



MARI WILSON BIOGRAPHY

Mari Wilson (The Neasden Queen of Soul) first arrived on the scene in the early eighties with her skyscraper beehive hairdo, bizarre sense of fashion and fully choreographed twelve piece band The Wilsations. Mari's live shows were spoken about as an event - pure entertainment.

In 1982 Mari's records began entering the charts and she soon had six hit singles, the biggest being '**Just What I've Always Wanted**' and '**Cry Me A River**', both taken from her album '**Showpeople**'.

In the mid-eighties after constant touring of the UK, Europe and the United States, Mari reduced the size of her band (and her hairdo!), changing direction with a more intimate show. With regular appearances at venues such as Ronnie Scotts, The South Bank and festivals alongside legends BB King and Ray Charles,

Mari has also appeared in musical theatre, playing Nickie Pignatelli in Phil Willmott's production of **Sweet Charity**, Annabel in the black comedy, **The Chainsaw Manicure**.

In 2000, Mari was the obvious choice to play Dusty Springfield in **Dusty The Musical**, which toured number one venues throughout the UK.

After appearing with Boy George in the West End musical, **TABOO**, Mari wrote, produced and recorded her album, **Dolled Up**, which was released in 2005.

As well as an occasional presenter on BBC London Mari has also performed theme tunes to various TV shows, including her hit version of '**Perhaps, Perhaps, Perhaps**' for the globally successful BBC TV Show, **Coupling**.

In September 2007, Warner Bros. released '**Mari Wilson - The Platinum Collection**' a compilation of Mari's back catalogue, to mark the 25th Anniversary of Just What I Always Wanted being in the top ten.

Mari has also written a one-woman musical – **The Love Thing**, inspired by her 2005 album, **Dolled Up**. It was writing the songs for this musical that led to Mari's album, **Emotional Glamour** in 2008.

In November 2010, **The Love Thing** debuted in London selling out for five nights to standing ovations at The Leicester Square Theatre. **The Love Thing** is currently being developed further for future performances.

2011 saw Mari team up with song-writing and production team, Boisounds to release pop-dance extravaganza **O.I.C.**, "*an infectious, groovy-to-the-bone single that lifts you from it's first beat*".

In spring 2012 Mari released 'Cover Stories', a new studio album funded by fans through Pledge Music. For this album, Mari teamed up with string-arranger, orchestrator, composer and pianist Simon Hale, to record some of her favourite songs including those she has been performing live for some time.

January of 2014 began with Mari's sell-out concert **Am I The Same Girl – Mari Sings Dusty**, paying homage to Dusty Springfield with her unique interpretation of the classic hits, along with some lesser-known gems.

In June Mari performed Dusty and Cilla songs with The BBC Concert Orchestra for Friday Night is Music Night. This was a special edition to celebrate Tony Blackburn's 50 years as a DJ.

An album of Dusty songs together with a UK tour is scheduled for 2015.

www.mariwilson.co.uk
<https://twitter.com/MissBeehive>
<https://www.facebook.com/mariwilson>

Quotes:

"Wilson is a story teller par excellence, extracting meaning and emotion from each one and communicating them impeccably to her audience, her voice as formidable an instrument as ever." *John Eyles allaboutjazz.com*

"Wilson's voice is just absolutely divine; soulful, powerful, emotional. She is a storyteller as well as a singer, and that is the description of what makes a great singer." *Catherine Balavage, frostmagazine.com*

"Solid-gold, five-star talent like Mari Wilson's will always be in demand... Her voice clear as a bell, yet soft and silky, is the kind you can dive into and luxuriate in." *portsmouth.co.uk*

"The evening encompassed a varied selection of songs... all of which were beautifully arranged and magnificently delivered. An evening of wonderful entertainment from a living legend." *uktheatre.net/*

"An enjoyable evening complete with the right amounts of irony, kitsch, coolness and witty repartee sprinkled over a killer songbook." *remembertheeighties.com*

"Mari Wilson really loves and understands the songs she sings, treating the composers and lyricists as her co-stars, and it's this generosity that make her album of cover versions such a pleasure. Catch her performing them live if you can.**(Four stars) Beautiful songs simply and soulfully performed by Neasden's queen of Eighties pop." *attitude.co.uk***

DISCOGRAPHY

- 1980 Loveman/If That's What You Want
- 1981 Dance Card/She's Had Enough of You
- 1982 Beat the Beat/Glamourpuss
- 1982 Baby It's True/You Look So Good
- 1982 Just What I Always Wanted
- 1982 Beware Boyfriend/It's Happening
- 1983 Album - Showpeople
- 1983 Cry Me A River/Rave
- 1983 Wonderful/I May Be Wrong
- 1984 Ain't That Peculiar/Maximum Damage
- 1984 Let's Make This Last
- 1985 Would You Dance With A Stranger (movie soundtrack)
- 1991 Album - The Rhythm Romance
- 1991 The Rhythm/Someone to Watch Over Me
- 1991 My Funny Valentine/Cry Me A River
- 1992 I'm Comin' Home/No Moon At All
- 1992 Album - Beat the Beat (compilation)
- 1992 Album - Just What I Always Wanted (compilation)
- 2001 Album - The Rhythm Romance
- 2005 Album - Dolled Up
- 2005 Storyline
- 2007 Album - The Platinum Collection(compilation)
- 2008 Album - Emotional Glamour
- 2011 Single – O.I.C. with Boisounds
- 2011 Album Track – Superman with Boisounds
- 2012 Album – Cover Stories