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Film Review

Appointment In Honduras

(Melodrama - Technicolor)

RKO RELEASE of Benedict Bogeaus production. Director, Jacques Tourneur; screenplay, Karen DeWolf; from a story by Mario Silveira, Jack Cornall; camera, Joseph Biroc; editorial supervision, James Leicester; art director, Charles D. Hall; music, Louis Forbes; musical associate, Howard Jackson.

CAST—Stars Glenn Ford, Ann Sheridan; co-stars Zachary Scott, with Rodolfo Acosta, Jack Elam, Ric Roman, Rico Alaniz.

PREVIEWED at RKO studio, Hollywood, Calif., Oct. 19, 1953. Running time: 79 mins.

"Appointment In Honduras" is a pulp fiction melodrama of the kind that can be figured for good b.o. in some situations, but which, overall, can't hope for more than generally modest business. It's in Technicolor and has such familiar marquee names as Glenn Ford, Ann Sheridan and Zachary Scott, but b.o. prospects are still lean.

Plot is a Central American jungle chase as posed in the Benedict Bogeaus production for RKO release. All the stock equipment for such a setting is used: slithering snakes, yawning alligators; blood-thirsty pirandos, lurking pumas, man-eating ants and swarming wasps. Jacques Tourneur's direction uses these ingredients and the lightweight Karen DeWolf script to build a measure of suspense and tension, but the entertainment rarely rises above the pot-boiler level.

Melodrama object of the story by Mario Silveira and Jack Cornall is to have Ford trek across the jungle with the money that will finance an overthrown Honduras president. To start the trek he uses four convicts as tools to leave the small freighter he is aboard, and takes along Miss Sheridan and Scott, a quarreling married couple, as hostages. Remainder of the footage fulsomely details jungle dangers, as well as the murderous or cowardly temperaments of most of the strange group. Windup finds Ford thwarting efforts of his criminal companions to steal the money, outwitting pursuing revolutionaries and winding up with Miss Sheridan after her husband is conveniently killed.

Ford's talent almost makes his character believable. The most demanded of Miss Sheridan is to look jungle weary and quarrel with her cowardly husband, Scott. The latter fares no better. Among the Latin types, Rodolfo Acosta, leader of the convicts, manages a good characterization. Jack Elam, Ric Roman and Rico Alaniz are the other credited cast members.

The footage has been held down to a handy 79 minutes for the general double bill market under James Leicester's editorial supervision, but the trimming is not always smooth. Neither is Joseph Biroc's color lensing. Louis Forbes did the background score and other technical assists are standard.

Brog.