# THE OPENING ACT



### contact us

## **Lisa Britton**

Go! Editor

editor@goeasternoregon.com 541-406-5274

#### **Sarah Smith**

**Calendar Coordinator** 

calendar@goeasternoregon.com

#### **SUBMIT NEWS**

Submit your event information by Monday for publication the following week (two weeks in advance is even better!).

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# What We're Into 'The Bear' on FX

I blew through FX's latest hit show "The Bear" on Hulu in just a few days. This chaotic, yet deeply feeling show set in the albeit dingy Original Beef of Chicagoland restaurant is — to me — a gleaming success. If the words "behind," "eighty-six," "hands" and "all day" mean anything to you, give this show a try.

While the series captures the overwhelming aspect of restaurant work, it also beautifully depicts the artistic vision and drive of those behind the line. In the chaos of the kitchen, the show's characters grapple with their own, very real challenges.

Jeremy Allen White — best known for his long-running role on the showtime hit, "Shameless" — plays a chef named Carmy, who has come home to save his family's restaurant after the death by suicide of his brother Michael (played in flashbacks by Jon Bernthal).

Carmy and his ambitious new souschef Sydney (Ayo Edebiri) scramble to bring order to the kitchen. The Beef's seemingly disparate kitchen staff can't catch a break, from exploding toilets to piling debt.

The pacing, cinematography and sound design of the show coalesce to create a cacophonous yet simultaneously melodic viewing experience — from quiet, calculated shots of a chocolate cake being prepared to the chaotic, flashing moments of kitchen mayhem. You feel as if you too should be getting to work, chopping onions or scrubbing down.

Having worked in the service industry, "The Bear" brought a very familiar stress bubbling to the surface. Still, dynamism



Frank Ockenfels/FX

and vulnerability of the show's characters kept the show refreshingly grounded and earnest. If nothing else, this show will make your mouth water, so don't watch on an empty stomach.

— Shannon Golden, reporter, The Observer

# **New releases**

# **Bella Poarch, 'Dolls'**

In theory this should work. With her massive TikTok following, Bella Poarch

needed to strike while the iron is hot and release a studio EP. "Dolls" is it.

Now comes the tricky part. Will enough of



"Dolls" is heavy on production, with Poarch offering little more than breathy coos above a mundane pop backdrop. Songs like "Build A Bitch" and "Dolls" have a decent message about self-identity, but they are delivered in fleeting and furtive fashion, with Poarch rushing clutches of lyrics past us instead of, well, singing.

— The Associated Press

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