



## Sheila Ferguson



Sheila Ferguson is a lot more than just a Soul Music legend. She is also an accomplished actress, writer and a world authority on Soul Food, African America's traditional cuisine.

Born in Philadelphia USA, Sheila's first ambition was to be a psychologist. However, a successful solo singing career put these ambitions on hold. By 1965 she was recording regularly for the Swan Record label under the tutelage of doo wop legend Richard Barrett, cutting a number of highly regarded singles including 'Little Red Riding Hood', 'How Did that Happen' and 'Heartbroken Memories'. As well as appearing at all the top music venues including the Apollo, (where she shared the bill with Marvin Gaye). Sheila was, most unusually for a female vocalist of that era, already writing her own songs.

While Richard Barrett was working with Sheila he was also developing a female vocal group called The Three Degrees. A strong friendship had developed between Sheila and the other group members who often sang back-up on her records, just as she provided extra harmonies on theirs, sometimes even standing in for missing Degrees at live dates. When one of the original members left, it was no surprise that Sheila was asked to join for good.

The Three Degrees with Sheila as lead became the most successful female group of the nineteen seventies, spearheading the rise of the Philadelphia International label and the Philly Sound, with a string of worldwide hits such as 'TSOP' (with MFSB), 'Dirty Ol' Man', 'Take Good Care of Yourself', 'Year of Decision' and the Kenny Gamble/Leon Huff classic 'When Will I See You Again'.

At the dawn of the twenty first century Sheila Ferguson's career and reputation moves from strength to strength not least with the launch of her own website. From early days to the height of international fame, Sheila has always valued her loyal fans around the world old and new and as with all her projects has taken a personal interest in its development. With several new projects underway, Sheila's energy, sass and style are as potent as ever.