

# COSTUME

IDEAS BY SHARON MC ARDLE



# Some considerations...

Costume should be reflective of the socio political background of the time. It should reflect Macardle's class, stature, background, parentage, belief system and social circle. It may communicate hidden or symbolic messages to the audience. Dorothy's character evolves throughout the play and this should be reflected in the costume, through possible 'layering' or transformative elements within the design. She was known to wear trousers which would have been ahead of her time. There has been much dialogue around a possible 'gender neutral' design as opposed to just wearing trousers, which may be seen as an 'overstatement'. Dorothy was arrested at her workplace and it is assumed that she would be wearing her own clothes in prison (having PoW status).

The costume should help establish time and place. The timeline is from November 1922 to May 1923 and the costume should evolve with the passing of the seasons from winter to spring or from bleak darkness and despair to hope and aspirations.

Colour, texture, shape, style, silhouette and composition will all play a role in generating the overall statement to the audience.

Movement of the costume will also be considered to accommodate the character's action. It should be noted that the actor will be morphing into many characters throughout the play and, therefore will need optimum mobility within the design. The Costume Designer has read sample scenes and conceptual frameworks and other background information relating to Dorothy. She has been presented with a character profile and a collage of photographs illustrating Dorothy and her contemporaries.



# **DOROTHY MACARDLE**

## **1889-1958**

Journey through play from beginning to End...

Incarcerated Nov 1922- May 1923

Winter- Spring moving from darkness to light  
with renewed Hope...

Emerging gothic voice and artist of stature

Emerging political voice

Forging republican credentials









Dorothy Macardle is pictured third from left.





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**DOROTHY IN LATER YEARS**

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Ramon de Alora



Dorothy front row 2<sup>nd</sup> from the right wearing white head band. Attending a Writers Award Ceremony. 1938





**MAUD GONNE  
AND ANNIE  
MACSWINEY  
OUTSIDE  
MOUNTJOY  
1922**















