

'Golden Girl' Betty White in her younger days

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By [Steve Marinucci](#), TV on DVD Examiner



"Betty White in Black and White"

Photo: VSC

If all you know of Betty White is "The Golden Girls," "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," "Saturday Night Live" and that Snickers commercial (see video at left), you may be tempted to check out "Betty White in Black and White", [a DVD to be released on Dec. 7](#). This is Betty as she was in the '50s starring in sitcoms and even a live daily variety show.

The sitcoms are typical '50s corn. In "Life With Elizabeth," she plays the mate of actor Del Moore. The show featured weekly vignettes introduced by Jack Narz, later to become a well-known game-show host.

She later starred in "A Date With the Angels," an even cornier comedy show about a married couple named, yup, Mr. and Mrs. Angel. She played Vicki and Bill Williams played her husband, Gus. Guest stars seen on the DVD include Nancy Kulp ("The Beverly Hillbillies"), Sheila James ("Dobie Gillis," and later California politics) and Richard Deacon ("Leave It to Beaver").

The daily variety show was called, surprise, "The Betty White Show." And she even tries to sing.

These shows, all in public domain, don't look exceptionally sharp, especially on high-def TV, but they're watchable and interesting if you like TV history.

And they show Betty has come a long way since then.

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