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Subject: Beatrice Arthur dead at age 86

Posted by [George Johnson](#) on Sun, 26 Apr 2009 00:59:19 GMT

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[http://goldderby.latimes.com/awards\\_goldderby/2009/04/bea-arthur-was-a-true-golden-girl.html](http://goldderby.latimes.com/awards_goldderby/2009/04/bea-arthur-was-a-true-golden-girl.html)

Bea Arthur was a true 'Golden Girl'

Bea Arthur, who died Saturday at 86, was the winner of two Emmy Awards for her starring roles on classic sitcoms "Maude" and "The Golden Girls." Before becoming an unexpected TV star in the 1970s, Bea Arthur enjoyed a long and celebrated career in the theater. She won a Tony Award for featured actress in a musical in 1966 for the role of Vera Charles, bosom buddy to "Mame."

[skipping down]

After a fallow few years, Arthur returned to TV in an unlikely hit -- "The Golden Girls" -- which celebrated women of a certain age living together in Miami. As the tart-tongued Dorothy, Arthur was a natural playing off against on-screen roommates rambling Rose (Betty White) and bawdy Blanche (Rue McClanahan) as well as her diminutive but domineering mother Sophia (Estelle Getty). While Arthur earned Emmy nods in each of the first two seasons, she lost first to White then to McClanahan.

It would not be until season three that Arthur would win that Emmy bookend. With Getty also winning that night, the quartet joined "All in the Family" in the Emmy record book as the only sitcoms with an entirely award-winning cast. ("Will & Grace" would become the third such show when Debra Messing finally won her Emmy in 2003.) Like Moore before her, Arthur decided to leave this still red-hot sitcom after seven seasons. In the two-part finale, Dorothy finally found true love and married.

Arthur guested the following year on the short-lived spinoff "The Golden Palace" which had her three co-stars running a small hotel. Beyond that, she seldom appeared on TV. In 2000, she competed in her final Emmy race for a guest spot on "Malcolm in the Middle" but lost to Jean Smart who won the first of two consecutive Emmys for "Frasier."

In later years, Arthur returned to her first love -- live theater -- and in 2002 came to New York with her one-woman show titled quite simply "Bea Arthur on Broadway." She contended for the Tony Award for special theatrical event but lost to Elaine Stritch, who was starring in her own solo show "At Liberty." In one of those odd twists of theatrical fate, one of the many stories recounted by Stritch was about her ill-fated audition for a role in "The Golden Girls."

Below Bea and Angie recreate that classic moment from "Mame" when the dear friends reveal what they truly think of each other as the two Broadway divas belt out "Bosom Buddies" on the 1987 Tonycast.

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Subject: Re: Beatrice Arthur dead at age 86  
Posted by [Jonah Falcon](#) on Mon, 27 Apr 2009 17:27:45 GMT  
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This hit me harder than I thought it would. And I still thought she was brilliant in The Star Wars Holiday Special.

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