

**Act Naturally—**

# Movie Group Seeks Eskimo Girl

By MARILYN RICHARDS

*"They're going to put me  
in the movies,  
They're going to make a big  
star out of me,  
They're going to put me in  
the movies,  
And all I got to do is  
act naturally."*

Some young Eskimo maiden may soon be humming that tune because a professional movie crew is searching for a leading lass for their picture.

Tom Mac Gowan, the director of the movies "Born Free," the "Aristocats" and other Walt Disney and wildlife pictures, is looking for a leading lady for "Julie of the Wolves."

The movie is based on a novel of the same name by Jean Georges Craig. Her book, which won the 1973 Newbery Medal, is about a young girl who was lost in the Arctic for two years living with wolves. Mac Gowan calls the story "unique and powerful." Production cost will be \$1 million. He said "Born Free" cost \$1.3 million dollars to make and grossed around 16 million. "Born Free" took 13 months to shoot, while this project, which he calls his most difficult movie yet, will take approximately 25 weeks.

Mac Gowan says he makes personal types of films. "I do more work than other directors usually do. I set the foundation for the work."

Executive producer is Genevieve Gilles, originally from France who acted in both French and American films. Gilles wants a girl with "delicate beauty." Mac Gowan, when interviewing the possibles, says he looks for a girl with "infectious charm." If they cannot find an Eskimo, California girls will be the last resort.

Gilles said it is difficult to find a young Eskimo to fit the role. "They are shy aren't they? They marry young don't they?" she asked. She is looking for a "bright girl with emotions, identity and a strong visual appearance." Gilles and Mac Gowan were in Point Barrow, where a third of the picture will be filmed, and at the Fairbanks campus of the University of Alaska interviewing girls ages 14 to 21.

The girl, once she is chosen, will be swept off to Peru for conditioning for two weeks then on to the bright lights of New York City for ten days of coaching lessons. Girls interested in applying for the job can write or send photos to Gillwood

Productions, 711 5th Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10022. The movie is a joint production of Gilles' Gillwood Productions and Mac Gowan Productions.

Shooting of the film will begin in Point Barrow May 15. The crew will consist of 15 technicians, not including the cast which may number 15 Alaskans. The Naval Arctic Research Laboratory at Point Barrow will assist the crew once the final okay is received from Washington. "Everybody has to work from the heart, it's not for the money," said Gilles. The libs will probably like the movie, her first production she said, because the writer, actor and producer are women.

"The movie is probably the toughest one I ever tackled," said Mac Gowan in explaining his tight schedule and the difficulties in casting. "Once we get a Julie for the film we can get the rest of the cast." The problems of shooting on tundra, finding isolated locations for shooting the wolves and finding the wolves remain to be solved.

This is the first time in Alaska for both Gilles and Mac Gowan, though both traveled around the world. "Rumor going around that the richest people in the world are the Arabs and the Eskimos," said Gilles in her beautiful accent. I don't think I explained the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement very clearly to her. Point Barrow, she said was nice but cold and very isolated. Mac Gowan had never been in twenty below weather before and said he heard stories about Fairbanks fifty below and ice fog season. "The people of Point Barrow are very willing to help in the film," he added.

The movie is one of the first major motion picture ventures in Alaska. May Marlon Brando eat his Oscar if "Julie" gets one!