

Charlotte Henry

Titles: 1 Sources: 3 Stills: 1

Born: Brooklyn, New York; March 3rd 1914 (Halliwell says 1916)

Strictly speaking, she does not belong in this archive, having made her debut at 16, but she's given an honorary inclusion as the screen's first "**ALICE IN WONDERLAND**", which she won over Ida Lupino, whom the studio had flown from Britain for the role. In 1941, after several more little girl parts, she finally gave up on a movie career. Her last film was "**STAND AND DELIVER**".



"As pert a piece of jailbait as ever fell down a rabbit-hole"
Source: *Illustrated History of the Talkies*

Halliwell's *Filmgoer's Companion* entry:

"American juvenile actress of the early thirties."

They Had Faces Then – Super Stars, Stars and Starlets of the 1930s entry:

"Let's all say a word of gratitude to Charlotte Henry. If Charlotte hadn't won out, Ida Lupino would have played "**ALICE IN WONDERLAND**" and that wouldn't have been right at all. We needed Ida for other things. Miss Henry was a passable Alice. But a girl can't do much when she is surrounded by W.C. Fields as Humpty Dumpty and Edna May Oliver as the Red Queen and half the hams in Hollywood in Tenniel-inspired masks – all with only a minute or two to establish their characters, and themselves. There had been a few roles before "**ALICE**" for miss Henry – she was billed as Charlotte V Henry then. And there would be a few more to follow – Bo-Peep in "**BABES IN TOYLAND**" and a girl in "**THE LAST GENTLEMAN**". But you can't get much attention when you're playing with Laurel & Hardy or George Arliss. So she didn't linger long on the movie scene. Sorry about Charlotte – but we're glad it wasn't Ida."

"Charlotte Henry is both the winner and the victim of a nationwide search launched by Paramount Pictures in the early 1930s to bolster a shaky regime. Charlotte was born on March 3rd 1914 in Brooklyn, and appeared on the stage from the age of five. On Broadway, she played in "**Courage**", with Janet Beecher, and made her movie debut in the screen version, 1930.

In 1933, Paramount announced its wish to cast an unknown as Alice in "**ALICE IN WONDERLAND**", and received between 6,500 and 7000 applications from all over the world. Charlotte was acting in a stage production of "Growing Pains" at the Pasadena Playhouse, but took time off to ask for a test. Then, sending out charming publicity photos of Charlotte dressed as little Alice, Paramount announced her as the winner. In spite of the high-pressure publicity and the all-star cast, the picture was a flop.

After 1936, she returned to the stage, playing in stock; returned to Hollywood in 1941, and got a job in "**BOWERY BLITZKRIEG**", with the East Side Kids. She is now said to be living in San Diego. [*towhit, in 1974*]”

“Carroll may not have envisaged Alice as being totally unsullied by the ways of the world, but as played by Charlotte Henry she’s as pert a piece of jailbait [sic] as ever fell down a rabbit-hole.”
- **Time Out Film Guide**



FILMOGRAPHY

<i>Year</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Role</i>
deb 30	16	COURAGE	
32	18	REBECCA OF SUNNYBROOK FARM	
		with <i>Wally Albright, Tommy Conlon</i>	
33	19	ALICE IN WONDERLAND	in title role
		with <i>Jackie Searl, Billy Barty, Baby Leroy</i>	
34	20	BABES IN TOYLAND	as Bo Peep
		with <i>Scotty Beckett, Tommy Bupp</i>	