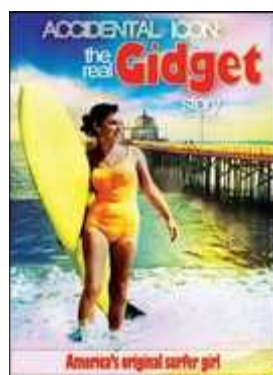



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Case Number 22413: Small Claims Court



Accidental Icon: The Real Gidget Story

[MVD Visual](#) // 2010 // 60 Minutes // Not Rated
Reviewed by Judge Dawn Hunt // October 1st, 2011

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All Rise...

Judge Dawn Hunt won't have many other chances to write "Cowabunga!" in a completely un-ironic way.



The Charge

"America's Original Surfer Girl"

The Case

Narrated by Jorja Fox ([CSI](#)) and featuring interviews with Sally Field ([Brothers and Sisters](#)) and far too many to name, **Accidental Icon: The Real Gidget Story** tells the tale of Kathy Kohner Zuckerman who began as Nicknamed "Gidget" (a combination of girl and midget) she became an icon whose legacy endures.

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because the actual story of how Kathy Kohner became Gidget takes less than a minute to tell. Fifteen-year-old looking for a way of life and a group of people to fit in with. Going to Malibu and hooking up with the local s the answer. She became so enamored with the people, what they were doing, and the new lingo (words like "Cowabunga!") she felt it was a story that needed to be told. Kathy started by writing it all down in her jour which she reads from here. But she wanted to go bigger, to share her story with more people, so she went t Academy Award-nominated screenwriter Frederick Kohner ([Gidget](#)), who captured the story as she told it to is the meat of this documentary.

Accidental Icon is not people gushing over Gidget for an hour. Sure, there's some of that, but these are re their stories resonate as such, with Gidget's friends admitting they resented the release of first the book and movie because each was one step away from the reality of what it meant (and still means, in many cases) to

True surfing buffs will delight in seeing the likes of Lance Carson and Mickey Munoz talking about both **Gidg** the waves. Hodads (non-surfers) can find pleasure in watching Cliff Robertson ([Spider-Man](#))—who passed days before this review was posted—or swoon over former heartthrobs James Darren ([Star Trek: Deep Sp](#) Caryn Richman ([Bucket and Skinner's Epic Adventures](#)) who talk about the impact **Gidget** had on their Hollywood perspective.

One person noticeably absent from the proceedings is Sandra Dee, who played Gidget in the movie and pass 2005. Those who were hoping for archive footage of Dee (who suffered from notorious publicity shyness) in retrospective will be disappointed. But the rest of the contributors are generous enough with their time to m absence. Sally Field, whose first role was as Gidget in the TV series, clearly feels an enormous amount of res affection for that role, even after so many other high profile opportunities.

If you grew up watching the **Gidget** movies, read the book, or watched the TV series, **Accidental Icon: Th Gidget Story** is a no-brainer. Likewise, if you're interested in surfing at all or in the evolution of female surf here in the United States, I'd recommend this.

Accidental Icon was shot on Mini-DV and includes Super 8 film stock, so the quality isn't the greatest. How easily overlook whatever grain and palette issues there are due to the engaging nature of what you're watch 2.0 sound is serviceable and the filmmakers took care to get interviews in spots away from distracting ambia special features are mostly padding, including an extended ending to the piece, as well as an outtake.

Never heavy handed with its feminism, **Accidental Icon: The Real Gidget Story** is concerned with marki history and detailing a time when what it meant to be a girl was coming under scrutiny, and how one girl's c her story changed the face of entertainment, sports, and the women's movement forever.

The Verdict

Guilty of making me want to hang ten on the nearest curl I can nose ride on.

Give us your feedback!

Did we give **Accidental Icon: The Real Gidget Story** a fair trial? [yes](#) / [no](#)

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