

## How do you decide on the best way, storywise, to write a main castmember off the show?

**CHAPMAN** Our first instinct is always that they're leaving the show so we're going to kill those characters. (*Laughs.*) Then we usually come to our senses and we hash it out.

**HOLDEN JONES** We draw a lot of storylines from real life, and it happened that the year Emily left was after I lost my husband of 45 years. Grief and loss were very much on my mind, and I thought, "This is a story I should tell." The story of that entire season became one of grief and recovery. I think we made lemonade out of that lemon.



From left: *The Resident* stars Dayal (as Dr. Devon Pravesh), Emily VanCamp (Nic Nevin), Czuchry and Greenwood. COURTESY OF TOM GRISCOM/FOX

## Amy, did you have multiple seasons of the show mapped when you were pitching to networks?

**HOLDEN JONES** I remember a crucial meeting I had with Dana Walden [then head of Fox Television Group] back when they were deciding whether to make *The Resident* or not. She asked me, "Do you have enough stories?" I said we have thousands of stories that haven't yet been told on medical shows because we're dealing with something that medical shows have never dealt with — that's the underlying problems of the health care system, the things that doctors are fighting to make right.

**The idea of exposing flaws in the health care system on a serialized drama was much edgier back then, before the political landscape and the pandemic made things like disparity of care widely known. Did that POV help you stand out to executives or were people resistant to the idea of criticizing medical workers?**

**HOLDEN JONES** They were resistant. One of the problems with what gets on television is that executives are in a very precarious position. Developing anything outside of a specific template is difficult for them. It took a lot of bravery for Fox to make the show. The only time we were thrown for a loop was during the pandemic because we couldn't be showing the corruption of medicine during a time when we needed to be encouraging people to go get a vaccine at the hospital. So that season, we made the hospital public and the problems came from outside the hospital.

**From that process, or from what you've gone through to get the show to 100 episodes, do you feel particularly prescient about the landscape of the network television show?**

**HOLDEN JONES** Both of us did pilots before *The Resident*, and we learned the mentality of a long shot. If you sell the networks something in September, by January they want something else. Or they pick up a show from someone famous, and it's not even very good — because it's from someone famous. I don't have the answers to this business, and I don't think anybody does because it's so staggeringly in flux that there's an aura of panic. My own opinion is that the pendulum is swinging back somewhat to network shows, and people are going to have to realize that.