

## Cosby gives Capitol an A+

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BOB BOUGHNER

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Chatham's Capitol Theatre received an "A-plus" rating Tuesday from longtime comedian Bill Cosby, who entertained for two sold-out audiences last week.

The 73-year-old Cosby is the first of several well-known personalities scheduled to perform in the \$20 million-plus reconstructed theatre on King Street in historic downtown Chatham.

In a telephone interview from his New York apartment, Cosby said he "thoroughly enjoyed" his short time in Chatham.

"The audience was great," he said. "We had a good time. It was like visiting old friends except they had to pick up the tab."

Cosby said he's looking forward to another visit to Chatham, "but it likely won't be for about two years because I've got to come up with some new material."

Cosby said the theatre was so new he could smell the paint.

"But the theatre people were wonderful – real pros," he said. "They had the right kind of soap, towels and bottled water for me and a backstage lady had her friend make up some Greek food. I wish I could remember her name but it escapes me but I want to thank her — it was great."

Cosby said because of his busy schedule he was unable to tour Chatham and area. But he said he intends to do just that on his next visit.

As for his audiences, Cosby said they were great.

"We had a ball," he said. "I thoroughly enjoyed myself."

Cosby said the acoustics in the theatre were excellent and added the size of the facility was perfect for his style of entertainment.

The entertainer and his wife were at their New York apartment Tuesday afternoon preparing to take their three grandchildren out for dinner.

Cosby is marking 48 years in the entertainment business.

Claudia Laevens of RR I Pain Court said she thoroughly enjoyed Cosby's performance.

"He was very funny, very entertaining," she said. "I wouldn't have missed it for the world."

Laevens said the entire theatre was sold out for his two performances.

"It was great being able to see such a well-known entertainer so close to home," she said. "Everyone I talked to following the performance was pleased with the show. Cosby was a real hit."

Other well-known personalities scheduled to entertain at the Capitol Theatre this fall include Howie Mandel on Oct. 14.

bboughner@chathamdailynews.ca.