

Thornton Niven Wilder Chronology



1897	Born in Madison, Wisconsin (April 17)
1906	Moves to Hong Kong in May and to Berkeley, California in October
1906-10	Emerson Public School in Berkeley
1910-11	China Inland Mission School, Chefoo, China (one year)
1912-13	Thacher School, Ojai, California (one year). First play known to be produced: <i>The Russian Princess</i>
1915	Graduates from Berkeley High School; active in school dramatics
1915-17	Oberlin College; published regularly
1920	B.A. Yale College (3-month service in 1918 with U.S. Army in 1918); many publications
1920-21	American Academy in Rome (8-month residency)
1920s	French teacher at Lawrenceville School, Lawrenceville, New Jersey ('21-'25 & '27-'28)
1924	First visit to the MacDowell Colony, Peterborough, New Hampshire
1926	M.A. in French literature, Princeton University <i>The Trumpet Shall Sound</i> produced off-Broadway (American Laboratory Theatre) <i>The Cabala</i> (first novel)
1927	<i>The Bridge of San Luis Rey</i> (novel- Pulitzer Prize)
1928	<i>The Angel That Troubled The Waters</i> (first published collection of drama—playlets)
1930s	Part-time faculty, University of Chicago (comparative literature and composition); lectures across the country; first Hollywood screen-writing assignment (1934); extensive foreign travel
1930	<i>The Woman of Andros</i> (novel) Completion of home for his family and himself in Hamden, Connecticut
1931	<i>The Long Christmas Dinner and Other Plays</i> (six one-act plays)
1932	<i>Lucrece</i> opens on Broadway starring Katharine Cornell (translation of André Obey's <i>Le Viol de Lucrece</i>)
1935	<i>Heaven's My Destination</i> (novel)
1937	<i>A Doll's House</i> (adaptation/ trans.) opens on Broadway with Ruth Gordon
1938	<i>Our Town</i> (Pulitzer Prize) and <i>The Merchant of Yonkers</i> open on Broadway
1942	<i>The Skin of Our Teeth</i> opens on Broadway (Pulitzer Prize) Screenplay for Alfred Hitchcock's <i>The Shadow of a Doubt</i>
1942-45	Service with Army Air Force in North Africa and Italy (Lieut. Col. at discharge –Bronze Star and O.B.E.)
1948	<i>The Ides of March</i> (novel); performing in his plays in summer stock in this period <i>The Victors</i> opens off-Broadway (translation of Sartre's <i>Morts sans sépulture</i>)
1949	Major role in Goethe Convocation in Aspen; lectures widely.
1951-52	Charles Eliot Norton Professor of Poetry at Harvard
1952	Gold Medal for Fiction, American Academy of Arts and Letters
1953	Cover of <i>Time</i> Magazine (January 12)
1955	<i>The Matchmaker</i> opens on Broadway starring Ruth Gordon <i>The Alcestiad</i> produced at Edinburgh Festival with Irene Worth (as <i>A Life in the Sun</i>)
1957	German Peace Prize
1961	Libretto for <i>The Long Christmas Dinner</i> (music by Paul Hindemith—premieres in Mannheim, West Germany)
1962	"Plays for Bleecker Street" (<i>Someone from Assisi</i> , <i>Infancy</i> , and <i>Childhood</i>) premiere at NYC's Circle in the Square Libretto for <i>The Alcestiad</i> (music by Louise Talma—premieres in Frankfurt, West Germany)
1963	Presidential Medal of Freedom
1964	<i>Hello, Dolly!</i> starring Carol Channing opens on Broadway
1965	National Book Committee's Medal for Literature
1967	<i>The Eighth Day</i> (National Book Award for Fiction)
1973	<i>Theophilus North</i> (novel)
1975	Dies in sleep in Hamden, CT on December 7. Buried at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Hamden, Connecticut

For more information, please visit www.thorntonwilder.com and www.thorntonwildersociety.org.