

'Magnum' exit a hot one

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TOM SELLECK'S "Magnum, P.I." TV's favorite private eye, went out in a blaze of glory with Sunday night's final episode, demolishing the competition on the two other networks. With Selleck going off to pursue his movie career, the crime-busting "Magnum" is hanging up his Hawaiian outfits and saying aloha after an eight-year run.

The final program, "Resolutions," which aired on CBS from 9 to 11 p.m. as a two-hour movie, averaged a huge 30.3 rating (percentage of all TVs) and a 45 share (percentage of TVs in use) in the overnight Nielsen survey of 15 major markets. The "Magnum" ratings were more than the two other networks combined, and more than double that of runner-up ABC.

ABC, with its initial installment of the two-part drama "The Richest Man in the World—The Story of Aristotle Onassis," starring Raul Julia as the Greek tycoon, averaged a 14.8 rating and a 22 share in the overnight survey. NBC's "Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome," with Mel Gibson and Tina Turner, ran out of the money, managing only an 8.5 rating and a 12 share.

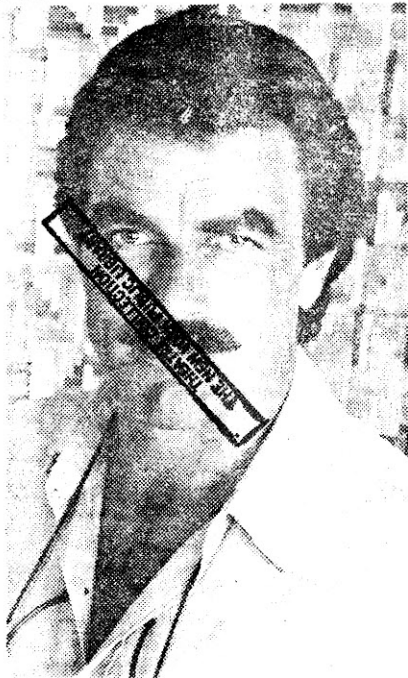
In New York, "Magnum" scored a 28.8 rating and a 42 share. The show had its best performance in Washington, where it averaged a whopping 37.8 rating and a 56 share. National ratings will be released today.

The show is expected to wind up as the week's most-watched telecast. But whether it will rank up there with the all-time greats is another question.

The final episode of "M*A*S*H" (Feb. 28, 1983) is still the king, with a 60.2 national rating and a 77 share. Next in line is the "Who Shot J.R.?" episode of "Dallas" (Nov. 21, 1980), which drew a 53.3 rating and 76 share. Then comes "Roots, Part 8," (Jan. 30, 1977), the concluding episode, which averaged a 51.1 rating and a 71 share, and "The Fugitive" (Aug. 29, 1967), with a 45.9 rating and a 66 share. The list excludes theatrical movies and special sporting events.

"Resolutions" was supposed to resolve a lot of unanswered questions in the series. But viewers were still left a bit in the dark about some issues, in particular whether Higgins (John Hillerman) is really Robin Masters, the absentee millionaire novelist and owner of the palatial Hawaiian estate. At one point, Higgins said he was, and later he said he was lying.

In case you missed the episode, TC (Roger E. Mosley) is reunited with his ex-wife; Rick (Larry Manetti) gets



ALOHA: Tom Selleck said goodbye Sunday.

married to former hooker Cleo (Phyllis Davis), and Magnum rejoins the Navy. The details of the episode were kept under tight guard before airing, with many of the supermarket tabloids reporting that Magnum would be killed off in the story, ending any speculation he might return in specials or otherwise.

"It's all up to Selleck and the producer at Universal whether they want to do a spinoff or a series of specials," said Peter Tortorici, No. 2 man to CBS programming chief Kim LeMasters. "With results like Sunday's show, we'll take anything they want to give us."

The series ended the season in 40th place out of 106 entries.

Selleck will spend the summer in New York shooting the movie "Her Alibi," a romantic comedy directed by Bruce Beresford ("Tender Mercies"). After wrapping up his film commitments, Selleck has committed himself to starring in a Broadway revival of "Mr. Roberts."

But for now, Selleck recently told the Washington Post, "I'm gonna hide out for three months and find out what it's like to get bored."

About doing 162 episodes of "Magnum," he said, "It's the best job I've had. If I were to do another series, it would be 'Magnum.'"

There's also speculation that Selleck might develop a series working behind the cameras. "Anything's possible," said Tortorici.

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