

MAGNUM, P.I. (TLC)

With Tom Selleck, John Hillerman, Roger E. Mosley, Larry Manetti, Pamela Susan Shoop, W.K. Stratton, Allen Williams, Clyde Kusatsu, Robert Loggia, Fritz Weaver, Dorit Stevens, Yuliis Ruval, Jeff MacKay, Judge Reinhold, Murray Salem, Eugenia Wright, Mel Carter

Supplier: Belisarius Prods., Glen A. Larson Prods. & Universal TV

Exec Producers-Writers: Donald P. Bellisario, Larson

Producer: J. Rickley Dumm

Director: Roger Young

120 Mins., Thurs. (11), 8 p.m.

CBS-TV

CBS-TV is filling its Thursday night "Hawaiian hole" with "Magnum, P.I." now that "Hawaii Five-O" has come to the end of its long primetime career. The locale may still be the same, but in most other details the new entry is a different cup of tea from the Jack Lord starrer. **DEC 17 1980**

The two-hour "Magnum" pilot unveiled Tom Selleck in the title role, a former Navy officer who has turned to private investigation — and still uses two former service buddies (helicopter pilot Roger E. Mosley and disco operator Larry Manetti) to help him solve his cases. He is living on a luxurious Oahu estate, owned by a best-selling novelist, by providing security services in exchange for use of separate digs on the premises — with other privileges to be negotiated with the owner's major domo (John Hillerman). **VARIETY**

In the opener, the basic premise was given a colorful start as Selleck set out to clear the name of another old buddy, this one still in the service, and eventually tracked down the clues that led to still another wartime colleague.

The previous background was useful to establish the relationships between Selleck, Mosley and Manetti — but the major focus was on Selleck, who established a likeable character, prone to follow hunches and to absolute belief in himself, which generated the major attraction of the two hours. P. 27

Good direction by Roger Young kept the pace quick enough to avoid a slick glossiness that would have shown through the script, which had overtones of escapist hokum that it would be wise to shuck as soon as it can. Hillerman proved to be an effective foil for Selleck in a relationship that could be developed into the top asset of the skein. Mosley and Manetti are already typecast in their parts, not too promising an aspect of the series.

The pilot got good guest shot performances from Fritz Weaver, Robert Loggia, Pamela Susan Shoop and W.K. Stratton and had its required share of action-adventure footage to keep the action fans happy. But its key to success would seem to be the good-looking Selleck and he created enough interest in the pilot to suggest that "Magnum" could be in for a successful run. --Bok.