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BETTY PADGETT: BETTY PADGETT

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Who is **Betty Padgett**? This is the question **Shane 'Deejay Sureshot' Hunt** kept asking himself when he recently discovered her self-titled 1975 debut LP while browsing through a dusty back room at a Los Angeles record store. The record simply looked too good to be true. Was it a Sweet Soul? Disco? Dirty Funk, or possibly even a Reggae album? The Betty Padgett record has all of the above, and more. Very few records encompass all of these musical genres in one package, yet this one captures the eclectic essence of the Miami soul scene in the mid-1970s. And yet tracks like *"Sugar Daddy"* sound amazingly contemporary, they could very easily be confused with a new **Quantic Soul Orchestra** or **Orgone** track.

Betty Padgett and her family moved to Florida when she was in the 6th grade. She sang in her church choir and began to take performing seriously after graduating from high school. While checking out the bubbling local music scene she became particularly keen with the group called **Joey Gilmore and the T.C. B. (Taking Care of Business) Express**. In 1971 she auditioned for the band, scored the gig, and ended-up singing with them for the next 17 years. After a performance in Ft. Lauderdale, Padgett was approached by soul legend **Milton Wright**. Blown away by her vocal skills and stage presence Wright wasted no time in suggesting a collaboration and solo record. Within a month she was co-writing and arranging with Wright, and the entire album was recorded in one evening at **Criteria Studios** in Miami.

A 12" disco single of *"Sugar Daddy"* was pressed up in support of the LP and it created quite a buzz. Padgett remembers a local **Pepsi Cola** TV & radio commercial featured the music. The commercial was apparently filmed on the Ft Lauderdale beachfront and included Navy Sailors in uniform who were docked nearby. Padgett danced up to a vending machine that was parked in the sand, slapped it, and received a glass bottle of soda.

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While Padgett may never have topped the heights of *"Sugar Daddy,"* she boasts a great musical resume. She still records and plays live, and over the years has performed and shared the stage with **Little Beaver, Gwen & George McCrae, K.C. & The Sunshine Band, Latimore, Jimmy Bo Horne, Jackie Moore, Joe Tex, Denise LaSalle, The Impressions, Bobby Bland, Joe Simon and ZZ Hill.**

1. **It Would Be A Shame**
2. **My Eyes Adore You**
3. **Sugar Daddy part 1**
4. **Tonight Is The Night**
5. **Never Never**
6. **Gypsy of Love**
7. **Sugar Daddy part 2**
8. **Rocking Chair**
9. **Love Me Forever**

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