Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0053

Sutherland, Joan Alston

(1926 - 2010)

Born	19261107, Sydney New South Wales Australia
Died	20101010, Montreux Switzerland
Occupation	Opera singer

Summary

Dame Joan Sutherland was appointed as a Dames Commander of the Order of the British Empire on 30 December 1978 for services to the performing arts. She was also appointed to the Order of Merit in 1991 for Services to opera and singing. In 1983 she was described as, ‘quite simply, the greatest and most beloved singer in the world today’. She is known universally, and accurately, as ‘La Stupenda’.

Events

1926 - 1926
Born: Daughter of McDonald and Muriel Alston Sutherland

1947 - 1947
Debut as Dido in Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas* (Sydney)

1952 - 1952
Joined Covent Garden and remained resident soprano for seven years

1946 - 1946
Married: Richard Bonynge.

1951 - 1951
Moved to London

1997 - 1997
Published: *A Prima Donna’s Progress : the autobiography of Joan Sutherland*

1986 - 1986
Published: *The Joan Sutherland Album* (w. R Bonynge)

1959 - 1959
Won international fame with debut as Lucia di Lammermoor (Convent Garden)

Published resources

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Dame Joan Sutherland: La Stupenda,
http://www.cygnet.co.uk/thedame/

Book
100 great Australians, Macklin, Robert, 1983

A prima donna's progress : the autobiography of Joan Sutherland., Sutherland, Joan, 1997

Joan Sutherland : the authorized biography, Major, Norma, 1994

La Stupenda, Adams, Brian, 1993

Resource Section
DAME JOAN SUTHERLAND, 2002,
http://www.abc.net.au/btn/australians/sutherla.htm

Australian Performing Arts (PROMPT) Collection: Dame Joan Sutherland / Richard Bonynge,
http://www.nla.gov.au/collect/prompt/sutherland.html

Site Exhibition
Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html

Newspaper Article
A big voice with a heart to match - Dame Joan Sutherland 1926-2010, Oxenbould, Moffatt, 2010

Author Details
Clare Land

Created 24 April 2002
Last modified 31 January 2025