



NEWS

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"M*A*S*H"
1976-77 SEASON

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION:

"M*A*S*H" rolled into its fifth season on the CBS Television Network with the reputation of being probably the most honored series on the air.

The consistently high-rated show itself, during its four years of exciting existence, has garnered a multitude of prizes and awards of various genre, including an Emmy Award and three other nominations as the Outstanding Comedy Series, and the coveted George F. Peabody Award for broadcasting excellence, the only primetime series ever to be so honored.

The artists, craftsmen and technicians engaged in the various and often memorable episodes of "M*A*S*H" have collected enough kudos to fill an Army ambulance or at least a brace of Korean War jeeps.

Alan Alda certainly is the most distinguished comedian in television today if his long list of awards and accumulated honors mean anything. He has copped a couple of Emmys including the Super Emmy Award and another one for Actor Of The Year. He has walked home with such assorted trophies as The People's Choice Award as Comedy Actor; two Golden Globes from the Hollywood Foreign Press as Best Comedy Actor; the Golden Apple Award of the Hollywood Women's Press Club; the American Academy of Humor's Comedy Award, and a nod from Family Weekly Magazine as the Most Popular Actor Of The Year, among other citations for his work in "M*A*S*H."

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The 20th Century-Fox Television hit series received a total of 40 Emmy nominations in its first four seasons, which also is some sort of highwater mark in the annals of the video.

And, in its fifth time around the tube, "M*A*S*H" finds itself, for a change, in the same time-slot -- 9:00-9:30 P.M. on Tuesdays nights over CBS-TV. It had been moved around the log listings to five different time-slots during its first four semesters.

The series' action still derives from the grim work which the Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) staff tries to forget by unpredictable after-hours antics which somehow help them to remain sane in an insane environment. The characters basically are serious people who turn to humor as a relief from the oppressive atmosphere of the operating rooms where they perform temporary "meatball" surgery on battle casualties. Their humor is a defense against misery.

Operating on the 38th Parallel within sound of the guns and the roar of planes, characters involved in "M*A*S*H" are the heroes and the hell-raisers, the bureaucrats and the bums, the demons and the dedicated who fight in every war.

That they get away with it is a tribute to their ingenuity and to their CO's high regard for their surgical prowess. That it comes to television in all its wonderful wackiness is due to an unusual blending of seasoned skill and fresh, glistening talent, all dedicated to the proposition that the late Civil War General Sherman didn't know the half of it.

In these racy vignettes of men and women caught up in history and hanky-panky are Alda, who plays Capt. Benjamin Franklin ("Hawkeye") Pierce, a top Army surgeon whose off-hours activities pulverize

military decorum, and Mike Farrell as Capt. B.J. Hunnicutt, a newer nominee for the title of the Army's best and wackiest surgeon.

A superior actor, Harry Morgan is cast as Col. Sherman Potter, the harassed Regular Army commanding officer torn between pride and panic as his top medicos shatter military etiquette.

Loretta Swit portrays Major Margaret ("Hot Lips") Houlihan, a stickler for military protocol. As the ambivalent nurse, she is torn between her passion for boyfriend Major Frank Burns and her desire to be an example of sterile efficiency to her fellow nurses.

Larry Linville plays "by-the-book" Major Burns, an overly devout man who seems on the brink of losing his piety, his virtue and, eventually, his membership on the MASH surgical team.

Gary Burghoff is "Radar" O'Reilly, the diminutive corporal whose weird gifts include ESP, 30-30 vision and long-range hearing.

Jamie Farr plays Klinger, the corporal who finagles for a Section 8 medical discharge by dressing in women's clothes.

William Christopher portrays Father Mulcahy, the priest who knows what's going on even while looking the other way.

There has been a reorganization of sorts in the production staff. Larry Gelbart, the brilliant writer who created the television version of "M*A*S*H," and had been co-producer with Gene Reynolds for four seasons, is gone on to other creative endeavors, having requested an honorable discharge from active duty with "M*A*S*H."

Reynolds -- who won an Emmy Award for Best Directing in Comedy for an episode of "M*A*S*H" last season -- now serves as executive producer, with three producers working with him. The co-producers are Don Reo & Allan Katz and Burt Metcalfe, the latter having worn associate producer stripes with distinction during the first four years. Also joining the production team is Jay Folb, as executive story consultant.



CBS TELEVISION NETWORK
PRESS INFORMATION
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September 3, 1976

Following are cast and production credits for the special one-hour, fifth-season premiere of "M*A*S*H," Tuesday, Sept. 21 on the CBS Television Network:

ON AIR: Tuesday, 9:00-10:00 PM, ET
ORIGINATION: Hollywood (film)
PRE-EMPTS ON THIS DATE: "One Day at a Time"
ORIGINAL PREMIERE: September 17, 1972
STARS: Alan Alda, Mike Farrell, Harry Morgan
CO-STARS: Loretta Swit, Larry Linville, Gary Burghoff, Jamie Farr, William Christopher
PRODUCED BY: Twentieth Century-Fox Television
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Gene Reynolds
PRODUCERS: Don Reo, Allan Katz and Burt Metcalfe
EXECUTIVE STORY CONSULTANT: Jay Folb
DIRECTOR: Gene Reynolds
WRITERS: Jim Fritzell and Everett Greenbaum
THEME BY: Johnny Mandel
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: William Jurgensen
FILM EDITOR: Stan Tischler
ART DIRECTOR: Rodger Maus
SET DECORATOR: Bert Allen
MUSIC SUPERVISOR: Lionel Newman

(More)

CAST:

Hawkeye.....	ALAN ALDA	Cho Man Chin..	Richard Lee Sung
B.J. Hunnicutt.....	MIKE FARRELL	Rosie.....	Frances Fong
Col. Sherman Potter..	HARRY MORGAN	Captain.....	Don Eitner
Hot Lips.....	LORETTA SWIT	Buck.....	Barry Cahill
Maj. Frank Burns.....	LARRY LINVILLE	Girl No. 1....	Eileen Saki
Radar.....	GARY BURGHOFF	Girl No. 2....	Ko-Ko Tani
Corporal Klinger.....	JAMIE FARR	Salkowitz.....	Jeff Maxwell
Father Mulcahy.....	WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER		

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