

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 12 August, 1977

THE NEW AVENGERS ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT IN CANADA

Nielsen-Ferns Inc. announces that filming will begin Monday, 15 August of the whimsical but resolute team of Steed, Purdey and Gambit as they become involved in foreign embassy intrigue in Toronto.

THE NEW AVENGERS track down the dangerous and infamous X41 in this first Canadian episode, entitled COMPLEX. Gambit finds himself in a Canadian jail and Purdey is battling a life and death situation in the bowels of one of Toronto's more spectacular buildings while Steed takes in the local art scene unaware of the immediate danger.

The director of COMPLEX is Richard Gilbert, well known for his extensive career beginning with the National Film Board where he produced and directed over 100 films. Since then he has directed episodes in such series as SIDESTREET (CBC), THE COLLABORATORS (CBC and ITV) and POLICE SURGEON (NBC and CTV). He recently has completed the pilot for the series POLICE DOG which is presently being sold around the world.

THE NEW AVENGERS will be in Toronto for fourteen weeks for the shooting of seven eipsodes being produced by Nielsen-Ferns Inc. The series is presently baing carried on the CTV network.

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For further information, contact:

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EPISODE TWO - "THE GLADIATORS"

The Russian K.G.B. is secretly headquartered at the Toronto Zoo - in this second of seven episodes of The New Avengers currently being filmed in Toronto. Karl Sminsky has a deadly new weapon no security device in the world can detect; and he's recruiting the toughest warriors in Canada to share the secret with. His mission - to knock out 20 years of stored knowledge in Canadian Security's central computer. His weapon - lethal hands that can stop bullets and shear through solid steel itself. Stop these extraordinary "gladiators" of espionage - is the formidable task facing Steed, Purdey and Gambit as they spend a harrowing vacation in the Ontario countryside.

The Director of "The Gladiators" is Claude Fournier. From 1956 to '61, he was a writer and director at the National Film Board, winning the 1961 Best Documentary Award in Canada for "Wrestling", as well as First Prize from the American Society of Cinematographers. He acted as Audio-visual Consultant at Expo '67 for the Canadian and Quebec Pavilions, as well as directing a three-screen film on Canada. In 1969, he was Director, Director of Photography, Editor and Co-Writer on the feature film, Deux Femmes En Or, to date the biggest box office success in Canadian film history. Since then he has directed several features, such as Les Chats Bottes, Alien Thunder, "Je Suis Loin de Toi, Mignonne"; as well as numerous television films in Canada and abroad, including the 1740 episode of the Imperial Oil series, The Newcomers.

 $\overline{13}$ New Avengers in Canada is being produced by Nielsen-Ferns Inc. The first episodes of the series are currently showing on the CTV network.

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THE NEW AVENGERS ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT IN CANADA

EPISODE THREE -"FORWARD BASE"

Fish nest in trees, dry land becomes water - in this third of seven episodes of THE NEW AVENGERS currently being filmed in the Toronto Harbour area. The Russians have a secret missile base concealed right inside North American defence systems - in Lake Ontario. And only a woman could have helped put them there - Agatha - the monster typhoon of '69 was the Russians' indispensable ally in espionage; and now the visiting Avengers must undo the 'damage' she has done. Steed goes 'fishing' in Canadian waters, Purdey gets more than a little bit wet, and Gambit tangles with the Toronto Police force as the fearless trio combine their skills to locate the sinister, masterfully concealed "Forward Base One".

This episode will include well-known Canadian actress MARILYN LIGHTSTONE, who recently won the ETROG award for Best Actress in the movie "Lies My Father Told Me". Miss Lightstone's last stage appearance was "Miss Margarida", a one woman play.

The Director of "Forward Base" is Don Thompson, award-winning Producer, Writer and Director. In the last nine years he has been involved in major productions for O.E.C.A., B.B.C., C.B.C., C.T.V., H.T.V. (England), Learning Corporation of America (New York), The New York Times and Nielsen-Ferns Inc. His films include the television dramas, The Mannikin, starring Ronee Blakley and Keir Dullea and The Ugly Little Boy, starring Kate Reid and Barry Morse; the series On The Line with host Judy Lamarsh, and two prize-winning episodes of The Camera and The Song, starring Buffy Ste. Marie and Dory Previn; and the musical drama-documentaries Avec Angele and True North.

THE NEW AVENGERS in Canada is being produced by Nielsen-Ferns Inc. The new series will be shown on the C.T.V. network.





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EPISODE FOUR - "EMILY"

From the deserted midway, Purdey escapes from her pursuers to join Steed and Gambit to try and track down 'The Fox'. A frantic chase on Lake Ontario - boats, water-skiers and The Payoff! but the sportive trio is outwitted. The only clue is a palm print on Miss Daly's beloved 'Emily', a 1941 Dodge. A spirited and determined car chase follows through the small towns and hills of the Vaughan Township countryside, with added touches of chicken farms and home-made stills.

And to guard this treasured hand print, Steed, Purdey and Gambit shun the police, kidnap 'Emily', Purdey goes through the car wash on the hood of 'Emily', and worst of all Steed has to make the choice between a bowler and a cowboy hat.

The enchanting Miss Daly is played by well-known Canadian actress JANE MALLETT, who eventually receives a souvenir of dear old ruined 'Emily' and a brand new 1941 Dodge!

The Director of "Emily" is Claude Fournier. Mr. Fournier was with the National Film Board from 1956 to 1961 and won the Best Documentary Award in Canada, as well as First Prize from the American Society of Cinematographers. He acted as Audio-visual Consultant at Expo '67 for the Canadian and Quebec Pavilions. In 1969, he was Director, Director of Photography, Editor and Co-Writer on the feature film Deux Femmes En Or, to date the biggest box office success in Canadian film history. Since then he has directed several features, as well as numerous television films in Canada and abroad. He recently directed the episode "The Gladiators" for The New Avengers.

The New Avengers in Canada is being produced by Nielsen-Ferns Inc. There are seven episodes to be filmed

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