

PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

Actress Sandra Dee was most famous for her roles in "Gidget" and "Tammy and the Doctor." Dee died Sunday from kidney disease.

'Gidget' actress Sandra Dee dies

By BOB THOMAS THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Actress Sandra Dee, the blond beauty who attracted a large teen audience in the 1960s with films such as "Gidget" and "Tammy and the Doctor" and had a headlined marriage to pop singer Bobby Darin, died Sunday. She was 63.

Dee died at 5:57 a.m. at the Los Robles Hospital & Medical Center in Thousand Oaks, said Cynthia Mead, nursing supervisor.

She died of complications from kidney disease after nearly two weeks in the hospital, said Steve Blauner, a longtime family friend who represents Darin's estate. Blauner said Dee had been on dialysis for about four years.

"She didn't have a bad bone in her body," he told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "When she was a big star in the pictures and a top five at the box office, she treated the grip the exact same way she treated the head of the studio. She meant it. She wasn't phony."

The family expected to hold private funeral services.

At Universal Studios, Dee was cast mostly in teen movies such as "The Reluctant Debutante,", "The Restless Years," "Tammy Tell Me True" and "Take Her She's Mine."

Occasionally, she was able to do secondary roles in other films, such as "Imitation of Life," "A Portrait In

Black" and "Romanoff and Juliet." After a one-month courtship, Dee married Darin in Elizabeth, N.J., in 1960. A son, Dodd Mitchell, was born to the couple the following year.

In 1965, with her divorce from Darin dampening her teen appeal, Dee was dropped by Universal.

"I thought they were my friends," she said in an interview that year with The Associated Press, referring to her former bosses. "But I found out on the last picture ('A Man Could Get Killed') that I was simply a piece of property to them. I begged them not to make me do the picture, but they

Born Alexandra Zuck on April 23, 1941, in Bayonne, N.J., Dee became a model while in grade school.

In a mid-career interview with The Associated Press, she explained her name change: "I used to sign vouchers and sign-out sheets with 'Alexandra Dee.' Somehow it stuck." When she was signed to her first film, she said, "'Sandra Dee' was the name they gave me."

CD REVIEW

Trio's 'Sunrise' packs precision, punch

John Butler Trio ★★★out of ☆☆☆☆☆

By CHAS McCARTHY THE GAMECOCK

On "Sunrise Over Sea," the John Butler Trio showcases its musical prowess with the captivating command

instruments and landscape of critical acclaim for previous musical styles that seems to be missing from the majority of today's mainstream music scene.

Widely known in the jam-band circuit, the Trio has established itself in the music industry with a healthy grassroots following by touring heavily, performing before huge audiences at the Bonnaroo Music Festival and receiving

albums like "Three."

"Sunrise Over Sea" harnesses multiple influences, from blues and zydeco to folk, funk and the aboriginal music of Australia to create a hybrid form of rock 'n' roll. Butler's guitar playing, as polished and precision-tuned as ever on tracks like "Damned To Hell," "Zebra" and "Mist," is responsible

for distinguishing sounds and styles, but the power behind the band's music lies within the drumming of Michael Barker and

bass playing of Shannon Birchall. "Sunrise" should serve as the foundation for much promising music to come from the John

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Butler Trio.

■ CHOCOLATE

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research, Harold Schmitz, insisted that Mars has invested tens of millions of dollars into cocoa and flavanol studies to "make sure the story is right in a sustainable way," noting that all of Mars' studies have been peer reviewed and are replicable.

"We really get concerned when we see the truncated headline 'health chocolate,'" he said. "We're concerned because the science does not support chocolate as 'healthy.' The science supports the claims that certain types of cocoa or certain types of chocolate can make a contribution to cardiovascular health.

"Most cardiologists would agree that nitric oxide is the central paradigm and we can . quantify that. So we at least have a starting point to do doseresponse studies (in humans). The world of science will be hearing from Mars and our research collaborators on studies directly addressing this over the next two years," Schmitz said.

GO AHEAD, ENJOY

The bottom line is, chocolate is not a necessity, but it is certainly an enjoyable part of our diet. The universal advice, everything in moderation, applies quite well to this delicious food."

There always will be those willing to give their right ventricle for a sublime truffle that tickles their taste buds. In the future, however, the rest of us might not have to compromise taste for health benefits.

Vew Music

for the week of February 21



"The Beekeeper" Tori Amos





"Bone Brothers" Layzie Bone & Bizzy Bone



"The Cosmic Game" **Thievery Corporation**



"Nashville" Josh Rouse



"Awake is the New Sleep" Ben Lee



"Aha Shake Heartbreak" Kings of Leon



"Praying Time" **Blind Boys of Alabama**



"Fast Car Danger Fire & Knives" Aesop Rock

Do guns kill people, or do people kill people?

Juli Guill of Dalg



a debate between

John R. Lott and Franklin E. Zimring

Thursday, Feb. 24 8 p.m. **Russell House Ballroom**



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