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Canadian film hits big time

MONTREAL (CP) — Happy Birthday to Me, a Canadian movie starring Glenn Ford, has been picked up for worldwide distribution by Columbia Pictures, a spokesman for the Montreal-based company DAL Productions Ltd. has announced.

Backed by Columbia's \$4-million promotion campaign, the movie is slated to open in North American theatres during the Easter holiday period.

Shot in and around Montreal last summer, the movie is described as a psychological thriller set in a small college town.

Melissa Sue Anderson, the

Mary of television's Little House on the Prairie, plays a young woman battling "the terror of her own unbalanced mind" and Ford plays her physician-confidant.

Among the Canadian actors in Happy Birthday to Me are Lawrence Dane, Sharon Acker, Tracy Breggman and Jack Blume.

The movie was directed by J. Lee Thompson, the director of the suspense films Cape Fear, Eye of the Devil and The Reincarnation of Peter Proud.

DAL is the production company of John Dunning and Andre Link, the producers of more than 25 Canadian feature films.