



**THERE'S ROOM FOR EVERYONE, EVEN ELLIOTT—** Elliott the dragon poses with his friends Helen Reddy and Sean Marshall as he gets ready to give them a lift between takes of Walt Disney Productions' "Pete's Dragon," a musical fantasy combining live action and animation about a young orphan and his adventures with his occasionally visible friend, Elliott. In color by Technicolor, the Buena Vista release also stars Jim Dale, Mickey Rooney, Red Buttons and Shelley Winters. Don Chaffey directed for producers Ron Miller and Jerome Courtland.

**Star Dragon Is Shy**

Dragon footprints lined the driveway entrance to Walt Disney Studio in Burbank, California, last summer on the first day of production on "Pete's Dragon," the \$10 million musical fantasy combining live action and animation which was released at Christmastime.

The dragon, Elliott, apparently chose not to enter visibly but wanted to let the studio know he was there bright and early for his movie debut, starring with Helen Reddy, Jim Dale, Mickey Rooney, Red Buttons, Shelley Winters and his little pal Sean Marshall.

The footprints were just the first of occurrences that led detractors to question their former beliefs about the existence of dragons. Even in the script for the film, it is an unbelieving New England town that blames a 9-year-old runaway orphan for knocking down a fence and scaring the fish away from fishing boats, rather than

believe he has an occasionally visible dragon friend. But unpredictable Elliott, scamp that he is, won't appear to just anyone to prove his existence.

So it was with visitors to the set, reporters interviewing the film's other stars, photographers ready to snap America's version of an amenable Loch Ness monster.

But Elliott was there. His name was on the call sheet, telling him to be on the set at 7 A.M. his trailer had a sign outside that said "Elliott" the same as other stars had trailers with their names on them. He even had stand-ins, the sure sign of a real actor.

Don Chaffey, director saw him. He had Elliott present when he auditioned boys for the role of Pete, the runaway orphan. When Sean Marshall entered the room and Chaffey introduced them, the director said, "Sean started talking to him immediately."

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