

TV

# Sinatra and Selleck are really cookin'

By **GEORGE MAKSIAN**

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**O**L' BLUE EYES and Magnum are hitting it off like they've been working together for years. "They go together like ham and eggs," is the way one observer described **Frank Sinatra's** work with **Tom Selleck** this week during location shooting in Hawaii of an episode of "Magnum, P.I." (Tee)

The episode, marking a rare TV guest appearance by Sinatra, will air Feb. 25, during the all-important TV period known as sweeps, a month-long race for ratings which are then used to determine the advertising rates at local stations in the following months.

The "Magnum" episode will be Sinatra's first appearance in an episodic drama. No singing, just acting. In the episode, titled "Laura," Sinatra, 71, plays a retired New York City detective who comes to Hawaii and hires Magnum to help him locate his runaway son. But as it turns out, it's not his son at all, but a murderer involved in a crime that Sinatra's character couldn't solve before he retired.

"It's a very dramatic role," said **Alan Kohan**, a CBS press representative working on the series in Hawaii. "Sinatra is remarkable. He's working night and day, and you'd never think he recently had surgery. He looks super-

"The script was especially written for him by supervising producer, **Chris Abbott-Fish**, who used to work on 'Cagney & Lacey.' Sinatra had a lot of input with the script, however. He was in touch with Chris on the phone all the time from Palm Springs, Vegas, or wherever he might have been."

Kohan denied that Sinatra had complete creative control and demanded script approval. "Everybody got along fine," he said. "The whole thing came about last October when Sinatra was visiting Honolulu. He and Selleck, who are friends, had gotten together and Sinatra told him that he was interested in doing the show if a good role should come along."

Does this mean that Sinatra may make an encore

appearance? "The door is always open," said Kohan. "We've had other guest stars come back for additional appearances in the same role. **Annie Potts** of 'Designing Women' has been on twice, and **Eugene Roche** has been on at least four times as the same character."

"Magnum, P.I." is now in its seventh year. It had a rough time last season up against NBC's formidable "Cosby Show" at 8 p.m. on Thursday nights. But the series has improved its standings since being moved to Wednesday nights at 9, ranking in 30th place so far this season (last year it was in 56th place). Will it make to year No. 8?

"It's up to Selleck," said Kohan. "If he wants to do it, I'm sure CBS will keep him on."

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