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CHRONOLOGY

1865 William Butler Yeats born in Sandymount, Dublin, on 13 June, the son of John Butler Yeats, painter, and Susan Yeats, née Pollexfen.

1866 Family moves to 23 Fitzroy Road, Regent's Park, London.

1874 Family moves to 14 Edith Villas, West Kensington. Yeats begins to attend the Godolphin School, Hammersmith.

1876 Family moves to Bedford Park.

1880 Family returns to Ireland, settling at Howth.

1881 Yeats starts to attend Erasmus High School, Dublin.

1882 Yeats writes his earliest poetry.

1883 Family moves to 10 Ashfield Terrace, Rathgar, Dublin.

1884 Yeats starts to attend the Metropolitan School of Art, Dublin, where his father is a master. Meets AE (George Russell).

1885 Two poems (Yeats' earliest published verse) appear in the Dublin University Review. Yeats meets John O'Leary.

1886 Yeats leaves the Metropolitan School of Art. Mosada published in Dublin.

1887 Family moves to England, living first at 58 Eardley Crescent, Earl's Court London. The Madness of King Goll (Yeats' first poem to be published in England) appears in The Leisure Hour.

1888 Family now living at 3 Blenheim Road Bedford Park. Yeats completes The Wanderings of Oisin at the house of his uncle, George Pollexfen, in Sligo.

1889 The Wanderings of Oisin and other poems published. Yeats meets Maud Gonne.
1890 Yeats joins the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn.


1892 Yeats founds the Irish Literary Society (Dublin). The Countess Cathleen and Various Legends and Lyrics published.

1894 The Land of Heart's Desire produced in London.


1899 The first plays produced by the Irish Literary Theatre, The Countess Cathleen and Edward Martyn's The Heather Field, performed at the Ancient Concert Rooms, Dublin. The Mind among the Reeds published.

1902 Cathleen ni Houlihan produced in Dublin, with Maud Gonne in the title part. The Irish Literary Theatre replaced by the Irish National Theatre, of which Yeats becomes president.

1903 Miss A.E. Horniman offers to build and equip a new theatre for the Irish National Theatre. Maud Gonne marries Major John MacBride. In The Seven Woods (poems), Baile and Ailín (narrative poem) and Ideas of Good and Evil (essays) published.

1904 The Abbey Theatre built, under Miss Horniman's patronage, in Abbey Street, Dublin; it opens in December with the first productions of Yeats' On Baile's Strand and Lady Gregory's Spreading the News.

1905 The Shadowy Waters produced in London.

1906 The Shadowy Waters (revised version) published.

1907 J.M. Synge's The Playboy of the Western World produced at the Abbey Theatre. Yeats' first visit to Italy.
1924 J. Synge dies on 24 March.

1918 Yeats is granted a Civil List pension. The Great Machine and other poems published. Miss Srinivas withdraws her financial support from the Abbey Theatre.

1917 Yeats meets George Hyde-Lees, his future wife.

1914 Responsibilities published.

1916 The rising of the Irish Republican Volunteers takes place on Easter Sunday, 24 April. Major Macardle killed and executed for his participation.

1917 Yeats marries George Hyde-Lees in London on 21 October.

1913 The Yeatses settle in a house in Drum Street, Oxford, then move to Dublin. Per Ardua Alta published.

1915 A daughter, Anne, born to the Yeatses on 24 February. They move into 'Thee Ballylee', County Galway, and in October travel to the United States, where Yeats begins a lecture tour. The Wild Swans of Coole published.


1916 A son, Michael, born to the Yeatses on 31 August at Thoor. The Irish Free State established on 6 December. Michael Robartes and the Dancer published.

1922 Outbreak of the Irish Civil War. The Yeatses move to 49 Merrion Square, Dublin.

1923 Yeats takes his seat in the Irish Senate on 15 January. The Civil War ends during the summer. Yeats is awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, receiving the diploma and medal from the King of Sweden in Stockholm on 10 December.

1925 A Vision published.
1926 Yeats' translation of Sophocles' Oedipus the King produced at the Abbey Theatre.

1927 Yeats' translation of Sophocles' Oedipus at Colonus produced at the Abbey Theatre. After an attack of lung congestion Yeats, to recover his health, travels first to Spain (staying at Algeciras and Seville) and then to the French Riviera (staying at Cannes).

1928 In February the Yeatses move from Cannes to Rapallo. The Tower published. In April the Yeatses travel to Ireland. Yeats gives his last speech in the Senate on 15 July; does not seek re-election. The Yeatses return to Rapallo for the winter.

1929 The Yeatses travel to Ireland in the spring; visit 'Thosie Ballylee' for the last time in the summer. A Packet for Ezra Pound published. Fighting the Sages (one of the 'Plays for Dancers') produced at the Abbey Theatre by Ninette de Valois. The Yeatses return to Rapallo for the winter.

1930 The words upon the window pane produced at the Abbey Theatre. Yeats spends the winter at Lady Gregory's house (Coole Park, County Galway), where she is seriously ill.

1931 Yeats receives honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from Oxford University in May. Spends the winter at Coole Park.

1932 Lady Gregory dies on 22 May. Yeats, George Bernard Shaw and AE found the Irish Academy of Letters. In October Yeats undertakes a lecture tour of America.

1933 The Yeatses now living at 'Riversdale', Rathfarnham, near Dublin. The Windind Stair and other Poems published.

1935 AE dies. From A Full Moon in March published. In the winter Yeats travels to Majorca with Shri Purushottam Swami to plan translation of the Upanishads.

broadcasts a lecture on poetry on the B.B.C. on 30 October.

1937 Yeats broadcasts four further lectures on poetry on the B.B.C. The Yeatses move to Menton for the winter.

1938 Yeats travels to Ireland in May, then spends part of the summer in England. Makes his last public appearance at the first performance of Purgatory at the Abbey Theatre in August. Olivia Shakespear dies. Yeats prepares prose draft of his last play, The Death of Cuchulain, in London on the way to the French Riviera where he and his wife take rooms at the Hotel Ideal Sejour, Cap Martin.

1939 Yeats dies on 23 January at Cap Martin, and is buried on 31 January at Roquebrune.

1942 Yeats' body is brought to Ireland and re-interred at Drumcliff, County Sligo.