

FALLS RESTAURANT REVIEW

# Initiative Brewing stands out from typical pub fare

BY THE FALLS  
RESTAURANT REVIEWERS

More and more brewpubs keep sprouting in the High Desert. Most have similar fare, making it difficult to identify a point of difference.

Initiative Brewing in Redmond does so with atypical menu offerings, homemade sauces, and high quality local ingredients. Oh, the beer is also very good.

Initiative's honey rose margarita (\$13) is delicious and a nice way to start a delightful evening with friends. Not too sweet, it has just the right combination of tequila, triple sec, fresh squeezed lime, honey, and house-made rose syrup. This cocktail just might make you want to ask for an encore — if you aren't driving, of course!

If you're in the mood for a refreshing and light appetizer, do try the strawberry and feta salad, \$12. A mixture of wild greens, thinly sliced cucumber, crumbled feta cheese, strawberries, and toasted almond, this salad is served with delicious black pepper vinaigrette on the side. If



A variety of food is available at Initiative Brewing. The new brew pub opened May 24 at 424 NW 5th Street. (submitted photo)

you're into salads, this is perfect on a warm summer's eve. An example of not-your-

parents-pub-grub is Korean fries (\$15.) These fresh cut fries are covered in a very



Where to find it

**Initiative Brewing**  
424 NW 5th St.  
Redmond  
Phone: 541-527-4380  
Hours: Daily, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Online orders: <https://www.toasttab.com/initiative-brewing-424-north-west-5thstreet>

tasty but not killer-hot kimchi, Tillamook cheddar, hoisin sauce, Asian chile sauce and green onions. Wonderful.

The pork belly BLTA sandwich (\$16) has roasted pork belly, lettuce, tomato and avocado on a Big Ed's Bun with crema and jalapeno aioli. Also very good.

The Baja chicken sandwich (\$18) includes a flavorful and moist chicken breast, Tillamook Swiss, roasted corn salsa and avocado aioli. We liked it.

We shared the Bavarian pretzel from Big Ed's Bakery, served with house-made beer mustard and cheese sauce. Yum — enough for three of us as a starter!

You can't go wrong with a classic cheeseburger in a pub and you won't be disappointed with Initiative's. The 7-ounce burger is \$17 and for another \$3 you can add bacon. It is served with Tillamook cheddar along with tomato and lettuce with a house-made beer mustard aioli. Onions and pickles are standard fare. The Oregon beef was cooked to perfection. Big Ed's brioche bun added a terrific touch. The burger does come with fresh-cut fries as a standard, but there are other options

available.

If you're not madly hungry, order the peanut shrimp (\$16) an appetizer that is more than enough for a light dinner. Nine pan-fried shrimp sautéed with garlic, ginger, and scallions are served over green onion slaw, drizzled with peanut sauce, and topped with green onion and black sesame seeds. Very yummy and more than enough for an entrée. Would order again.

The peanut butter bacon burger (\$18) may sound a bit "exotic" to the more health-conscious, but don't be dissuaded. The "peanut butter" is actually a delicate peanut sauce that adds a light, bittersweet hint to the burger. This is a 7-ounce Central Oregon beef patty topped with Tillamook Swiss cheese, crispy bacon, lettuce, tomato, onion, pickled Fresno chilies and the aforementioned peanut sauce. Delicious.

There is plenty of covered seating outdoors.

■ *The Falls Restaurant Reviewers are René and Steve Boone, Louise and Marv Kaplan, and Susie and Remney Sem.*

# ETC to bring back 'Circle Mirror Transformation'

BY DAVID JASPER  
For the Spokesman

Craig Brauner didn't necessarily need a sign that the independent theater company he cofounded had made the right decision to take its first live production, "Love, Loss and What I Wore," to Bend, Sisters and Redmond in February.

That's baked into the company's mission.

"With our roadshow format, the goal is to essentially broaden our artistic reach to all of Central Oregon, not just here in Bend," Brauner said.

Still, had he been looking for a sign Ellipse Theatre Community was on the right path, he may have found it by way of the Redmond widow who donated \$1,000 to the nonprofit theater group to continue its roadshow initiative.

"It was a really touching story," Brauner said. "Her husband would always drive her to Bend for performances, but when he passed, she was pretty limited as far as what she could do, so she gave us a great donation. That was really key for me, personally, that we return to Redmond."

Brauner is referring to the play "Circle Mirror Transformation," which ETC will not only take to Redmond but also Sisters, Prineville and other Central Oregon cities.

The play is a comedy about five strangers who sign up for an intro to acting class. Over six weeks, the class cycles through a series of theater games and emotional catharsis.

Playwright Annie Baker "has a specific style in her writ-



Cast members rehearse a scene from Annie Baker's "Circle Mirror Transformation." (Submitted photo)

If You Go

What: ETC presents "Circle Mirror Transformation"

- Details:  
2 and 7 p.m. Sept. 10 at Sunriver Public Library, 56855 Venture Lane, Sunriver  
2 p.m. Sept. 11 at Crook County Public Library, 175 NW Meadow Lakes Drive, Prineville  
7 p.m. Sept. 17 at Love Bird Yoga, 418 SW Sixth St., Redmond  
2 p.m. Sept. 18 at Sisters Public Library, 110 N. Cedar St., Sisters

ing where she really plays a lot with pauses, silences," director Brauner said. "For an audience, you really get to observe more of what's not being said. There's the lines that the actors are saying, but then there's what's being communicated within those silences and those pauses."

Performances will take place in Sunriver, Sisters and Prineville libraries, as well as Lovebird Yoga Studio in Redmond and Scalehouse Gallery in Bend. The show is an easy one to

tour, Brauner said with a small cast and a simple set consisting mostly of props.

"It involves a yoga ball, a Hula Hoop and five of the actors," Brauner said. "The way the show's going to be staged, it's a very intimate show, and more of a smaller scale, so the audience is actually going to be right in on the action. I staged it in a way that the audience is circling the action of the play."

■ Reporter: 541-383-0349, [djasper@bendbulletin.com](mailto:djasper@bendbulletin.com)

PET OF THE WEEK

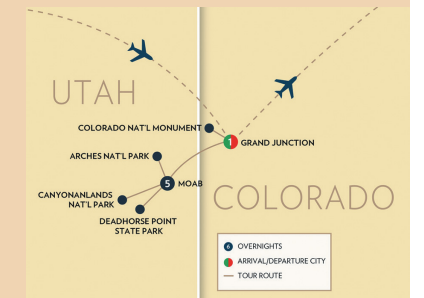
Meet Bruce!  
Bruce was brought to BrightSide as a stray and now is waiting for his forever home.

Not knowing Bruce's history, we are still working to learn everything about him we can. Bruce is a very sweet, active and adorable boy who enjoys his walks and play time with staff. Bruce loves to give kisses and its hard not to let him with his adorable and huge smile. As he spends time here, Bruce will continue his basic obedience knowledge as well as learn more about leash walking.

At this time we are not sure how Bruce does with cats, and we require a meet and greet between him and other dogs in the home to ensure a good fit.



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- DAY 3: CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK, DEAD HORSE POINT STATE PARK
- DAY 4: MOAB, MONUMENT VALLEY
- DAY 5: CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK
- DAY 6: ARCHES NATIONAL PARK, CANYONLANDS BY NIGHT
- DAY 7: MOAB, GRAND JUNCTION, FLIGHT HOME

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ Arches National Park
- ▶ Capitol Reef National Park
- ▶ Canyonlands National Park
- ▶ Dead Horse Point State Park
- ▶ Canyonlands by Night Cruise
- ▶ Grand Junction, Colorado
- ▶ Scenic Byway 128
- ▶ Colorado National Monument
- ▶ Monument Valley
- ▶ Monument Valley Scenic Drive Tour
- ▶ Lunch at Goulding's Lodge

- ▶ Goulding's Museum & Trading Post
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- ▶ Hotel Transfers

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- ▶ Roundtrip Airfare - PDX or RDM +(\$250 pp)
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- ▶ 10 Meals: 6 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch & 3 Dinners
- ▶ Professional Tour Director
- ▶ Motorcoach Transportation

ACCOMMODATIONS:

- ▶ 1 Night - DoubleTree Hotel, Grand Junction, CO
  - ▶ 5 Nights - Hyatt Place, Moab, UT
- On some dates alternate hotels may be used*

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**Partners In Care**

**Upcoming Grief Support Series**

Partners In Care offers a variety of support services for families, friends, and the community when a loved one dies. The following series will begin in September and end in November. All conducted virtually.

**General Grief Group**  
8 weekly sessions beginning September 12 - 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

**Spousal Loss Support Group**  
8 weekly sessions beginning September 15 - 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**Open to the community at no cost!**  
Register by calling (541) 382-5882 and a Zoom registration will be emailed to you.

**(541) 382-5882 PartnersBend.org**

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