

An Eve Harding Film
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Soldier
Soldier



Journalist
Journalist

Dorothy Lawrence
Dorothy Lawrence

Logline

In 1964, spirited journalist Lizzie learns of a lady who dressed as a male soldier in WWI to write about life in the trenches; her name is Dorothy Lawrence and now she is confined to a mental hospital.



Stories told, 5 decades apart, of two feisty female journalists, who fight to have their voices heard and stories told.

Executive Summary

Title: Dorothy Lawrence

Genre: Historical Drama

Format: Feature Film, 120 minutes

Budget: £5 million

Themes: Female Empowerment, Inequality,
Social Injustice



"Let's see what an ordinary English girl, without credentials or money can accomplish."

Synopsis



Being the only female journalist in her office in 1964, Lizzie struggles to have her voice heard. But when her friend, who works as a nurse in the local mental hospital, tells her of a silent elderly patient (Dorothy Lawrence), who has begun to shout during the night, Lizzie realises this may be her chance to tell a story that will finally get her noticed.

Lizzie visits Dorothy and there she tells of her life as a young journalist, fighting to report on trench life and realising her only chance as a woman to do so, is to hide her identity and become soldier Private Dennis Smith.



Synopsis

Over time, Dorothy talks through her experiences, from befriending French soldiers in order to acquire a uniform, to hiding out in a bombed out building each night. She joins a company who lays mines along the front and no one suspects a thing. However, after becoming severely ill, Dorothy is forced to reveal who she really is, is arrested, interrogated and kept as a prisoner of war.

Dorothy is released back to England months later, banned from telling her story and has her livelihood taken from her. 7 years after the war, penniless, alone and still pushing to tell her story, she is placed in the lunatic asylum.



Synopsis

Lizzie, upset by the injustice, pushes to free Dorothy, who explains that the hospital is her life now and at least she has a friend to talk to. Lizzie, promises to continue to visit Dorothy regularly.

Arriving at the hospital the next day and seeing an empty bed, Lizzie learns that Dorothy has passed away. Grief-stricken, she vows to share Dorothy's story with the world. She smiles and quotes Dorothy: "Let's see what an ordinary English girl, without credentials or money can accomplish."



Characters

Lizzie Tucker



1964: Lizzie (Elizabeth) Tucker is a spirited 24 year old journalist, with dreams of reporting on powerful stories that will change people's perspectives and make her a well-known name.

Struggling with the sexist attitudes of her times, she learns to stand up for herself and push for equality like never before, by publishing her own work and sharing the stories she wants to tell.

Characters

Dorothy Lawrence

1964: Dorothy is a lonely 67 year old patient, who has barely spoken in years, after being confined to a mental hospital in her late 20s.

1915: Dorothy, now a feisty 19 year old journalist, goes undercover as a soldier to report on life in the trenches during WWI. She is strong and fiercely independent.



Director's Statement



My goal as a Director/Writer is to shine a light on stories told by those often overlooked in our society. The reason for this is, as a working class female, I have often felt marginalised and ignored and I believe everyone deserves a chance to be heard and seen.

I also, have a particular interest in stories based on true events, as I believe they have the power to resonate deeply with audiences.

As a woman, I am also drawn to female-centric stories. So, when researching incredible females in history, I came across the real life of 'Dorothy Lawrence'. I knew from reading her book, hearing her own striking words, finding out that she had been silenced for years by the government and finally, that she died alone in a mental hospital, that I just had to share her remarkable experiences with as many people as I could. She is an inspiration to me and I want to tell her story with all the justice and power it deserves.

Promotional Trailer



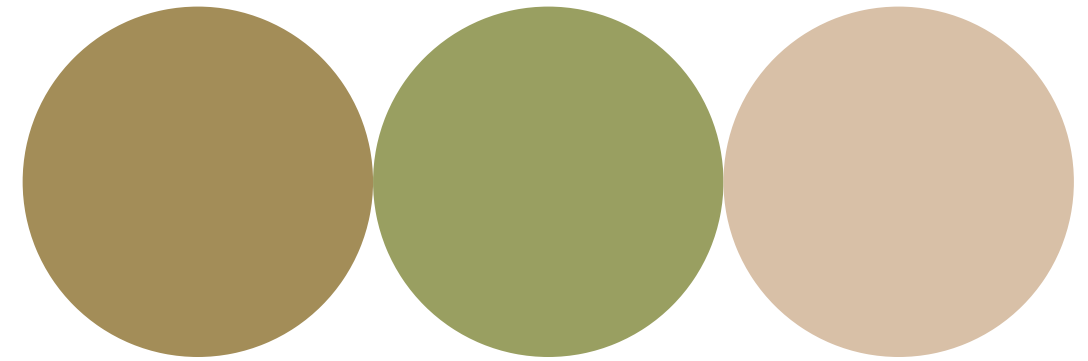
Visual Style & Tone

The film is set during two timelines and therefore will have two very distinct looks.

1964 - London

The colour palette will use light browns, pale greens and creams. This is to reflect the popular light pastel tones of the period, which were very earthy and natural.

The scenes will be light and bright, to reflect the naive and hopeful nature of Lizzie's character and the positive changes and reforms occurring in the health care system in the 1960s.



1915 - France

The colour palette will use dark khaki green, greys and mustard gas yellows. This is to reflect the dismal look of France ravaged by war and the military uniforms of soldiers. The scenes will be dark and highly contrasted, to reflect the depressive tone during a time of war.





Moodboard 1964 - London





Moodboard 1915 - France



Contact

For more information and to show interest in being involved with this project, please contact...



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Dorothy Lawrence