

IN PROGRESS...

Happy Birthday To Me

p.c. The Birthday Film Co. Inc. p. John Dunning, André Link line p. Stewart Harding assist. to Dunning Irene Litinsky assist. to Harding Marilyn Majerczyk p. man. Carole Legault p. sec. Carole Laflamme unit. man. Ginette Hardy loc. man. Cary Ross p. account. Lucie Drolet office p.a./driver Stuart Woolley d. J. Lee Thompson assist. d. Charles Braive (1st), François Ouimet (2nd), Robbie Ditchburn (3rd) cont. superv. Monique Champagne casting Dani Hausmann, Francine Brasseur (assist.) d.o.p. Miklos Lente focus puller David Douglas assist. cam. Mathieu Décary (2nd), Claude Simon Langlois (3rd) key grip Johnny Daoust grips Emmanuel Lepine, Pierre Charpentier gaf. Don Saarl best boy Chuck Hughes 3rd elec. John Lewin sd. mix. Richard Lightstone boom Jim Thompson art d./special set ups Earl Preston assist. art d. Michel Denuet (1st), Claude Benoit (2nd) spec. efx. co-ord. Gary Zeller, Jacques Godbout (assist.), Emie

Tomlinson (assist.) prop. vehicle co-ord. David Phillips set props Charles Bernier, Ryal Cosgrove (assist.) props buyer Katherine Wadas dresser Denys Proulx, Armand Thomas (assist.) p.a./props Jim Hodgson p.a./art dept. Mark Montebello, Réal Paré ed. Michael & Debbie Karen stunts Rémi Julienne (co-ord.), Max Kleven costume design. Huguette Gagné ward. Marie-Hélène Gascon, Elizabeth Lamy (assist.) make-up Jocelyne Bellemare, Stephan Dupuis (spec. efx.), Tom Schwartz (spc. efx.), Michèle Burke (assist., spec. efx.) hair Bob Pritchett stills Piroška Mihalka unit pub. Elizabeth Morris, Ann McRoberts + associates p.a. Jacques LeFlaguais, Gregory Dunning driver captain Neil Allan Bibby driver/p.a. Christopher Gilmore, Marc Hébert driver/Melissa Sue Anderson Michael Borlace driver/Glenn Ford Edward Sanden craft service Gisèle Bolduc caterer Byron Ayanoglu

With **Happy Birthday to Me**, Dal Productions hopes to cut its share of horror genre box office pie. Its press release notes "currently raking in box office receipts are **The Shining**, **Friday the 13th**, and **The Fog**." Veteran director J. Lee Thompson (**The Reincarnation of Peter Proud**, **Eye of the Devil**, **The Guns of Navarone**, **The Greek Tycoon** and others) does not consider himself part of a marketing formula; he's more preoccupied with characterization and a visual interpretation of the script, than with equaling or surpassing the receipts of **Meatballs** (a past Dal success). "There is no formula for translating 'there is a chilling moment when X discovers the body' into filmed images. I would ask myself how Hitchcock would have shot it, but that's hardly employing a formula."

Birthday revolves around a series of bizarre and untimely "disappearances" amongst the "top 10" most outgoing and popular students of a New England university town. The film will try to leave audiences in the dark until the theatre lights go on. No one from the press is permitted on set for fear a reporter will see and record something which could spoil the surprise for theatre audiences. In fact, after roughly half the shooting, neither cast nor crew are aware of the identity of the killer, not even the killer him/herself. (This "In Progress" report was pieced together from off-set discussions with Michel René Labelle — one of the two Montreal actors in the "top 10" — and director J. Lee Thompson.)

Thompson says **Birthday** ought to resemble a film like **Psycho**, more than, say, **Friday the 13th** or **Alien**, in the sense that the horror or scariness of **Birthday** will derive from the audience's involvement in complex and sometimes perverse relationships. This said, a sizeable percentage of **Birthday's** \$3.5 million budget will be spent on special effects, in order to ensure the film's competitiveness with the mini-blockbusters cited in the public relations release.

Thompson's past involvement with Hitchcock (he worked as "dialogue director" on **Blackmail**, **The Lady Vanishes** and many other of Hitchcock's early British works) shows on set. Camera operator David Douglas says that every shot is planned in advance; there is no

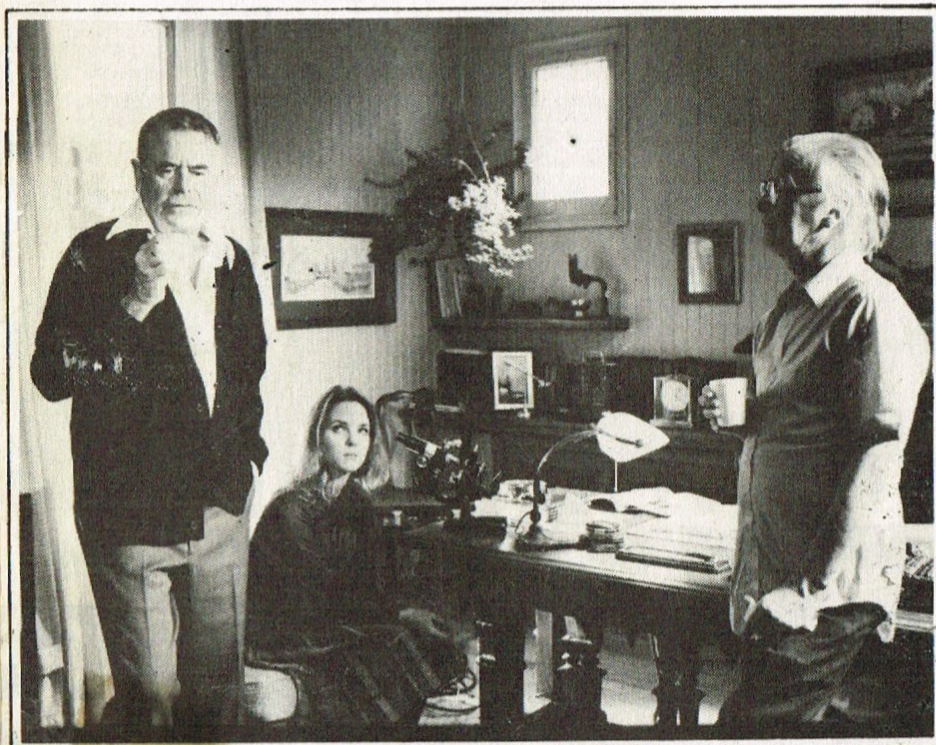


photo: Piroška Mihalka

This **Birthday's** more than just a piece of cake! Here, Glenn Ford, Melissa Sue Anderson and director J. Lee Thompson