Bettie Serveert is a Dutch alternative and indie rock band from Amsterdam. The band is known for its melancholic melodies and introspective, serious lyrics. Bettie Serveert is named after a series of booklets by tennis player Betty Stöve.

History

In 1986, Peter Visser and Carol van Dyk (born in Vancouver, Canada), together with Herman Bunskoeke and Reggie Dresia (on drums), formed the band Betty Serveert in Arnhem; however, the group disbanded after just six months and a single performance when Reggie moved to Rotterdam. Peter sang half of the songs. The band De Artsen (featuring guitarist Peter and bassist Herman, alongside Reinier Veldman on drums and Joost Visser on guitar and vocals) achieved success with their album ‘Conny Waves With A Shell’ (1989) and their live performances. Carol van Dyk worked as their sound engineer, while Berend Dubbe served as their roadie. In 1987, Carol and all the members of De Artsen (except Herman) moved to Amsterdam, where Berend had already settled a year earlier. De Artsen found Frans Hagenaars’ Sound Enterprise studio in Weesp via the Yellow Pages and produced a compilation LP, titled ‘Out Of Sack’, comprising rehearsal recordings from cassette tapes that was released in 1990.

On December 27, 1990, singer-guitarist Joost Visser (not related to Peter) abruptly left De Artsen, marking the end of the group.

After spending several years playing as a guitar duo in various Amsterdam bands, Peter and Carol started a new band in February 1991, re-using the old name Betty Serveert, later changing the spelling to Bettie Serveert, with Carol on vocals and guitar. Berend, who had originally come up with the band's name, played bass and keyboards in this lineup, while Reinier Veldman played drums. After Reinier left, Berend took over on drums. In the summer of 1991, Herman joined as bass player. Around that time he had started a band called Furtips with friends in Arnhem, but he left that group in 1992. He helped that band record their first self-released cassette ‘They Should Be Crowned’, in 1993.

Bettie Serveert’s first demo (from early 1992) was well received and named Demo of the Month by British magazine Melody Maker. A friend of the band sent the demo to Matador Records, a label with which he had a connection. Attached to the demo was a note reading: “Don’t

throw this away; two members of this band used to be in De Artsen."

They were discovered by Brinkman Records, Matador Records, and 4AD imprint Guernica. They decided to record their debut album, 'Palomine', with these labels; the album was mixed and produced by Edwin Heath (Nirvana's former live sound engineer and producer of the De Artsen album 'Conny Waves With A Shell') and Frans Hagenaars.

In September 1992, while touring the UK as the opening act for Belly, the band released the single 'Tom Boy', followed by their debut album, 'Palomine'.

The band immediately embarked on tours across Europe, the United States, and Canada, supporting acts such as Jeff Buckley, Wilco, Counting Crows, Dinosaur Jr. and Buffalo Tom. In 1993, Bettie Serveert performed at Pinkpop and the Reading Festival in the UK, followed a year later by appearances at Lowlands and Roskilde. In January 1994, the band received the BV Popprijs. They performed at Pinkpop again in 1995.

The album 'Lamprey', recorded partly in Amsterdam and partly in New Orleans, was released in 1995. 'Dust Bunnies' followed in 1997. This third Bettie Serveert album was recorded with producer Bryce Goggin (known for his work with the Lemonheads and Pavement, among others) at the Bearsville Studio in Woodstock, New York.

In 1997, the band paid tribute to the experimental rock group The Velvet Underground by performing a series of shows featuring their music. The final concert took place at Paradiso. Recordings from this last performance were released on the limited-edition album 'Bettie Serveert Plays Venus in Furs and Other Velvet Underground Songs'. By 2019, recordings of four additional songs had surfaced; that same year, a remastered digital version of the album was released, including these four extra tracks.

In 1998, drummer Berend Dubbe left the band and in 1999 he released the solo album 'On the Move' under the name Bauer. In 2000, the band recorded 'Private Suit' with producer John Parish and drummer Reinier Veldman and launched their own record label Palomine Records before deciding to take a sabbatical. During 2001, guitarist Peter Visser played with Ellen ten Damme, bass player Herman trained to become a chef, and Carol, together with Pascal Deweze (known from Metal Molly, among others), launched an Americana project in Belgium called Chitlin'

Fooks, with whom she released two CD's. Drummer Reinier Veldman left the group in 2002 to focus entirely on his band Young Pilots.

In 2003 they received their first gold record in the Netherlands for sales of 40,000 copies of their debut album 'Palomine'. By that time, more than 300,000 copies had been sold worldwide.

Between 2003 and 2010, four more Bettie Serveert albums were released: the double LP 'Log 22'; the trippy/electronica-infused 'Attagirl'; the semi-acoustic CD/DVD 'Bare Stripped Naked' (featuring drummers Jeroen Blankert and Gino Geudens); and the grittier rock album 'Pharmacy of Love', featuring drummer Joppe Molenaar.

In October 2009, Peter and Carol participated in the 'In A Cabin With' project in Australia, led by Jesse Beuker and Maarten Besseling. Collaborating with Australian musicians Russell Hopkinson (You Am I), Matt Wicks, Andrew Morris, and Ben Salter (The Gin Club), they recorded an album in Sydney and Byron Bay. The project was titled 'ME & STUPID' and was released in the summer of 2010.

In August 2015, Bettie Serveert celebrated their 25th anniversary with a live concert featuring a performance of the entire 'Palomine' album with original drummer Berend Dubbe.

Since 2010, 'the Betties' have clearly opted for a grittier sound, both on record and in live performances. Bettie Serveert's tenth album, 'Oh, Mayhem!' (which translates best as 'Oh, delightful chaos!') was released in January 2013. Insiders considered it their boldest record since their 1992 debut, 'Palomine'. The follow-up to 'Pharmacy of Love' (2010) sounded more energetic and confident than ever. Joppe Molenaar (known for his work with Voicst, among others) once again handled the drums.'
In March 2014 Carol van Dyk wrote the song 'Never Be Over' and to her surprise, the rest of the band fell in love with it immediately.
The track was recorded with Prof. Nomad & Co. in 2015, and 'Never Be Over' saw a worldwide digital release on January 11, 2016. That autumn, to mark their 25th anniversary, Bettie Serveert released their brand-new album, 'Damaged Good'. The beautiful song 'Never Be Over', which also appears on this eleventh full-length album, had already paved the way, receiving frequent airplay on Dutch radio. In the months that followed, 'the Betties' (as they are affectionately known) toured the country extensively to present the new material live.
'Damaged Good' serves as the follow-up to the 2013 album 'Oh,

Mayhem!', showcasing a sound that is, as ever, energetic, fresh, and bold. The 'Damaged Good' CD was released on October 28, 2016, with the LP following a week later on November 4. Preceding the album, the digital single 'Love Sick', a rock duet with legendary Claw Boys Claw singer Peter te Bos was released on October 14.

Almost 26 years after the band's formation, the Betties finally met Dutch tennis player Betty Stöve on April 13, 2018; her tennis instruction booklets from the 1970s had inspired the band's name. In the autumn of 2023, the band played two sold-out shows at Paradiso (Amsterdam) and TivoliVredenburg (Utrecht), celebrating their 30th anniversary and performing the entire 'Palomine' album with Berend Dubbe on drums. The second set featured other fan-favorite songs from throughout the years, with Stephan van der Meijden on drums and Patrick van Herrikhuyzen on keyboards.

In the summer of 2025, the single 'Ta!' was released, accompanied by a music video shot in North Amsterdam by Philip Harder, with whom the Betties have been acquainted since 1997, when he directed the video for 'Rudder'. 'Ta!' was followed by 'Evil Side' in January 2026. Stephan van der Meijden played drums on both tracks, having previously drummed on 'Never Be Over'.

On October 16th 2026 the single '7 Shades' was released, followed by the album release of 'Beaucoup Bad' on October 30th, with again Stephan on drums.
Starting in November 2026, the Betties will be back to touring the Netherlands extensively, playing a mix of all their favorite songs, including the most beloved tracks from 'Palomine'.

Line-up

Carol van Dyk: guitar, vocals
Peter Visser: guitar
Herman Bunskoeke: bass guitar
Berend Dubbe: drums up to and including the album 'Venus In Furs' (1992-1998)
Reinier Veldman: drums on the album 'Private Suit' (2000)
Jeroen Blankert: drums on the albums 'Log 22', 'Attagirl', and 'Pharmacy of Love' (2003, 2004, and 2010)
Stoffel Verlackt: drums and other instruments on 'Log 22' (2003)

Gino Geudens: drums, backing vocals on the albums ‘Attagirl’ and ‘Bare Stripped Naked’ (2004 and 2006)

Martijn Blankestijn: keyboards on the albums ‘Attagirl’, ‘Bare Stripped Naked’, and ‘Pharmacy of Love’ (2004, 2006, and 2010)

Henk Jonkers: drums on the albums ‘Bare Stripped Naked’ and ‘Pharmacy of Love’ (2006 and 2010)

Joppe Molenaar: drums on the albums ‘Pharmacy Of Love’, ‘Oh, Mayhem!’, and ‘Damaged Good’ (2010, 2013, and 2016)

Stephan van der Meijden: drums on the singles ‘Never Be Over’, ‘Ta!’, ‘Evil Side’, ‘7 Shades’ and the album ‘Beaucoup Bad’ (2015, 2025, and 2026)

Bettie Serveert websites:
www.bettieserveert.com
linktr.ee/BettieServeert
www.facebook.com/bettieserveert/
www.instagram.com/bettieserveert.official/
bsky.app/profile/bettieserveert.bsky.social
www.youtube.com/c/DeBetties-bettieserveert-official
www.youtube.com/@johndarmy/videos
vimeo.com/bettieserveert
soundcloud.com/bettieserveert
bettie-serveert.tumblr.com/

Bettie Serveert Management:
Postbus 14642
1001 LC Amsterdam
The Netherlands
bettieserveert2010@gmail.com

Booking Agency in the Netherlands:
Double Vee Concerts
www.doubleveeconcerts.nl/
Jacco van Lanen: jacco@doubleveeconcerts.nl
Tel: +31 (0)6 2451 4870

Discography

Albums

Palomine 1992

Lamprey 1995
Dust Bunnies 1997
Bettie Serveert Plays Venus In Furs 1998 (Limited edition - Velvet Underground covers)
Private Suit 2000
Log22 2003 (also as a double album on LP)
Attagirl 2004
Bare Stripped Naked 2006 (incl. a DVD)
Pharmacy of Love 2010
Oh, Mayhem! 2013
Damaged Good 2016
Palomine 30th Anniversary 2CD Deluxe Edition 2023
Beaucoup Bad 2026

CD singles

Tom Boy
Palomine
Kid's Allright
Crutches
Ray Ray Rain
Something so wild
Co-Coward
What Friends?
Rudder
Our New Demo White Tales
Private Suit
Smack
Wide Eyed Fools
Dreamaniacs
Hell=Other People
Deny All
Had2Byou
Shake-Her
Never Be Over (feat. Prof. Nomad & Co)
Love Sick (feat. Peter te Bos)
Say You Will (feat. Prof. Nomad & Co)
Ta!
Evil Side
7 Shades

- Bettie-songs used in movies & tv-series
- Download PDF 'Bettie Serveert Biography 2025'