

Bill Cosby Coming to SWOSU

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As part of Comedy Central's *Far From Finished Tour*, comedian Bill Cosby will appear at Southwestern Oklahoma State University on Thursday, April 3.

Cosby will be the first major act in the new Pioneer Cellular Event Center on the Weatherford campus, and the show is part of the university's Panorama series.

Tickets range from \$25 to \$60 and can be purchased online through the SWOSU website at www.swosu.edu or at stubwire.com.

One of America's most beloved comedians of all time, Cosby has captivated generations of fans with his comedy routines, iconic albums and best selling books such as *Fatherhood*. His comedy transcends age, gender and cultural barriers.

Cosby broke television's racial barrier with *I Spy*, becoming the first African American to costar on a television series while winning three consecutive Emmys. He created and produced the Emmy-winning cartoon *Fat Albert* and the *Cosby Kids*, which began airing in the 1970s and was made into a film in 2004. The show, based on Cosby's childhood in Philadelphia, was designed to educate and entertain.

The former Navy serviceman's illustrious list of accomplishments includes roles on the children's educational show *Electric Company* and creating and producing the Emmy award winning *Little Bill*, which is based on his bestselling book series.

Perhaps Cosby's greatest contribution to American entertainment and culture is *The Cosby Show*, about a close-knit, upper class black family. Cosby said his intent was to portray an American family. *Time* magazine called the show "an encouraging sign of maturity in matters of race." *The Cosby Show* dominated the number one spot for years, earning nearly unanimous critical praise.

Cosby's current best seller is *I Didn't Ask to Be Born, But I'm Glad I Was*. Cosby talks about the Bible, being a grandfather and his first love in his humorous and insightful manner.

Cosby has received the Kennedy Center Honors, the Presidential Medal of Freedom (America's highest civilian honor), the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor and the Marian Anderson Award.

Cosby's been busy raising a family, too. He married the former Camille Hanks on January 25, 1964, while she was still a student at the University of Maryland. They raised four daughters (Erika, Erinn, Ensa and Evin) and one son (Ennis) and now have three grandchildren. The family resides in New England.