



Bettie Serveert History 1982-1993

When Betty Became Bettie

1982

Joost Visser, Peter Visser (not related), Reinier Veldman & Herman Bunscoeke started a band called 'De Artsen' in Arnhem. At a birthday party, that both Berend Dubbe & Carol van Dyk attended as well, Peter came up with the name 'De Artsen' (meaning 'The Doctors'), because that night he was wearing a white doctors coat. Joost, Peter & Reinier were students at the Art School. Herman lived in the same building as Joost and Reinier.



*De Artsen with Carol & friends in the late '80s in Amsterdam.
Photo by Reinier Veldman (self timer).*

1985

Summer 1985: Carol had moved from Deventer (where she

lived since '69) to Arnhem. Peter and Carol started playing guitar together and also joined a Rock & Roll coverband 'De Petjes' ('The Caps') in Arnhem, a 10- piece band with 5 singers. Peter came up with the name. They did 2 shows. Carol was contacted by talent-spotters after the 2nd show & was offered a record deal with EMI Netherlands, but kindly turned it down. Peter also played in the band 'Fin de Siècle'.



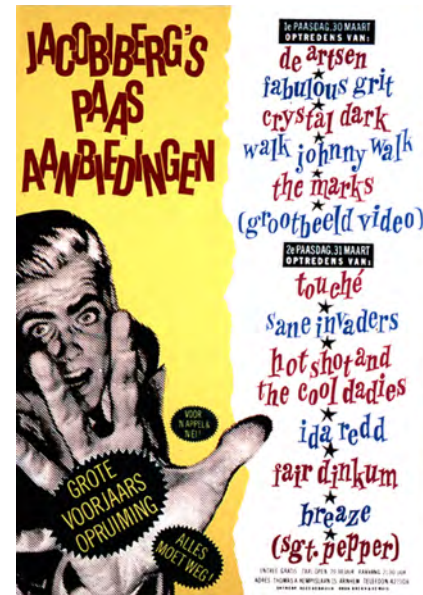
Drawing by graphic artist Hanco Kolk, who was also a band member of De Petjes.

Berend lived in the same apartment building as photographer Diederik van der Donk, who later took the iconic photo of the Palomine ‘bobblehead dog’ for the 1st Bettie Serveert album. The toy dog was purchased by Berend and had been sitting on his kick drum during live shows.

December 1985: Peter, Carol & Berend got together for a project called ‘De 3 Annika’s’ where they took turns singing & writing songs. The 3 of them had been friends since ± 1979. Berend & Carol met in Deventer, Peter & Berend became friends while studying at the pre-art school ‘DEVA Vakschool’ in Almelo. At the time Berend, who played drums as a teenager, had sold his drumkit and mostly played keyboards. Peter & Carol taught themselves to play guitar around the age of 14.

1986

30 March 1986: De Artsen played at the Jacobiberg in Arnhem at an indoor Easter weekend festival. Carol was their guest- singer and sang 1 song called ‘Tell Me, Baby’, a Beatles-esque pop tune which De Artsen and Carol wrote together. A recording of that song has been lost.



Poster of the Jacobiberg indoor Easter festival in Arnhem.



Photo of Carol and Herman when Carol sang 1 song as the guest singer of De Artsen. (photographer unknown)

Winter 1986: Peter & Carol started ‘Betty Serveert’ in Arnhem with drummer Reggie Dresia (whom they met in ‘De Petjes’), later Herman Bunscoeke joined on bass. Berend Dubbe came up with the band name when he found the 4 instruction books of tennis player Betty Stöve in a second-hand store. Peter & Carol ‘borrowed’ his idea.



Betty Serveert tennis instruction book by Betty Stöve.

1987

19 April 1987: 'Betty Serveert' did 1 show at the Jacobiberg in Arnhem during an indoor festival. The band only lasted for 6 months before disbanding. The songs were very different from what they wrote in '91 and half of them were sung by Peter.



Peter & Carol at the only show they did with 'Betty Serveert' on 19 April '87 at the Jacobiberg in Arnhem. (photographer unknown)

Poster of the show at the Jacobiberg in Arnhem on 19 & 20 April '87, where De Artsen also played.

August 1987: Peter & Carol moved to Amsterdam where Berend Dubbe had been living since 1986 and was studying at the Gerrit Rietveld Art school. The 3 of them continued their project 'De 3 Annika's'. Joost & Reinier moved to Amsterdam as well.

1988

11-23 July 1988: De Artsen recorded their 1st demo at Willemeen in Arnhem. The venue was closed for the summer and the band was allowed to use the building.

1989

3-7 July 1989: De Artsen recorded their LP 'Conny waves with a shell' at Walter Tresp's studio in Beetgum in the Netherlands with Edwin Heath, who at the time was the live mixer of Nirvana during their tours in Europe. The album was released later that year through the German record label Glitterhouse.

1990



Photo of John Cees, Peter and Carol in 1989.

1988-1990: While Berend had been the roadie for 'De Artsen', Carol was their live sound engineer & also worked at

an animation studio. Berend and John Cees Smit, who met each other in Art school, had a radio program called 'De Kliniek' ('The Clinic') on the pirate radio station Radio 100 in Amsterdam. Later Berend took over and started making Dutch radio plays. Peter & Carol played in several bands with John Cees as lead singer: 'King Kong', 'De Zwarte Hand', 'Tap'. etc. These bands usually only lasted for a couple of months. John Cees later started the band 'Scram C Baby'.

Summer 1990: De Artsen found Frans Hagenaa's Sound Enterprise Studio in Weesp through 'De Gouden Gids' (= Yellow Pages) and made a compilation LP of rehearsal cassette tapes called 'Out Of Sack', which was released in October 1990.



Artwork of the 2nd LP of De Artsen 'Out Of Sack'. Berend is also in the picture (far right), but was not in the band. Photo by Carol.

28 August 1990: Carol went ‘home’ to Vancouver (Canada) for the 1st time in more than 20 years, visiting her father & relatives for 5 weeks, thinking of moving back permanently and maybe study as a sound engineer. Btw, her real name is Carol Lee van Dyk. When moving to the Netherlands at the age of 7 to live with her grandparents, the Dutch authorities made a mistake and misspelled her name. That’s why her Dutch passport says ‘van Dijk’. Her father’s family was from the Netherlands, her mother’s family was from Indonesia but they moved to the Netherlands after WW2.



Carol's birth certificate

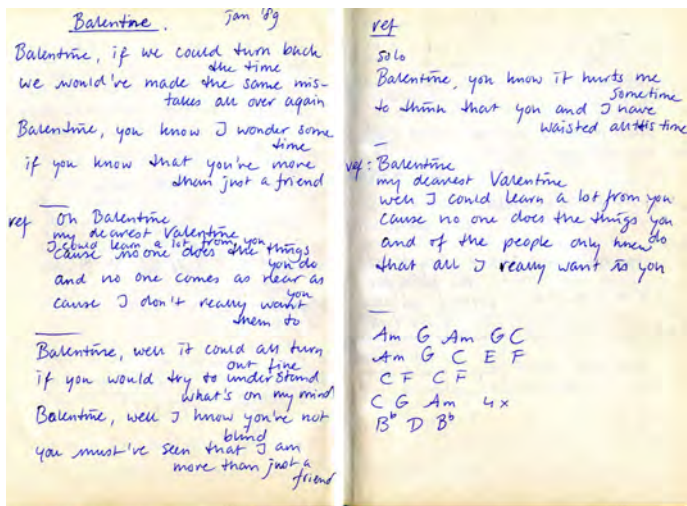
27 December 1990: Singer/songwriter Joost Visser of ‘De Artsen’ decided to quit the band.

1991

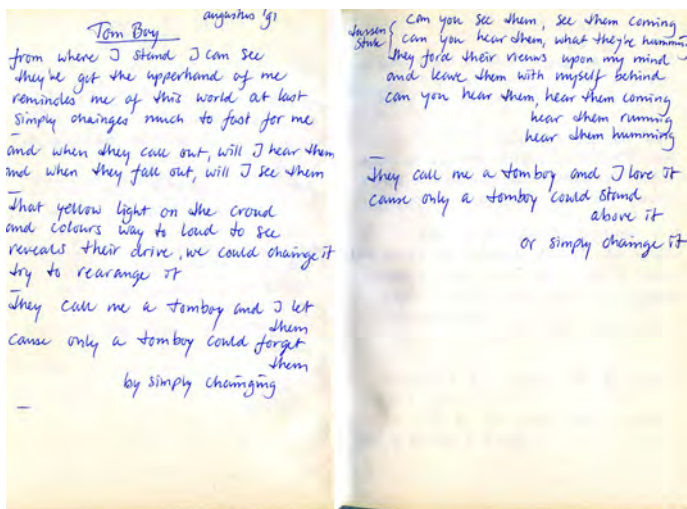
February 1991: Peter, Herman and Reinier disbanded ‘De Artsen’.

20 + 21 February 1991: Peter & Carol re-started ‘Betty Serveert’ with Berend Dubbe on bass & keyboards and Reinier Veldman on drums. They recorded a demo at Berend’s home studio, after which Reinier decided to quit. Berend then became the drummer of the band. Later that year Herman started a band called ‘Furtips’ in Arnhem with a couple of friends, but left in ’92. He did help them record their 1st self-released cassette ‘They Should Be Crowned’ in 1993.

Summer 1991: Peter, Carol & Berend started rehearsals with ‘Betty Serveert’. Shortly after, Herman, who still lived in Arnhem, joined as their bass player. They threw out all their old songs and started writing new ones, except for ‘Balentine’ which Carol wrote during a ‘De 3 Annika’s’ session in January 1989.



Original lyrics for 'Balentine', written in Jan '89 in Amsterdam by Carol.



Original lyrics for 'Tom Boy', written in August '91 in Amsterdam by Carol.

Berend came up with the guitar intro of 'Tom Boy'. Originally there was a longer middle-8 ('tussenstuk') which they eventually skipped. At the time all the bandmembers were around 29 years old. Berend was born on 29 Aug '61 in Deventer, Herman on 21 Sept '61 in the Noordoosterlijke Polder, Carol on 22 April '62 in Vancouver (Canada) & Peter on 7 March '63 in Lichtenvoorde.

25 August 1991: Peter & Carol went to the Belgian festival Pukkelpop to see Nirvana, Dinosaur Jr, Ramones & Sonic Youth. They decided to change the spelling into 'Bettie Serveert', after finding a flyer reg. a Belgian band called 'Betty Goes Green' AND to avoid possible legal actions for using the name of a Dutch tennis instruction book by Betty Stöve.

4 October 1991: Bettie Serveert played their 1st show at a private party at the Jacobiberg in Arnhem. They only had 8 songs, so the audience requested they play the setlist twice.

26 November 1991: 'Brain-Tag' was written by Carol after seeing Nirvana play at the Paradiso, Amsterdam. The song is not about the band.

16 December 1991: They finished recording their 1st demo at Frans Hagenaa's studio: Leg/ The kid's alright/ Tom Boy/ Totally freaked out/ Get the bird/ This thing nowhere/ Maggot. They later changed the spelling of some of the songstiles.



Recording their first demo in the studio in Weesp Dec '91 : Peter, Berend, Carol and Herman.

1992

January 1992: The 1st Bettie Serveert demo was sent out to venues & record companies. A friend of 'the Betties', Hans van den Berg, who did business with Matador Records, wrote a note asking to check out the demo of the band because he had heard that they liked De Artsen.



1st Bettie Serveert demo on 16 December 1991.

4 January 1992: 'Brain-Tag' was played live for the 1st time at the Willemeen in Arnhem.

18 January 1992: 3rd show at the Vera Kelderbar in Groningen (opening).

25 January 1992: 4th show at Doornroosje in Nijmegen (benefit evening for Radio Rataplan).

26 January 1992: They played live at the Dutch VPRO's Nozems-A- Gogo radio (Balentine/ Kid's Allright/ Brain-Tag).

4 April 1992: The band played at the Melkweg, Amsterdam (Gerard Cosloy, Chris Lombardi & Patrick Amory of Matador Records came over, less than 2 weeks after hearing Bettie's 1st demo).

5 April 1992: The 1st meeting with Matador Records.

30 April 1992: The band did shows at the Willemeen, Arnhem (Queens-day festival) + Deurne ('Under The Surface' was written and played for the 1st time).

May 1992: Brain-Tag 'live' recording was released on a compilation CD called 'Groeten Uit Arnhem'.



Promo photo + original photo for the release of the 'live' version of Brain-Tag. Photo by Peter Visser.

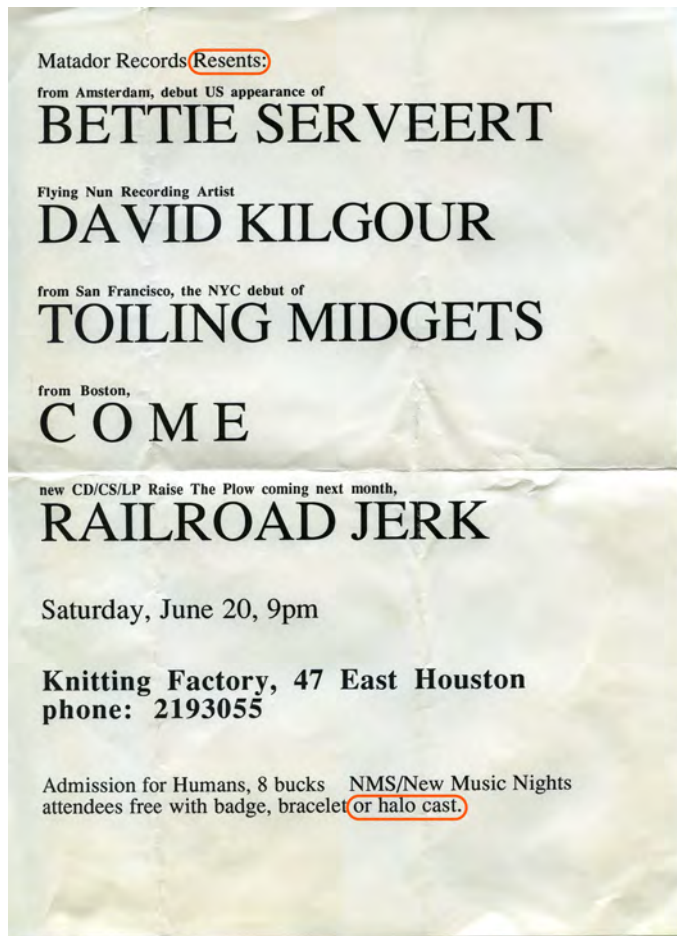
16 June 1992: Bettie Serveert flew to New York City for the 1st time, after being invited by Matador Records.



Berend at the loft of Chris Lombardi near Greenwich Street in June 1992.

± 18 June 1992: In NYC, where they stayed at the loft of Chris Lombardi (of Matador Records), Carol started writing 'Palomine'.

20 June 1992: They played at the Matador showcase at the old Knitting Factory in NYC.



Poster of the Matador showcase at the Knitting Factory in New York on 20 June 1992.

21 June 1992: They played at Upstairs Middle East Club, Boston ('Palomine' was written).

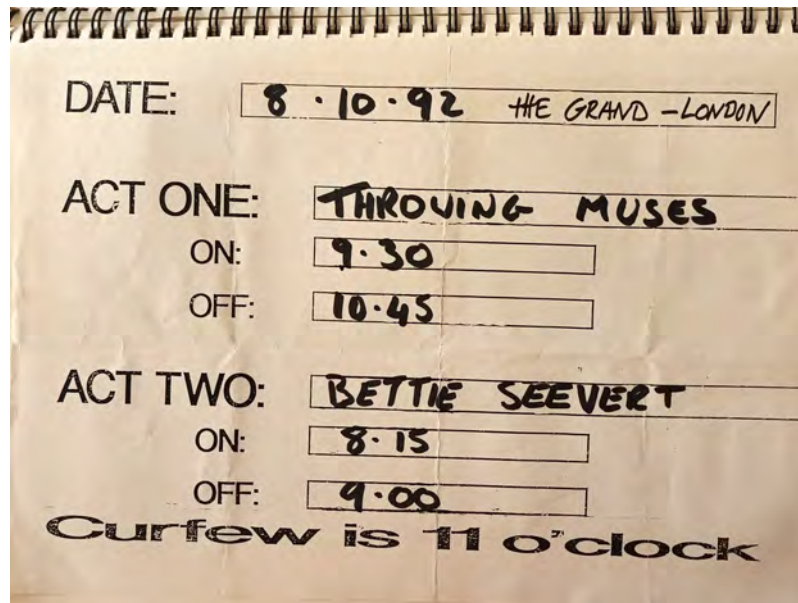
22 June 1992: The band was supposed to play another show in NYC, but it was canceled when they found out that Charlie Ondras, drummer of the band 'Unsane', had sadly passed away the night before. The Betties had met him at the Knitting Factory where he announced the bands of the Matador showcase and he was going to lend them his drum-kit.

27 June 1992: The band played as the support act for Pavement at Doornroosje, Nijmegen.

June 1992: Brinkman Records (Fred Maessen) lent the band money to buy a backline & to pay for a studio to make a record.

July/August 1992: They recorded the Palomine album with Edwin Heath & Frans Hagenaars at Sound Enterprise Studio in Weesp.

10 October 1992: They played as the support act for Throwing Muses at The Grand, London.



Backstage time schedule: 'Bettie Seevert' supported Throwing Muses on 10 Oct. '92 at The Grand in London.

Sept/Oct 1992: The 'Tom Boy' single was released.

± 2 Nov 1992: The 'Palomine' CD was released in the Benelux by Brinkman Records.

± 9-16 Nov 1992: Their 1st tour ever & they played as the support act for Belly in England.

5 Dec 1992: They played at the BBC radio in London (Totally Freaked Out i.a.).

1993

9 Jan 1993: The band played at Noorderslag, Groningen.

7 Jan-Feb 1993: The 'Palomine' LP was released through Matador Records (7 Jan '93) & Guernica (4AD sub-label) worldwide. Because the CD contained too many songs to fit on the LP, they had to put 'Brain-Tag' on a 7" and added 2 bonus tracks 'Get The Bird' and 'Smile'.



15/16/17 feb 1993: They played 3 shows as the support act for Bob Dylan in the Netherlands.

20-27 Feb 1993: They were the support act for Come/ Dinosaur Jr in England.

1 March 1993: They played live at MTV, London.

18 March - 23 April'93: They did their 1st tour in the USA+Canada - 24 shows - first as the support act for Superchunk & later for Come.

1 April 1993: Positive review for Palomine in Rolling Stone magazine.

22 April 1993: On Carol's 31st B-day, they played at CBGB's in NYC.



Photo of Carol playing at CBGB in NYC on April 22nd '93 in the book that was published 30 years later.

31 May 1993: They played at the Pinkpop festival in the Netherlands for the 1st time.

12-19 June 1993: The band flew to the USA and played 4 shows in California and 1 show in Boston.

29 August 1993: They played at Reading festival in England.

4 Oct - 4 Nov 1993: They did a USA tour with Buffalo Tom.

2 Nov 1993: They played live at Conan O'Brien Late Night tv show in NYC.

19 Nov - 14 Dec 1993: They did a European tour with Buffalo Tom.



Photo made by Jayne Wexler in NYC in April 1993.