1047 Posts

dancer8595

Little by little
★

Posted - 06/08/2009 : 23:51:50

Yes Vicky, that's right.

To borrow a phrase from my teenage students, it sounds absolutely bitching on headphones. (I think they were talking about Akon or Chris Brown or someone when they said that, but still, you see my point. 😊)

Rosie x

"she's a sweetheart except when she's moody/it's hard to get through to her then..."

Edited by - dancer8595 on 06/08/2009 23:54:37



United Kingdom
690 Posts

memphisinlondon

Where am I going?
★★★

Posted - 07/08/2009 : 00:10:53

Rosie

Thanks for the review. Every now and then I tell folks here how important the music papers were. They told me how great Dusty was, even when she wasn't around, and here you have some proof. I used to read NME and Sounds from the late 70s onwards. Whenever I read anything about Dusty it was always written with a backdrop of admiration and deep regard. The papers wanted Dusty to come back in style. She was not out of fashion at least from the critics point of view. And it was the papers that made me buy 'Dusty In Memphis' as soon as I could.

Memphis
Ever since we met...

PS That's not to say I agree 100% with the review. The guy has to be nuts to equate Don't Call It Love with rapturous Philly Soul!

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 07/08/2009 00:14:36



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

dancer8595

Little by little

United Kingdom
690 Posts

Posted - 07/08/2009 : 00:22:33

quote:

Originally posted by memphisinlondon

The guy has to be nuts to equate Don't Call It Love with rapturous Philly Soul!

Quite. I raised an eyebrow extremely high when I got to that bit 😊

Rosie x

"she's a sweetheart except when she's moody/it's hard to get through to her then..."

**ErgoFergo**

I'll try anything

United Kingdom
1047 Posts

Posted - 09/08/2009 : 17:17:22

I'm reacquainted. And yes - it does indeed sound 'absolutely bitching' on headphones. (I must try to incorporate that into every day vocabulary.)

I listened to *White Heat* solidly for two and a half hours on Friday night before deciding it was time for something different. A shuffle through my Walkman took me straight to Ragtime Selection. They call the 20th century the age of extremes - Dusty is surely the musical embodiment of that adage!Although this wasn't the last Dusty album I bought, it was certainly the last that I discovered. Other albums held my interest long before I could give *White Heat* the attention it deserves. I have to be in the right mood to listen to it - but when I do, I wonder why I don't listen to it more often.

Stand out tracks for me are Soft Core (of course!), Don't Call It Love, and Time and Time Again.

And of course Elvis Costello's Losing You, with it's (deliberate?) tribute to past lyrics: "I'll start to count again and close my eyes". I wonder if this was the extra verse that he sang over the phone to lengthen the track?

I'm not mad about Blind Sheep. I can appreciate Dusty's vocal performance - and she's rocks it out with the best of 'em - but it's just not my bag (baby). I'm willing to be swayed, however.

White Heat has to be Exhibit A in the case of Dusty versus the 60s pop girls - and as a fan, I'm really proud that Dusty pursued such a fresh musical direction.

Vicky

x

Edited by - ErgoFergo on 10/08/2009 09:13:33

**streepalicious**

Little by little

Australia
279 Posts

Posted - 10/08/2009 : 09:36:55

quote:

Originally posted by ErgoFergo

I'm reacquainted. And yes - it does indeed sound 'absolutely bitching' on headphones. (I must try to incorporate that into every day vocabulary.)

I am in absolute fits of laughter after reading that! *wipes tears of joy away from eyes* In all seriousness though, really excellent review of the album...God, that just really made me laugh, I think we should all

try just a little harder to incorporate that into our every day vocabulary. 🇺🇸🇬🇧

Alicex



MercyMe
Little by little
★

📅 Posted - 10/08/2009 : 10:04:18 🗨️



United Kingdom
227 Posts

Pleased you tried 'White Heat' with the headphones Vicky. It's a real blast isn't it? I always use my headphones and in so doing it sounds as if Dust is singing JUST FOR ME....kinda personal like!!

Barbara

quote:

Originally posted by ErgoFergo

I don't think it was released in the UK until the CD was issued in 2002. Is that right?

Anyhoo, this thread has reminded me that my copy hasn't seen the light of day in a long, long time. Shocking. I'm off to reacquaint myself (perhaps via headphones...):;-]

Vicky
x



MercyMe
Little by little
★

📅 Posted - 10/08/2009 : 10:08:12 🗨️



United Kingdom
227 Posts

Quite a blast on the headphones isn't it Rosie? I always like to listen with headphones on. Sometimes you need them just to hear the words!! When Dust sings with an American drawl it's not always quite clear what she is singing. Recently bought AVFL so look forward to getting down to that.

Barbara

quote:

Originally posted by dancer8595

I went for a long walk in the rain this evening (as you do) with this playing on my headphones. I don't think I've played it on headphones before.

I love love love this record! I do. It astounds me. Every time I passed someone I wanted to give them an earphone and say, 'listen to this! This is a Dusty Springfield song! No it is, really!' 🇺🇸

Chris - I used to feel the same way that you do. I'd approach the album from a distance and with caution, like you would an unexploded WWII bomb in a ditch. But I'm hearing it anew now. Oh yes!

Rosie x

"she's a sweetheart except when she's moody/it's hard to get through to her then..."



ErgoFergo
I'll try anything
★★

📅 Posted - 10/08/2009 : 13:13:57 🗨️



United Kingdom
1047 Posts

quote:

Originally posted by streepalicious

quote:

Originally posted by ErgoFergo

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I am in absolute fits of laughter after reading that! *wipes tears of joy away from eyes* In all seriousness though, really excellent review of the album...God, that just really made me laugh, I think we should all try just a little harder to incorporate that into our every day vocabulary.



Alicex

Ah, yes. That came courtesy of Rosie's teenage students, of course. We should all use it more often. "Are you familiar with the work of Dusty Springfield? Oh, she's absolutely bitching."

Vicky
x

Edited by - ErgoFergo on 10/08/2009 13:25:10



ErgoFergo
I'll try anything
★★

Posted - 10/08/2009 : 13:22:49

quote:

Originally posted by MercyMe

Pleased you tried 'White Heat' with the headphones Vicky. It's a real blast isn't it? I always use my headphones and in so doing it sounds as if Dust is singing JUST FOR ME...kinda personal like!!

Barbara

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Vicky
x



United Kingdom
1047 Posts

Man alive, but you're right, Barbara!

Just One Smile was a revelation to me on earphones. You can hear every breath of emotion she puts into it. Particularly at the end of the lines: "Lord knows I'm trying, It's so hard to forget, When your whole world you know is dying" - just before she goes into the chorus.

Vicky
x

Edited by - ErgoFergo on 10/08/2009 13:24:25



memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
★★★

Posted - 10/08/2009 : 13:53:25

Yes, Just One Smile is great turned up on the headphones. And that bitching line is great. I laughed too! I am now. Maybe we all have to adapt our vocabulary and that way we can introduce Dusty to a wider younger audience. Are there anymore great new street words we need to know to describe 'White Heat' in contemporary terms?

I loved Vicky's review and that line which almost runs 'it's just not my bag, Baby, but I'm willing to be swayed!' I'm going to use that line somewhere, somehow... LOL

Memphis
Ever since we met...



United Kingdom
3565 Posts



dancer8595
Little by little



United Kingdom
690 Posts

Posted - 10/08/2009 : 17:20:13

I went into town for a little bit earlier and overheard one particularly loud teenage girl (on phone in Debenhams toilet cubicle) say:

"and I was like, what have I done to deserve this?"

Which I think would have been a great title for the song had Dusty ever recorded it as a duet with N-Dubz. 😊

Rosie x

P.S. Vicky I meant to say that I've finally located your wedding photo and thus solved the mystery of your 'naturist wedding'! Oh how I laughed. You both look very gorgeous if I may say so. 😊

"she's a sweetheart except when she's moody/it's hard to get through to her then..."

Edited by - dancer8595 on 10/08/2009 20:13:45



dancer8595
Little by little



United Kingdom
690 Posts

Posted - 10/08/2009 : 20:18:57

I'd like to just clarify that the *girl* was on the phone on the loo. Not me. I would never do such a thing. 😊

Rosie x

"she's a sweetheart except when she's moody/it's hard to get through to her then..."



ErgoFergo
I'll try anything
★★



United Kingdom
1047 Posts

Posted - 10/08/2009 : 23:50:05

Well, thank heavens for that, Rosie!

"P.S. Vicky I meant to say that I've finally located your wedding photo and thus solved the mystery of your 'naturist wedding'! Oh how I laughed. You both look very gorgeous if I may say so."

Aw, thanks. I could have posted a picture of the dress to prove that I really was respectably clothed, but the naturist idea just seemed so much more interesting.

Vicky
x



Topic

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