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'Happy Birthday To Me'

Thriller to be filmed in Pointe Claire

Happy Birthday To Me, starring Glenn Ford and Melissa Sue Anderson is a psychological thriller set in a New England town.

Using various Montreal locations for settings, on August 12, the Birthday Film Company will be filming on Cartier Blvd., between St. Claire and Lanthier. The permission of the City of Pointe Claire to close down Cartier and detour traffic has been granted. The Company will allow cars to pass through when not in the midst of filming a scene, however, it is asked that no cars be parked on the street. Those cars in driveways will not affect the set-up provided they are not moved while shooting.

The script requires the scenes to be staged in darkness, therefore shooting

will be at night and filming will go on until dawn.

Happy Birthday To Me is Melissa Sue Anderson's first film. Miss Anderson is best known for her portrayal of Mary on the television series, 'Little House On The Prairie'. Glenn Ford is known the world over for his performances in such films as 'Superman', 'Midway' and 'The Courtship Of Eddie's Father'.

Set against a small-town college background, Happy Birthday To Me is centered around a prep school student named Virginia (Miss Anderson) and her schoolmates. Haunted by recollections of a near-death accident in her past, Virginia seeks help from a local physician (Mr. Ford), who becomes her confidant.

At the same time, she is forced to contend with the mysterious disappearances of several of her young friends.

The grisly events leading to each disappearance petrify the vulnerable young woman, and she finds 'surviving' a matter of life and death. One blood-curdling experience after another leads Virginia to a shocking conclusion.

Director J. Lee Thompson has such credits as 'The

Reincarnation Of Peter Proud', 'Eye Of The Devil' and 'Cape Fear' to his name. Mr. Thompson stage production, 'Murder Without Crime', played to London audiences for two years and another, 'Getting Away With Murder', starred the illustrious Sir Alec Guinness. Mr. Thompson has also brought to the screen such classics as 'The Guns Of Navarone', 'Tiger Bay', 'Mackenna's Gold' and 'The Greek Tycoon'.

Producers John Dunning and Andre Link are no newcomers to film themselves. In addition to 'Meatballs', they have collaborated on a number of film ventures - 'Valerie' and 'L'Initiation' rank among the top ten most successful French language Canadian films. In fact, in the list of all-time Canadian box office hits, no less than four are Dunning/Link productions.

Based on an original story by French writer Claude Mulot, Happy Birthday To Me was first scripted by John Saxton, and subsequently by Timothy Bond and Peter Jobin.

Budgeted at \$3.5 million, Happy Birthday To Me is being produced with the participation of the Canadian Film Development Corporation and Famous Players. The private placement of the film is being handled by Filmco Limited, a Western Canadian organization. The film is scheduled for theatrical release in early 1981.

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