

Chronology: Dolly Tree

- 1899 Born Dorothy Marian Isbell
- 1912 Begins career as an actress on the stage in a variety of music hall acts
- 1914 Mother (Madge Tree) begins career as actress in British silent film
- 1915 Begins to appear in silent film, largely directed by Maurice Elvey
- 1915 Begins career as illustrator. Drawings appearing in *Royalty Magazine* and other publications
- 1915 Costumes J. Buchanan Taylor's touring revue *Charlie Chaplin Mad*
- 1917 Two-year contract with Sir Alfred Butt, sketching programme covers and posters
- 1918 Designs sets and costumes for some Julian Wylie regional productions
- 1918 Illustrates *Royal Magazine*
- 1918 Contributes to Wylie's *The Passing Show of 1918* (from July)
- 1918 Contributes to Wylie's pantomime *Dick Whittington* in Manchester (Dec)
- 1919 Contributes costume designs to Wylie's *The Follies of 1919* (touring revue) (March)
- 1919 Contributes sets to *The Passing Show of 1919* (touring revue) (March)
- 1919 Becomes chief designer for Julian Wylie
- 1919 Costumes Wylie's *Mr Manhattan* (touring review) (June)
- 1919 Costumes Wylie's *The Whirl of The World* (touring revue) (Sept)
- 1919 Contributes to Wylie's pantomime *Cinderella* in Glasgow (Dec)
- 1919 Contributes to Wylie's pantomime *Aladdin* in Manchester (Dec)
- 1920 Illustrates *Pan Magazine*
- 1920 Contributes to *L'Amour En Folies* at the Folies Bergere, Paris (26 March)
- 1920 Costumes Wylie's *The Passing Show of 1920* (touring revue) (March)
- 1920 Costumes Wylie's *The Follies of 1920* (touring revue) (May)
- 1920 Contributes to Wylie's *Aladdin*, London Hippodrome (December)
- 1921 Contributes to *Tout Fue, Tout Femme* at the Concert Mayol, Paris (Jan)
- 1921 First revue costumes appear in a London West End Theatre with *The Peepshow* at the Hippodrome (April)
- 1921 Costumes Wylie's *The Passing Show of 1921* (touring revue) (March)
- 1921 Costumes Wylie's *The Follies of 1921* (touring revue) (May)
- 1921 Costumes Wylie's *The Scrapbook* (touring revue) (Sept)
- 1921 Begins costuming Philip Rodway's pantomimes at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham with *Queen of Hearts* (Dec)
- 1921 Costumes the Christmas fairy play *The Windmill Man* (Dec)
- 1921 Costumes *Jack and the Beanstalk*, London Hippodrome (Dec)
- 1922 Contributes to *Folies Sur Folies*, Folies Bergere, Paris (Feb)
- 1922 Costumes *Round in 50*, Hippodrome, London (March)
- 1922 Meets Adrian in Paris (Summer)
- 1922 Contributes to *T'en as Du Vice*, Concert Mayol, Paris (10 June)
- 1922 Costumes Wylie's King *Solomon Junior* (touring revue) (July)
- 1922 Contributes to Wylie's *The Virgin Queen* (touring revue) (July)
- 1922 Contributes to *The Cabaret Girl*, Winter Garden Theatre (Sept)
- 1922 Costumes the cabaret shows at the Clover Club, Paris (Sept)
- 1922 Costumes *Cinderella*, London Hippodrome, London (Dec)
- 1922 Costumes *Puss-in-Boots* - Philip Rodway's pantomime, Theatre Royal, Birmingham (Dec)
- 1922 Costumes the Grafton Galleries Cabaret show *Midnight Revels* staged by Jack Haskell (late 1922 through early 1923)
- 1923 Contributes to *En Pleine Folie*, Folies Bergere, Paris (March)
- 1923 Costumes *Brighter London*, Hippodrome (March)
- 1923 Contributes to *Little Nellie Kelly* (New Oxford Theatre) (July)
- 1923 Designed costumes for the film *Woman to Woman* (summer)
- 1923 Costumes *Toni* (regional run) (Aug)

- 1923 Signed as house designer to Peron Couture (London & Paris) (Aug)
- 1923 Costume's Wylie's *Dancing Mad* (touring revue) (Aug)
- 1923 Costumes *The Cabaret Follies* at The Queens Hall Roof (Sept)
- 1923 Contributes gowns to *Little Revue Starts at Nine*, Little Theatre (Oct)
- 1923 Costumes Wylie's *Yes We Have* (touring revue) (Oct)
- 1923 Contributes to *Oh Les Belles Filles* at the Palace Theatre, Paris with the shawls (Nov)
- 1923 Costumes *Aladdin* - Philip Rodway's pantomime, Theatre Royal, Birmingham (Dec)
- 1924 Costumes the cabaret show *Dolly's Revels* at the Piccadilly Hotel (Feb)
- 1924 Costumes *Leap Year*, Hippodrome, London (March)
- 1924 Contributes to *Cartoons*, Criterion (April)
- 1924 Contributes to *The Punch Bowl*, The Duke of Yorks Theatre (May)
- 1924 Costumes the new shows at the Piccadilly Hotel called *Playtime at the Piccadilly or Piccadilly Revels* (July) through 17 editions in 1926
- 1924 Costumes *Dolly's Revels* at the Grafton Galleries Club (Sept)
- 1924 Contributes costumes to *The Street Singer*, Lyric (July)
- 1924 Contributes to Francis Laidler's *The Roundabout* (touring revue) (Aug)
- 1924 Costumes *Poppy*, Gaiety Theatre (Sept)
- 1924 Costumes Wylie's *Springtime*, Empire Theatre (Sept)
- 1924 Costumes Wylie's *Mr Tickle MP* (touring revue) (Oct)
- 1924 Costumes *Mother Goose*, London Hippodrome (Dec)
- 1924 Costumes *Jack and the Beanstalk* - Philip Rodway's pantomime, Theatre Royal, Birmingham (Dec)
- 1925 Costumes *Cabaret Calling* (touring revue) (February)
- 1925 Costumes *Better Days*, London Hippodrome (March)
- 1925 Costumes *Boodle*, Empire Theatre (March)
- 1925 Costumes *The Love Doctor*, (touring revue) (Feb)
- 1925 Costumes *Dear Little Billie*, Shaftesbury Theatre (Aug)
- 1925 Costumes Wylie's *Flyaway Peter* (touring revue) (Aug)
- 1925 Costumes from the Folies Bergere used in *Gay Paree*, Shubert Theatre, New York (Aug)
- 1925 Contributes to Francis Laidler's *The Punch and Judy Show* (touring revue) (Aug)
- 1925 Contributes to *The London Revue*, Lyseum Theatre (Sept)
- 1925 Costumes *My 'Erb* (touring musical revue produced by Leslie Stiles - October)
- 1925 Costumes *Cock-a-Doodle-Do* (touring revue) (Nov)
- 1925 Contributes to *The Blue Kitten*, Gaiety Theatre (Dec)
- 1925 Costumes *Humpty Dumpty* - Philip Rodway's pantomime, Theatre Royal, Birmingham (Dec)
- 1926 Costumes Wylie's *Turned Up*, New Oxford Theatre (Jan)
- 1926 Contributes to Francis Laidler's *The Merry Go Round* (touring revue) (Aug)
- 1926 Contributes to Francis Laidler's *Glad Eyes* (touring revue) (Aug)
- 1926 Contributes to Francis Laidler's *Sun Rays* (touring revue) (Aug)
- 1926 Costumes *Dolly's Revels* at the Blue Peter Club (summer)
- 1926 Assists in the dressing of the mannequin scene in Alfred Hitchcock's *The Lodger* and also appears (summer)
- 1926 Costumes Edmund Sayag's summer spectacle at the Kursall in Ostend (July)
- 1926 Costumes Edmund Sayag's show at the Ambassadeurs (July)
- 1926 Costumes *Brighter Douglas*, Palace Coliseum, Douglas Isle of Man (July)
- 1926 Costumes *Brighter Blackpool*, Winter Gardens Pavilion, Blackpool (July)
- 1926 Costumes Wylie's *The Apache*, tours from September
- 1926 Leaves London for New York arriving 5 October
- 1926 Costumes from the Folies Bergere used in another edition of *Gay Paree*, Winter Garden Theatre, New York (Nov)
- 1926 Costumes the cabaret show *What* at the New Princes restaurant (Nov)
- 1926 Costumes *Cinderella* - Philip Rodway's pantomime, Theatre Royal, Birmingham (Dec)
- 1927 Contributes to Ernest C. Rolls' *Sunny*, New Empire Theatre, Sydney (Feb)
- 1927 Costumes Wylie's *The Apache*, Palladium Theatre, London (Feb)
- 1927 Signed to Brooks Costume Company in New York (March)
- 1927 Costumes the cabaret show called *After the Show* at the New Princes restaurant
- 1927 Contributes to Francis Laidler's *Top Gear* (touring revue) (March)
- 1927 Costumes Wylie's *The Circular Tour* (touring revue) (June)
- 1927 Contributes to Edmund Sayag's Ambassadors Theatre-restaurant, Paris June)
- 1927 Costumes the Palace Theatre revue, Barcelona (Summer)

- 1927 Contributes to Francis Laidler's *The Bull's Eye* (touring revue) (July)
- 1927 Publication of *Clove and Lettuce*, London (Aug)
- 1927 Contributes to Francis Laidler's *Quicksilver* (touring revue) (Aug)
- 1927 Costumes Victor Saville's film *The Arcadians* (Nov)
- 1927 Costumes *Robinson Crusoe* - Philip Rodway's pantomime, Theatre Royal, Birmingham (Dec)
- 1928 Contributes to Edmund Sayag's Ambassadors Theatre-restaurant, Paris (May)
- 1928 Contributes to *La Grande Folies*, Folies Bergere, Paris (Feb)
- 1928 Costumes *Diamond Lil* (Mae West), Royale Theatre, New York (April)
- 1928 Costumes Ernest C. Rolls' *Good News*, Princes Theatre, Melbourne (Summer)
- 1928 Starts designing the costumes for the stage shows for the Paramount and Capital Theatre circuits (from February)
- 1928 Costumes *The Pleasure Man* (Mae West), Biltmore Theatre, New York (Oct)
- 1929 Costumes Jimmy Durante's floor show at the Club Rendezvous, New York (March)
- 1929 Contributes to *De La Folie Pure*, Folies Bergere, Paris (Feb)
- 1929 Contributes costumes for the Aztec Gold pageant charity, Madison Square Gardens (May)
- 1929 Contributes to Edmund Sayag's Ambassadors Theatre-restaurant, Paris (May)
- 1929 Philip Rodway's tour of Canada with the pantomimes *Mother Goose* and *Humpty Dumpty*, dressed by Dolly Tree (Nov)
- 1929 Contributes to Wylie's *Sleeping Beauty*, Drury Lane Theatre (Dec)
- 1929 Costumes Philip Rodway's *Mother Goose* at Royal Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham (Dec)
- 1930 Costumes Lew Leslie's *International Review*, Majestic Theatre (Feb)
- 1930 Departure for Hollywood as 'fashion creator' at Fox studios (31 March)
(see separate Filmography for a complete list of film credits)
- 1930 Contributes to Wylie's *Aladdin*, Drury Lane Theatre (Dec)
- 1931 Marries Lt Thomas Kimes of the US Navy (May)
- 1931 Head designer Sophie Wachner leaves (March) and Dolly Tree becomes head of the Fox wardrobe department
- 1931 Contract not renewed at Fox due to financial cutbacks (October)
- 1931 7th annual meeting of the American Newspaper Publishers Association at the Café de Paris in Fox Movietone City (the Fox restaurant). The event featured a fashion show and Peggy Hamilton wore a Dolly Tree creation
- 1931 Designs costumes for Doris Kenyon for her concert performances
- 1932 The mysterious costuming of Mae West's film *She Done Him Wrong* at Paramount
- 1933 Joins MGM as designer (Summer)
(see separate Filmography for a complete list of film credits)
- 1933 Became a lecturer in Costume at the Chouinard School of Art, situated at 741 South Grandview, Los Angeles. She was registered for September 1933 to June 1934
- 1935 Costumes the stage show of the Marx Brothers *Night at the Opera* in advance of picture costuming (from April)
- 1936 Took out US naturalisation
- 1936 Gowns created by Dolly Tree included in Viola S. Dimmitt's tour of the East coast promoting fashions from California
- 1937 Part of the fashion week organised by The Associated Apparel Manufacturers of Los Angeles for out-of-town retail buyers. Highlight was an evening the evening at the Biltmore Bowl, 13th January.
- 1937 Costumes the stage show of the Marx Brothers *A Day at the Races* in advance of picture costuming
- 1937 Trip to Seattle to see her husband Thomas Kimes (March)
- 1937 Trip to Honolulu to see her husband Thomas Kimes (May)
- 1937 Trip to Agua Caliente Casino, Tijuana, Mexico
- 1937 Parents arrive from London (Nov)
- 1938 Part of the fashion week organised by The Associated Apparel Manufacturers of Los Angeles for out-of-town retail buyers. (January)
- A special evening style show was held 26th January at the Coconut Grove in the Ambassador Hotel.
- 1938 Trip to Honolulu to see her husband Thomas Kimes (July - Aug)

- 1940 Vacation with Cynthia Goode at Lone Palm Resort, Palm Springs (Mar-Apr)
- 1940 Divorce from Thomas Kimes (Nov)
- 1940 Parents arrive from London (Aug)
- 1941 Part of the fashion event, organised by the Los Angeles Fashion Group with a gala banquet and style show entitled California's Fashion Futures, held in the Fiesta room of the Ambassador Hotel (Feb).
- 1941 Vacation in Palm Springs in rented house (Feb)
- 1941 Departure from MGM (Mar)
- 1941 Announcements about Dolly Tree entering wholesale dress manufacture business. She becomes the Hollywood fashion designer for Freshy Playclothes based in Baltimore (July-Aug)
- 1941 Designs Penny Singleton's gowns for *Blondie Goes to College* (released 1942)
- 1941 Short spell at Twentieth Century Fox
- 1941 Launch of Dolly Tree's first collection for Freshy Playclothes (October)
- 1942 Marriage to cowboy actor - playboy Donald Whiteford (Jan)
- 1942 A new selection of Dolly Tree fashions for spring and summer were released by Freshy Playclothes (Jan)
- 1942 Dolly Tree applied for bankruptcy (spring – granted July)
- 1942 Death of her father in Los Angeles (Apr)
- 1942 Part of the fashion show organised by Bernard Waldman, highlighting fashion styles at the Waldorf Astoria, NYC on 3rd May
- 1942 Part of a reception at the Museum of Costume Art on 14th May to honour ten outstanding Hollywood designers to mark the fifth anniversary of the museum's opening.
- 1942 Creates further collections for Freshy Playclothes
- 1943 Creates further collections for Freshy Playclothes
- 1943 Signed to costume *The Hairy Ape* (released 1944)
- 1944 Announcement that Dolly Tree was to design the costumes for Mae West's *Catherine Was Great*. Contribution unclear.
- 1945 Divorce from Donald Whiteford
- 1945 Relocation to New York
- 1946 Her mother returns to London (June)
- 1947 Internment in the Pilgrim Psychiatric Hospital, Long Island
- 1947 Death of her mother in London
- 1949 Learns of mother's death, two years after the event and receives money from her fathers estate
- 1950 Returns to Europe
- 1951 Repatriated to USA and taken back at Pilgrim hospital
- 1952 Struggle to be repatriated to the UK, which is finally denied
- 1962 Died at the Pilgrim Psychiatric hospital aged 63