



The Archives of Let's Talk Dusty!

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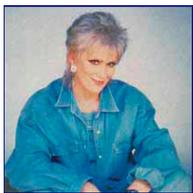
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Topic

Clive
I'll try anything
★★

Posted - 09/08/2009 : 20:12:37



I'm sure I remember seeing a copy of a newspaper article from the late 60s where Dusty mentioned that she had been offered a role in a Broadway production *Mahagonny* written by Kurt Weill.

Can anyone else remember reading about this as I can't find any online reference to it.

There was a 1970 production with Barbara Harris who I assume got the role instead.

1455 Posts

daydreamer
Moderator
★★★★

Posted - 09/08/2009 : 22:31:50



How strange that you should ask this Clive 😊 Last week on another thread, I quoted from an article, I think from Disc dated Jan 10 1970 and in this article Mahogany is mentioned. It says...Another big booster on the trip was when she was asked to star in an off-Broadway production of Kurt Weill's Mahogany - a very challenging part. "In the end I had to turn it down because I hadn't fixed things this end and 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 and anything else can come equally out of the blue. America's like that - and those things can happen here".

Carole x

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

Edited by - daydreamer on 09/08/2009 22:32:33



allherfaces
Administrator
★★★★★

Posted - 09/08/2009 : 23:54:55



Fascinating tidbit I missed the first time. I wish she had done it.

For anyone who likes Soft Core, you can see Dusty could have been great in a Weil musical like *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*.

Here's Lotte Lenya doing the famous Alabama/Whisky Bar song -- do you know if this is the part Dusty was offered?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6orDcL0zt34&feature=related>

USA
14235 Posts

x N

There's something in my soul that will always lead me back to you.



Baby Blue
Where am I going?
★★★

Posted - 10/08/2009 : 02:33:16



I always thought Dusty would have been a brilliant actress and comedian. If you watch any of her videos where she does some skits, her timing is impeccable. 🤪

Thought I also read on one of the forums that Andrew Lloyd Webber offered Dusty a part in Cats on the West End. 😊

Cher an Oscar, so could have the Dusty!

USA
3185 Posts

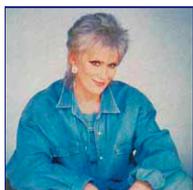
What can I say, if only..... 😞

Marty



Clive
I'll try anything
★★

Posted - 10/08/2009 : 08:51:52



1455 Posts

quote:

Originally posted by daydreamer

How strange that you should ask this Clive 😊 Last week on another thread, I quoted from an article, I think from Disc dated Jan 10 1970 and in this article Mahogany is mentioned. It says...Another big booster on the trip was when she was asked to star in an off-Broadway production of Kurt Weil's Mahogany - a very challenging part. "In the end I had to turn it down because I hadn't fixed things this end and 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 and anything else can come equally out of the blue. America's like that - and those things can happen here".

Carole x

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

Thanks very much Carole, you're brilliant, yes this was the article!

I think the production did eventually have only a short run so perhaps Dusty would have blamed herself for this, as it would have been her first role .

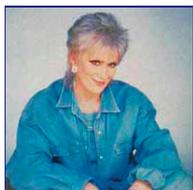
I don't know a lot about the show Nancy but I would guess it was the role of Jenny that Lotte Lenya played which was on offer to Dusty.

It would have been fascinating to see where this might have lead .



Clive
I'll try anything
★★

Posted - 10/08/2009 : 13:19:20



1455 Posts

quote:

"In the end I had to turn it down because I hadn't fixed things this end and 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 and anything else can come equally out of the blue. America's like that - and those things can happen here".

I think this quote is interesting, it seems to me that Dusty knew she really *should* have taken this part and is coming up with reasons to convince herself that she made the right decision to turn it down.

Maybe it wouldn't have been a popular success but who knows a couple of (likely)

positive notices for Dusty in her role could have made it very worthwhile.

Unfortunately I'd say offers like this didn't come along again that often ,particularly something a bit 'left field' like this that appealed to Dusty.



Sweetbaby
I'll try anything
★★

Posted - 11/08/2009 : 18:54:21

Canada
1466 Posts

🙄 As Carole's post mentioned the *Mahagonny* production in which Dusty was offered a part was an off-Broadway production: it opened 28 April 1970 & ran for eight performances. There's never been a Broadway production of the play which seems to generally be presented as an opera rather than a musical with a "run".

Lenya did originate the role of Jenny which Barbara Harris played in 1970: there is another female lead - Leokadia Begbick - played in 1970 by Estelle Parsons - who sings "Havana Song".

Dusty did mention her ideal stage role would be Carlotta Campion in Sondheim's *Follies* as she'd get to sing "I'm Still Here" & then go home! Yvonne De Carlo originated the role of Carlotta when she was forty-nine: it's kind of sad to think of Dusty at thirty-two seeing herself playing a "seen-it-all" ex-showgirl.

It is said that Dusty was offered the role of Grizabella in *Cats* which like Carlotta is a "survivor" role which by then Dusty would have been relatively age-appropriate for. There doesn't seem to be much information about the episode - if we have to guess about Dusty's disinterest I'd put it down to her having run out of confidence by the early '80s.



dancer8595
Little by little
★

Posted - 12/08/2009 : 10:24:48



United Kingdom
690 Posts

I absolutely wish she'd done it. I remain completely convinced that Dusty would have been a natural musical theatre star. She could sing in many different styles; she could mimic just about any accent to perfection; she had natural comic timing; she was a great mover; she had just the right kind of acting ability for the musical theatre profession. The footage of show tunes and comedy sketches that we have confirm how absolutely comfortable she was doing this kind of thing.

This *Friendship* duet with Cilla Black illustrates this perfectly. Cilla's performance is exaggerated and artificial and she tries too hard; Dusty's is completely natural and effortless and easy.

I think she'd have struggled with nightly shows over a long period, and she'd have lacked confidence. But I think she had the talent. No question. She was, quite simply, incredibly gifted! 😊

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3pie7Tz31CI> (starts around 7:30)

Rosie x

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



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