‘Soylent Green’ comes close to mirroring man

After almost two years absence from the screen and considerably more than that from Hollywood, actress Leigh Taylor-Young has returned to star with Charlton Heston and Edward G. Robinson in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer’s ‘‘Soylent Green,’’ a suspenseful futuristic drama set in New York in the year 2022.

The picture opens Friday at the T.W.O. Maryland Theatre with “Five on the Black Hand Side.”

“‘Soylent Green’ is concerned with man’s destruction of his own environment through overpopulation and lack of concern for ecology. I believe that people have to start realizing that these problems exist and begin dealing with them on an individual basis now so that the dire circumstances which take place in our story won’t be taking place in the actual year 2022,” Leigh says.

“The story hits hard but I believe that’s needed. I wouldn’t call it a ‘message’ film, rather a clear statement and concept that might not be far away. When one kills off nature, one is killing off oneself,” she adds.

Leigh feels that everyone can begin to help in many small ways:

“I was raised to throw out cans and bottles. It’s a matter of re-education. I’m now using the ones that can be recycled.

“People must stop using water-polluting detergents. Waste is such a terrible thing. I’m breaking myself of wasting electricity, water and food.”

Among other things that Leigh numbers can be done by the individuals are:

“Litter of any kind is bad enough, but littering anything that isn’t organic is worse. Don’t throw even the cellophane wrapper from a package out of the car window. Incidentally, the police are beginning to watch. A friend of mine got a $300 fine for exactly that.”