

As the show has progressed and you've seen a couple of castmembers move on, you've also added in new actors, like Morris Chestnut and Andrew McCarthy. What do you look for when adding to this already established dynamic?

CHAPMAN We look for complementary people, but we're also very aware of specifically what kind of doctors we have in the hospital, from surgeons to internists to nurses to administrators. It's a delicate balance because actors playing surgeons often get these exciting operating scenes that often come in the fourth or fifth act with these big, scary stakes. Like with Andrew McCarthy, he's playing a pediatric surgeon, so that helps us. We do a lot of real-life medical thinking.

HOLDEN JONES You may have noticed that we've added actors from '80s and '90s sitcoms because my feeling is that if people can do comedy, they can do anything. We don't want too much deadly seriousness on this show. We also make sure to properly vet people and make sure they haven't been a problem on set elsewhere. A little-known fact to people outside of our cast and crew is that we have one of the happiest productions in television. There is no drama, there are no divas. Everyone really likes each other. That's really important to me because once upon a time I was a director and wrote features, and I don't think there was a single project where there wasn't a great drama caused by someone. That's really a great distraction.



The Resident cast, with creator Amy Holden Jones (center) and showrunner Andrew Chapman (fifth from left), celebrated the 100th episode during a cake-cutting fete on the Atlanta set. COURTESY OF TOM GRISCOM/FOX

Which moments from the first 99 episodes stand out to you as the most meaningful?

CHAPMAN I think our opening for season four, when we were in the heart of COVID and we did a COVID-themed episode, that was one of my favorite episodes by far. That episode was just a powerful thing to write — and to see — in the middle of the pandemic.

HOLDEN JONES A key episode for me is the pilot, which I'm very proud of. The fifth episode features multiple surgeries with Mina running in between them and an intern who kills himself. Those two storylines were supposed to be in the second episode, but the network freaked out and didn't want to go there. I had terror in my heart that they wouldn't let us do what we were trying to do, but by the fifth episode, they trusted Todd [Harthan], who wrote it and was the showrunner, to know what the show was all about. It really set the template.

Is there a piece of advice you wish you had back when you started the show?

CHAPMAN I think the most important thing for showrunning is remaining calm. Every episode, every season, there's always going to be some disastrous thing. You read so much about shows that hand in scripts the night before they shoot and such, and we never do that. We work hard, and that's great, but we never panic.

Given the nature of the surgeries and medical emergencies that happen in the show, is there ever any squeamishness on set?