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[Accidental Icon: The Real Gidget Story \(MVD Visual\)](#)

By

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Here's one to catch the surfer's fancy – a documentary about the REAL Gidget. I didn't realize there was a real Gidget behind the movies and television shows. Turns out there's other stuff I didn't know, either. Like, "Gidget" is a slang term combining "girl" and "midget" since Gidget was a diminutive lass. I also didn't realize that the movies and TV show both had a predecessor in the form of a novel – written by none other than the real Gidget's father!!! He liked to hear stories and so Gidget – who bravely hung out with the guy surfers down at the beach – shared her tales

of the surfing crowd with her father and, bang, there's the inspiration for a novel. Which spawned multiple films as well as multiple television shows. (Seems there was a "New Gidget".) And, from what I gather, the whole Gidget craze was instrumental in not only popularizing surf culture, but also in encouraging females to participate in what is still a male dominated sport. Thankfully, Gidget's influence lives on (as does the real Gidget herself), as is evidenced by a number of lady surfers interviewed in the film. Besides that we get to meet some surf heroes and Malibu oldsters. It's a "bitchin'" doc for surf fans.

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