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Season four of 'House of Cards' starts off strong

'HOUSE OF CARDS'

Kevin Spacey,
Robin Wright

A-

"House of Cards" has always been good with beginnings.

Protagonist Frank Underwood's first monologue expertly defined his character. The second season premiere was one of the most memorable starts to a television season I have ever seen.

The season four premiere is a fast-paced and well-acted return to this world of political intrigue and darkness. Claire Underwood, Frank's wife, has left him and is considering

a run for Congress. Frank is trying to get re-elected as the President of the United States, but the release of an old enemy from jail promises to complicate his efforts.

The characters in "House of Cards" are far from moral, but they are interesting. They're intelligent, quick-witted people who are good at political maneuvering. It's always a pleasure to see them wheel and deal.

That's why one of my favorite scenes takes place between Claire and Congresswoman Doris Jones, played by Cicely Tyson. Tyson's a natural for the blunt yet layered dialogue written by "House of Cards"

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W | COMMENTARY

'House of Cards': Modern day Shakespeare

By Austin Faulds | @a_faulds9615

If all the world's a stage, then Washington, D.C. is the mighty Globe Theatre itself.

Need proof? Just turn on the TV and flip to any news broadcast. Reality stars, family disappointments and absurd Zodiac killer connections are just a few headlines that stem from what Rolling Stone affectionately calls the "GOP clown car."

Not to romanticize the left either. The reincarnation of Eugene V. Debs and a representative of Wall Street are certainly shocking choices

for candidates, as well.

None of this is new, either. Washington, D.C. has had a devilishly affectionate history with melodrama. Don't forget fiends like Richard Nixon, Andrew Jackson and Harry S. Truman have served time in office.

This sort of political lunacy has been best represented in the popular Netflix original series "House of Cards," which has recently released its fourth season for streaming.

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MUSICIANS & POLITICIANS

Do musicians have the right to talk about politicians? We say yes. Read Austin Fauld's Journalmania column on **page 10**.



WHITE HOUSE DREAM TEAM

We cast our favorite television characters as President, Vice President and every position of the cabinet. Read our top picks and why they would rock the fictional political world at idsnews.com/weekend.