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Betty White in Black and White! Is Pure Delight

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Is life funnier in black and white? After viewing the recently released [Betty White in Black and White!](#) (<http://buy.videoamericain.com/betty-white-in-black-and-white/p-313491-1>), you might agree that it is. Betty White is enjoying renewed popularity, and with it comes a trip back into television history.

This new sampling of old shows includes two episodes each of *Life with Elizabeth* and *A Date with the Angels*, and several episodes of *The Betty White Show*.

Life with Elizabeth, starring Betty White and Del Moore (1953-1955) is notable for two reasons. The show was more sketch comedy than situation comedy, with each episode divided into three unrelated "incidents" in "the life of Elizabeth." It also featured incredibly clever dialogue that still holds up.



Elizabeth and husband Alvin didn't always see eye-to-eye and they weren't always lovey-dovey. In one episode, Alvin says, "Elizabeth, would you stop talking like an idiot, please," to which Elizabeth replied, "Sometimes I have to talk like an idiot, darling, so you'll understand me."

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In the same episode, using popular jargon, Elizabeth says, "Alvin you knock me out with that camera." "Don't put any ideas in my head," he replies.

A *Date with the Angels* (1957-1958) is another situation comedy featuring a young married couple, Vicki and Gus (White and Bill Williams), and the odd situations they encounter. The two episodes on *Betty White in Black and White!* are a treasure trove of character actors and familiar faces from the fifties. The comedy style is similar to *Life with Elizabeth* but limited to one situation (or incident) per show.

The Betty White Show featured on this disc is not the short-lived sitcom that aired on CBS in 1977. It was, first, a daily daytime variety series on which Betty would sing, entertain guests, chat with the band, and read the mail—filled with jokes and riddles—from her home audience. Viewers who are unfamiliar with these shows, may be amazed to see Betty White performing physical comedy on a level reminiscent of *The Carol Burnette Show* on the reincarnation of *The Betty White Show*, a variety series which replaced *Date with the Angels*.

I didn't have high expectations from some 50+-year-old television series, but I was pleasantly surprised. The comedy holds up because it is not topical, therefore timeless. Having sampled these programs, I would very much like to see more episodes.



Bottom Line: Would I buy *Betty White in Black and White!*? Yes, because I would enjoy watching it more than once.

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