

## Topic Page: [Simmons, Jean, 1929-2010](#)

Summary Article: **Simmons, Jean Merilyn**

From *Chambers Biographical Dictionary*

1929-2010

English actress

Born in London and educated at the Aida Foster School of Dancing, she made her film debut in *Give Us the Moon* (1944). She quickly rose to the forefront of young English actresses with accomplished performances as Estella in *Great Expectations* (1946) and Ophelia in Laurence Olivier's *Hamlet* (1948, Academy Award nomination). Developing into a fine and beautiful actress, she signed a contract with Howard Hughes in Hollywood from 1951 but found few roles worthy of her abilities. Her best film work included *The Actress* (1953), *Elmer Gantry* (1960) and *The Happy Ending* (1969), for which she received an Academy Award nomination. She brought distinction to a range of television work and won an Emmy for *The Thorn Birds* (1983). Among her rare stage appearances were *Big Fish, Little Fish* (1964) and *A Little Night Music* (1976). Later film appearances include *How to Make an American Quilt* (1995). She was awarded an OBE in 2003.

### **APA**

Chicago

Harvard

MLA

---

Simmons, Jean Merilyn. (2011). In L. Rodger, & J. Bakewell, *Chambers Biographical Dictionary* (9th ed.). London, UK: Chambers Harrap. Retrieved from [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/simmons\\_jean\\_1929](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/simmons_jean_1929)

---

**Chambers** © Chambers Harrap Publishers Ltd 2011

**Chambers** © Chambers Harrap Publishers Ltd 2011

## APA

Simmons, Jean Merylyn. (2011). In L. Rodger, & J. Bakewell, *Chambers Biographical Dictionary* (9th ed.). London, UK: Chambers Harrap. Retrieved from [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/simmons\\_jean\\_1929](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/simmons_jean_1929)

## Chicago

"Simmons, Jean Merylyn." In *Chambers Biographical Dictionary*, by Liam Rodger, and Joan Bakewell. 9th ed. Chambers Harrap, 2011. [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/simmons\\_jean\\_1929](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/simmons_jean_1929)

## Harvard

Simmons, Jean Merylyn. (2011). In L. Rodger & J. Bakewell, *Chambers Biographical Dictionary*. (9th ed.). [Online]. London: Chambers Harrap. Available from: [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/simmons\\_jean\\_1929](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/simmons_jean_1929) [Accessed 20 September 2019].

## MLA

"Simmons, Jean Merylyn." *Chambers Biographical Dictionary*, Liam Rodger, and Joan Bakewell, Chambers Harrap, 9th edition, 2011. *Credo Reference*, [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/simmons\\_jean\\_1929](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/simmons_jean_1929). Accessed 20 Sep. 2019.