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DVD review: Accidental Icon: The Real Gidget Story



David Voigt, Toronto Independent Film Examiner
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Written & Directed by [Brian L. Gillogly](#)

New release Tuesday is at our doorsteps once again for film fans across the city of Toronto. Among the films for our consumption today is something pretty interesting and a little off centre from what you might expect, a story about an 'accidental icon'. Out today on DVD its "Accidental Icon: The Real Gidget Story".

"Accidental Icon: The Real Gidget Story" tells the story behind the world famous book and film franchise that brought surfing to the masses. In the summer of '56, Los Angeles teenager Kathy Kohner discovered Malibu, boys and surfing. She had so much fun with Malibu surfing locals who sported nicknames like 'Kahuna', 'Moondoggie' and 'Tubesteak' that she wrote it all down in her diary and showed it to her father; screenwriter Frederick Kohner. The rest is history, with the book becoming a bestseller and inspiring a string of movies and TV series that spanned more than 30 years.

Video: [Accidental Icon: The Real Gidget Story](#)

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The story of the original 'Gidget' was actually kind of an interesting all be it straight forward tale of the origins of the character that started the surfing boom. We trace it all from the summer of 1956 as a young Kathy Kohner discovers the attraction of the surfing lifestyle, to the first film with Sandra Dee as the iconic 'Gidget' to the television show with a then unknown Sally Field to the countless other versions which inspired girls across the world to get out to the beach and surf. Gidget was a precursor to the feminist movement of how women could break into the man's world and keep their femininity. Nothing about this documentary was heavy or dramatic, but it was a neat story to hear told.

With the historic territoriality in the mind set of surfer's across the globe, "Accidental Icon: The Real Gidget Story" reminds the world that in the burgeoning small town of Malibu, California a young girl broke through gender boundaries and showed us all that out in the waves there are no genders, only surfers.

3 out of 5 stars.

"Accidental Icon: The Real Gidget Story" is available at video stores across Toronto, [click here](#) for a list of stores around town. Ultimately though, if you want to check out this documentary I'd recommend an online retailer like seeofsound.com.

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By [David Voigt](#)
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David Voigt, a regular contributor to the Examiner.com, was a content manager in video distribution industry. His 12 years of experience have...

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