



# The Chatham Daily News

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Chatham-Kent, Ontario

ENTERTAINMENT: Tickets on sale to public Saturday

## Cosby to headline Capitol festival

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The Daily News

Get your knitted sweaters and Jell-O pudding pops ready. One of America's favourite comedians and TV fathers will headline the opening festival at the Chatham Capitol Theatre.

Bill Cosby is slated to perform two shows on Sept. 22.

Theatre general manager Dan Donaldson said the legendary performer is exactly what's needed to create the buzz.

"It's thrilling," he said. "He's a charming guy and very easy to work with."

"We wanted someone of that calibre to launch the building," Donaldson said he's worked with the comedian in the past on a number of occasions.

He said Cosby keeps his shows different and gears them to the age of the crowd.



Cosby

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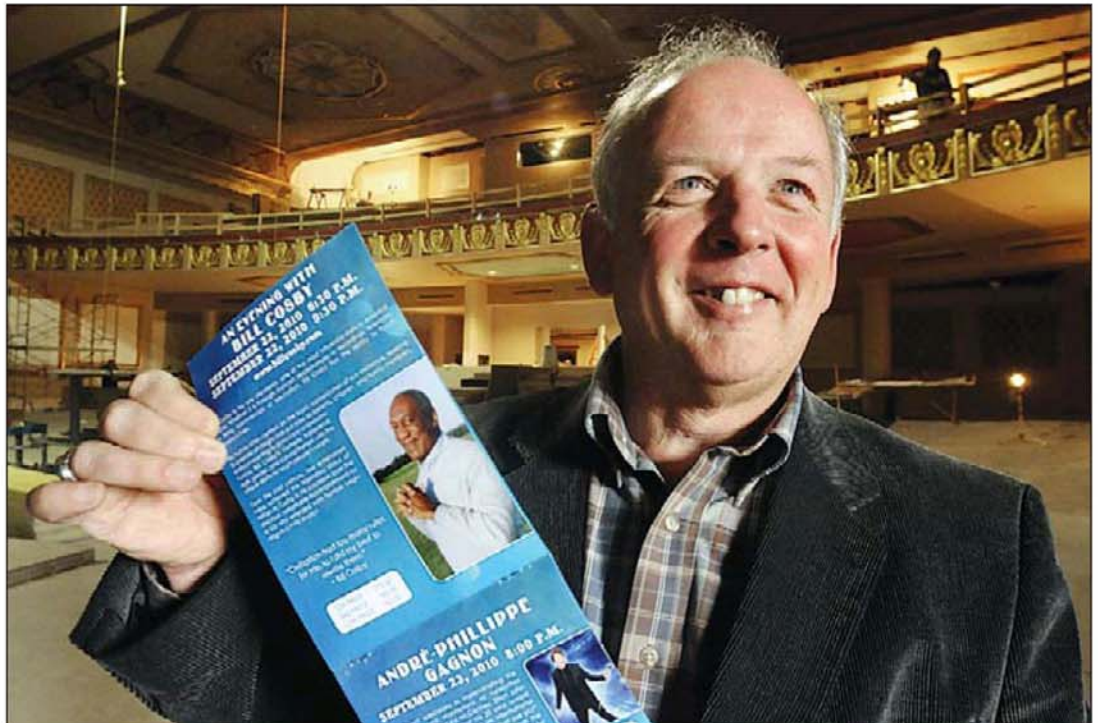
Dan Donaldson  
general manager, Capitol theatre

An official announcement was planned at the Capitol Theatre this morning.

"You should not be surprised when you see names of a similar calibre in the regular part of the inaugural season," Donaldson said.

The opening festival will run Sept. 17-25 and also feature impressionist Andre-Philippe Gagnon, Phantom of the Opera's Colm Wilkinson, a production of the ballet Cinderella, and the Dark Nights Movie Company.

"The objective is to have a different kind of event each night," Donaldson said. "We wanted to develop something



Diana Martin photo@chathamdailynews.ca  
Dan Donaldson displays a brochure for the Chatham Capitol Theatre Opening Festival. Bill Cosby and a soon-to-be-announced headlining musical act will be two of the festival highlights.

that will showcase the kind of things that the Capitol will do on a regular basis."

The third-annual Mayor's Gala for the Arts will take place on the first night on the theatre stage.

A Chatham-Kent celebration is planned for the last day, featuring the Windsor Symphony Orchestra, Nathaniel Dett Choral and the Capitol Celebration Choir.

This choir will consist of community members and anyone interested in singing can contact the theatre association office.

Individual tickets for Cosby range from \$60 to \$75. Festival passes will be available — for \$342 or \$262 — each offering various discounts.

Donaldson said a major country music artist will be announced once details are finalized.

Performances before the festival are also planned, with international dance troupe Tap Dogs taking to the stage Aug. 3-7. Tickets are \$25 to \$35.

People who buy a ticket to any festival event before May 1 can purchase the same number for Tap Dogs at half price.

In light of the years it has taken to get to this point, Donaldson is happy he can now focus on the entertainment aspect.

"It's been a long time coming," he said. "It's given everybody a different kind of energy and reinvigorated us all."

Crews are putting finishing touches on the theatre, with seating, rigging and the sound system still to be installed.

Tickets are available today for theatre members and donors, and tomorrow for the general public.

Visit the Capitol Theatre box office, Chatham Cultural Centre, call 519-354-8338, or visit [www.cktickets.com](http://www.cktickets.com).

The opening festival schedule is as follows:

- Sept. 17  
10 a.m. — ribbon cutting  
11 a.m. — public tours  
6 p.m. — Mayor's Gala for the Arts (\$100)
- Sept. 18  
To be announced
- Sept. 19  
To be announced

- Sept. 20  
8 p.m. — Dark Nights movie company (\$9)
- Sept. 21  
2:30 p.m. — Cinderella (school matinee \$15)  
7:30 p.m. — Cinderella (public \$22-\$35)
- Sept. 22  
6:30 p.m. — Bill Cosby (\$60-\$75)  
9:30 — Bill Cosby
- Sept. 23  
8 p.m. — Andre-Philippe Gagnon (\$35-\$55)
- Sept. 24  
8 p.m. — Colm Wilkinson (\$40-\$50)
- Sept. 25  
7:30 p.m. — Chatham-Kent celebration (\$30-\$50)

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