

"The Secret" — A Movie Thriller Now Being Filmed On Northside

By Bob Duchemin
(Staff Writer)

If you're shooting a movie thriller and you're called Secret Productions Incorporated, what better name for your film than "The Secret."

Secret Incorporated has begun production on the major Canadian motion picture to be filmed entirely in Sydney Mines and the Princess Colliery and after extensive ground work and preliminary filming, actual scenes will get underway in two weeks.

Following the success of a number of films along the lines of Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho", John Carpenter's "Hallowe'en" and "Dressed To Kill", officials of the production company say theatre audiences throughout the world have proven their demand for exciting films and they figure "The Secret" will provide the movie-goers with the thrills they seek.

The Secret Film Company, whose parent company Cinepix in Montreal was responsible for "Meatballs" starring Bill Murray, and recently completed filming "Happy Birthday to Me" starring Glenn Ford and Melissa Sue Anderson of "Little House On The Prairie," chose Sydney Mines and Princess as the site for their latest production after scouting numerous mines and mining towns in Quebec and Ontario.

One of the major factors in their final choice was the co-operation they received from the N.S. Film Resources Centre, headed by Ms. Marcelle Gibson, presently in Sydney Mines, and the generous support offered by the Cape Breton Development Corporation and their mine manager Archie MacDonald.

The story of "The Secret" revolves around a legend of the mine, the young mine workers of the town and their girlfriends, and police chief Newby. A shroud of secrecy has enveloped this project from its inception as its scheduled opening across Canada and in 1100 theatres in

the United States necessitates a surprise publicity campaign.

The film stars Paul Kelman, who has recently completed filming "Gas" with Donald Sutherland; Lork Hallier of "Happy Birthday To Me" and Neil Affleck from "Ticket To Heaven." Also starring in the film are Keith Knight, best remembered as the 'fat kid' in "Meatballs" and Alf Humphries who also worked on "Gas."

Director for "The Secret" is George Mihalka and photography by Rodney Gibbons. The producers are Andre Link, John Dunning, Stephen Miller and Bob Presner. Mr. Presner said this week actual filming would begin September 21 in Sydney Mines. The three producers have been involved in the production of over 35 feature films.

No newcomers to the industry, John Dunning and Andre Link have been producing some of Canada's most successful films since joining forces in 1968. But with the release of their stunning successful "Meatballs", they have surged into U.S. prominence as well. "Meatballs" has proven to be one of the biggest boxoffice hits grossing \$50 million.

Presner has been involved in the production of seven feature films, thirty documentaries as well as over 1,000 television commercials. He has worked with actors such as Angie Dickenson, Donald Sutherland, David Hemmings and Stacy Keach to name just a few.

The filmmakers have set up shop in the abandoned Sobey's Store in Sydney Mines and presently are looking for "extras" to play in the film. To add authenticity the producers have done a thorough search for qualified film technicians and have been pleasantly surprised to find personnel available from Halifax.

"The Secret" is scheduled for worldwide theatrical release in February of 1981 and is anticipated by audiences around the world.