

# THE NEW DOLL OF KAY THOMPSON'S FASHIONISTA CHARACTER FROM *FUNNY FACE!*

by Sam Irvin



Believe it or not, Integrity Toys had the good taste and wherewithal to produce a Kay Thompson / *Funny Face* doll!  
Seriously!



Kay Thompson will forever be remembered for her iconic portrayal of Maggie Prescott, fashion editor of *Quality* magazine, in *Funny Face* (Paramount Pictures, 1957)—but I never thought I'd see the day when a high-end Maggie Prescott doll would be deemed commercial enough to merchandise. Admittedly, the ongoing *Eloise* juggernaut has certainly kept interest in Kay alive—and Liza Minnelli's Broadway tribute to Kay in *Liza's at the Palace* fanned the flames big time. A recent restoration of *Funny Face* has, no doubt, reinvigorated interest in the movie—and introduced it to a whole new generation of fans. And, yes, I suppose my book *Kay Thompson: From Funny Face to Eloise* and its companion 3-CD set *Think Pink! A Kay Thompson Party* have added even more fuel to the bonfire. Yet, I must say, it still comes as a bit of a surprise—a very pleasant one—that there is enough appreciation of Kay Thompson to warrant a tribute as cool as this.

Incredibly, fifty-six years after the release of *Funny Face*, the Maggie Prescott doll debuted in February 2013. Officially licensed by Paramount Pictures and manufactured by Integrity Toys, “The Quality Woman (Official Movie Edition: *Funny Face* Collection)” comes in a deluxe gift set with three ensembles from the movie, retailing for \$199.00, available in a limited edition of 400 dolls.



The promotion copy reads as follows: “Maggie Prescott is ‘The Quality Woman.’ Other women want to be her and she is the ultimate fashionista—*Funny Face*’s very own Anna Wintour type. Maggie not only knows trends inside out, she sets them. She is fashion and knows a fresh face when she sees one! Ms. Prescott is the one who turns a simple book store clerk into an international modeling super star! ‘The Quality Woman’ is a 12-inch, fully articulated vinyl doll with rooted hair and hand-applied eyelashes featuring Integrity’s Victoire Roux body in the role of Maggie Prescott. This gift set is composed of three complete looks as worn by the character of Maggie Prescott in the movie *Funny Face*. This set also features the perfect costume-completers to finish these looks, namely, two pairs of shoes, gloves, three hats, a purse and a jewelry set. It also includes an alternate set of hands, a doll stand and a certificate of authenticity. For adult collectors 14 years and up.”











The three doll-size ensembles are exact replicas of the designs worn by Kay Thompson in *Funny Face*, initially designed by Edith Head—but heavily redesigned and retrofitted by Thompson who objected to Head’s duds.

“Kay was very, very upset about her wardrobe in *Funny Face*,” recalled Marion Marshall, then the wife of Stanley Donen (director of *Funny Face*). “Kay didn’t think that Edith Head had done a good job for her—which I can’t disagree with.”

Rex Reed recalled, “Kay persuaded Roger Edens (producer of *Funny Face*) to call the egomaniacal, implacable Edith Head while she listened on the extension phone. Roger said, ‘Kay is playing a fashion editor based on Diana Vreeland, so we need a wardrobe that is very Coco Chanel.’ Dead silence, followed by, ‘Roger, go f\*\*k yourself.’ Kay said, ‘Don’t worry, I’ll do my own clothes,’ and she did.”

Marching right into the Paramount wardrobe department, Kay dictated her vision to Edith, who later described the Maggie Prescott designs as the result of a “happy collaboration” with Thompson.

Though Edith had been reduced to a seamstress following Kay’s instructions, the dressing-down was softened by Kay assuming her Eloise voice, making light of each directive—a routine Edith later described as the “squeaky voice of a little girl ‘shot with arsenic.’” Head could have put up a fight, but with Edens on Thompson’s side, she did not relish eating crow. “Kay is completely Kay,” Edith acquiesced philosophically.

For all the dish on the tumultuous making of “*Funny Face*,” don’t miss the book *Kay Thompson: From Funny Face To Eloise* (Simon & Schuster) by Sam Irvin, and its companion 3-CD set *Think Pink! A Kay Thompson Party* (Sepia Records) – which includes, for the first time anywhere, Kay’s never-before-heard audition for *Funny Face*, and the never-before-heard extended, uncut version of Kay’s opening showstopper “Think Pink!” For more information, visit:

[www.KayThompsonWebsite.com](http://www.KayThompsonWebsite.com)



One of the many doll merchants that carry the Maggie Prescott doll is Angelic Dreamz:  
[http://www.angelicdreamz.com/IT-The-Funny-Face-Collection-The-Quality-Woman\\_p\\_13611.html](http://www.angelicdreamz.com/IT-The-Funny-Face-Collection-The-Quality-Woman_p_13611.html)