



Betsy Palmer

Biography

Betsy Palmer is perhaps best known to contemporary audiences for playing Jason Voorhees's mother in the original, now-classic, film *Friday, the 13th*, first released in 1980 (and its popular sequel, *Friday the 13th Part 2*, first released in 1981) and for playing the recurring role of Val Ewing's (Joan Van Ark) Aunt Ginny when she joined the cast of the long running dramatic television series *Knots Landing* (appearing from 1989 – 1990). However, Betsy's long career as an actress began many years before, in the 1950s.

Born in East Chicago, Indiana, her career aspirations took her to New York. Her IMDB credits date back to 1951, with an appearance in the early television series *Miss Susan*. Her early film work includes many films that are now also considered classics, including *Mister Roberts*, in which she co-starred with Jack Lemmon, Henry Fonda and James Cagney, *The Long Gray Line*, in which she co-starred with Tyrone Power and Maureen O'Hara, and *Queen Bee*, in which she co-starred with Joan Crawford, all three in 1955 alone.

Betsy's diverse career also included high profile work in other performance areas, as well, including stints as a regular contributor on NBC-TV's *The Today Show*, from 1960 through 1969, and appearing as a regular panelist on the long running and popular prime time TV game show *I've Got a Secret*, from 1960 through 1969.

Betsy's acting career broadened to include an impressive list of stage roles, including, among recent credits, a national tour of A.R. Gurney's *Love Letters*, which she still performs in currently in regional productions.

She continues her work in television, film and theatre as appropriate opportunities arise. In between, she enjoys her time at home in New York City.