



***Ann Montini Remembers the Brilliant Miss Dorothy Squires
Star of the Adelphi film 'Stars in Your Eyes'***

Ann Montini is a broadcaster/writer/theatre producer and performer – with a vast world of contacts she has met / interviewed and become friends with many glorious stars of the golden era of show business – Here she shares her memories of the late Dorothy Squires.

The one and only big screen appearance of Welsh singing star, Dorothy Squires, unseen publicly for over 50 years has just been released late last year, but for many the bellowing Welsh diva holds a huge fascination and here is why.

I was lucky not only to meet Ms Squires, but also in the subsequent years to interview and become friends with her former husband 007 himself Sir Roger Moore, and the equally wonderful Mr Alan Clegg who was, during the time of Ms Squires stint at the world-famous Batley Variety Club, general manager and regaled me with some amusing tales of Dorothy and her explosive life.

However, it's her stint as a brief film star that still hold a unique mystery as Roger Moore told me, that she would have loved to become an actress herself, and that was part of the fun of appearing in the beautifully restored film from Adelphi Films.



“She saw herself as a movie star thanks to my time in Hollywood with her, and of course more importantly she had the voice – she really liked the idea of becoming our own Judy Garland, or Doris Day” but as Roger pointed out “she gave acting lessons a go while we both lived in Hollywood, but she was larger than life in real life and that was hard for her to tone down for the screen “ Not many people know that Dorothy did try and secure a movie deal with giants like MGM, who had signed Roger in the 50s and of course he got to star in a movie with another blonde stunner in the shape of Lana Turner, who Roger confessed to me “taught me how to screen kiss so that you don’t mess up the lipstick of your co-star “ he added laughing.

Dorothy though spoke highly of her short-lived film stint, and Roger admitted that she did not really find it a stretch basically playing herself on a variety stage, but she had dreams for sure, and of course she had hoped that the movie would have moved onto other roles, but alas not meant to be. Pat Kirkwood was also someone who I got to know briefly, and Dorothy’s co star in the film, she too spoke with great affection of the late Dorothy by admitting “she was a fun character and knew a lot about showbiz, but I think also she was a fighter in the sense that she had to keep tough as she was on her own, and that if you think about it was hard when you’re a women in that period .. I admired her greatly”

Alan Clegg who ran the wonderful Batley Variety Club also told me his memories of working with Dorothy at the club “it was April 21-27, 1968 I will never forget the date as she swept up to me and announced “Who is in charge here“ she was shall we say forceful, but as you got to know her she was vulnerable and quite sad really”, Alan added she spoke about everything in the week as she love to chat, and Alan did recall she spoke about her appearing in a movie but also that she had written a theme tune for a film called ‘Tammy Tell Me True’ It was according to her a big movie as it starred Sandra Dee, who was a big star at that time – Alan recalled that she had said she had hoped that this would have led to further offers to write songs for films, as she adored the movies and knew all the big Hollywood stars. She was he added “vastly entertaining and knew everyone”, however he said that “During her stint at the club she did great business, but by then in a way she had been eclipsed by Shirley Bassey” Dorothy also had dreams of becoming a Bond girl singer too, telling Alan that she loved the Goldfinger theme tune but “Imagine what I could have done with it” Of course added Alan, when her ex became the new Bond, she must have kicked herself really as she had no chance of becoming a theme tune singer then.

Dorothy Squires was larger than life and believed that when you left the house you must go out looking like a star as “that is what they will pay to see” Dorothy added “I was never keen on the girl next door look, and I always said if you want that then go next door“

The last word must go to Sir Roger Moore, who despite a dramatic time with her, confessed to me that he owed her a great deal “I think she was vastly underrated and at times treated very badly by the press, but I would also like to think that in time to come she can be appreciated for her talent as a singer and songwriter. That I know is what she was really keen to get recognition for and she deserved it too”.

British comedy musical romance, Stars in Your Eyes, which was made in 1956, is a love letter to the last days of variety that has lost none of its warmth and heart in the six decades since it was first filmed. If you get the opportunity, take the time to watch it as it really evokes wonderful memories of a time gone by, and a night at the flicks or a variety theatre was magical and all so rather special.

Ann Montini 2021

Neil Sean



*Ann is pictured with Alan Clegg – General Manager Batley Variety Club
Sir Roger Moore – ex husband of Dorothy Squires*