Bill Cosby talks about 'A Very Super Special Place,' The Apollo

"The Apollo was the Mecca," says NBC-TV star Bill Cosby, who will host NBC TV's salute to that theatre, "Motown Returns to the Apollo," Sunday, May 19 at 8 p.m. "There was pride that existed in playing there. The name itself had a draw."

Cosby played the Apollo in 1968 when he was starring on NBC-TV's "I Spy" series. "I played there because a friend of mine came to me and said, 'You should do it because the people want to see you.' I donated the money to charity."

Although he had many hit comedy records by that time, Cosby recalls, the Apollo audiences had never heard them. "In those days they did not play comedy records on the air. Black stations played music. And if you came into the Apollo with a hit record, you were a tough ticket.

"The people only knew that I was the Bill Cosby who was on TV in 'I Spy.' But, the question came as they saw the name on the marquee, 'Well who is that and what is he going to do?' The Shiffmans (the family that owned and operated the theatre for more than 40 years) thought there would be a sell-out crowd to come and see a television star. But when I arrived, I think we may only have had a third of the house. The next thought was that word of mouth after seeing my act would bring them in, because, in fact, it did turn out that I was funny. And the house did fill up. I could have played on and on and on once the word of mouth got around. And word of mouth always got around. By the time we ended the engagement, we had lines of people around the block.

"If I had a hit record called 'Jump Baby Jump!' and I had come to the Apollo, I would have filled up the theatre immediately.

"In the Apollo, the comedians worked as the emcees. You would have somebody who would later become the Flip Wilson going out and doing a two-minute monlogue talking to the audience while the people waited to see the next act. At times there existed a dialogue between the comedian and the audience en route to bringing on, say, the Temptations."

Although Cosby's career does not stem from the Apollo, he is proud of its tradition. "To see the people that you idolized you went to the Apollo Theatre. The big acts played there: Billy Eckstine, Duke Ellington, Sarah Vaughan, Cab Calloway. There are legendary comedians — men like Pigmeat Markham—who got their reputations by constantly playing there and becoming the house favorites.

"Later on in the '70s, people like Marvin Gaye and Wilson Pickett began to cross over. The 'white stations' began to play the black performers. Marvin Gaye could fill Madison Square Garden, so there was no need for him to play the Apollo for dollars, but he would go back and play it because it was a matter of tradition."

Reflecting on the talent roster, which includes Stevie Wonder (who made his Apollo debut at age 11), Smokey Robingson, Little Richard and Boy George, Cosby says, "We've got some interesting categories here. Some of these people are the purists and some of them are stars today.

"But what is really being done represents a major first in American history. The Afro-Americans will have a three-hour piece describing who played there and what happened. That's what's really important."

Wayne Northrop's soap 'days' are over for now

By Kimberly Redmond

Q. I miss Wayne Northrop, the actor who left "Days of Our Lives" several months ago. Will Northrop or his character Roman Brady be returning any time soon?—S.H., Cumberland , Ky.

A. There are no plans to recast the role of Roman Brady, and don't hold your breath hoping that Northrop will return to the NBC soap. The actor filmed "You Are the Jury" for the network shortly after leaving "Days," and last week he was seen in the CBS movie "Going for the Gold: "The Bill Johnson Story."

Q. I'm in love with Mary Gordon Murray, the actress who stars as Becky Buchanan on "One Life to Live." What can you tell me about her?—S.C., Greenville, Texas.

A. Miss Murray, who grew up in Fairlawn, N.J., wanted to be an actress/singer since she was three. She has had an illustrious career on Broadway, where she appeared in such musicals as "I Love My Wife," Grease" and "The Robber Bridegroom." She toured with national productions of "Godspell" and "Merry-Go-Round" before joining "OLTL." From time to time Miss Murray has demonstrated her vocal talents on the ABC soap. Miss Murray's last Broadway appearance was in 1981 in the revival of "Little Me," a musical written by Neil Simon. Miss Murray is single and has three brothers.

Q. I just got hooked on "Capitol," but the show was suddenly yanked from our local CBS station. What happened? I know the show still airs in other parts of the country.—L. C., Clearwater, Fla.

A. As it sometimes happens, your local affiliate decided not to air regular network programming. You can call your local station to find out why they dropped the soap; if enough people complain, "Capitol" might be reinstated.

(Have a question about soap operas? Write Kimberly Redmond at 200 Park Ave., Room 602, New York, NY 10166. Questions cannot be answered personally but those of general interest will be answered in future columns.)

The Tube

TV program guide

Friday, May 10, 1985 to Thursday, May 16, 1985

WEEKDAY DAYTIME REGULARS

DAYTIME

MORNING

—4:55—
(2) MOVIE (MON)
—5:00—
(13) CHARLIE'S ANGELS (THU)
(HBO) MOVIE (WED)
—5:25—
(2) MUPPETS (WED)
—5:45—
(11) DEVOTIONS
(HBO) NOT NECESSARILY THE NEWS (FRI)
—5:55—
(20) JIM BAKKER (FRI)
—6:00—
(2) 20 MINUTE WORKOUT
(4) (13) MORNING STRETCH
(5) PANORAMA
(7) ABC NEWS THIS MORNING
(9) CBS EARLY MORNING NEWS
(11) LEARNING TO READ (MON, WED, FRI)
(11) LEARNING TO DO (TUE, THU)
(20) POPEYE (MON-THU)
(13) JIMMY SWAGGART
(HBO) COLLEGE (MON)
—6:30—
(2) (4) NBC NEWS AT SUNRISE
(9) (11) NEWS
(11) CBS EARLY MORNING NEWS
(13) GREAT SPACE COASTER
(2) FARM DAY
(HBO) MOVIE (FRI)
(HBO) PETER NO-TAIL (TUE)
(HBO) THE BERENSTAIN BEARS PLAY BALL (THU)
—6:35—
(HBO) MY FATHER, MY RIVAL (WED)
—6:45—
(4) NEWS
(2) A.M. WEATHER
—7:00—
(2) (4) TODAY
(5) GREAT SPACE COASTER
(7) (13) GOOD MORNING AMERICA
(9) (11) CBS MORNING NEWS
(20) BUGS BUNNY
(5) INSPECTOR GADGET
(7) MARKETING PERSPECTIVES (FRI)
(7) AMERICAN STORY (MON)
(7) BUSINESS OF MANAGEMENT (TUE)
(7) NEW LITERACY: AN INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS (WED)
(7) FOCUS ON SOCIETY (THU)
(HBO) THE BERENSTAIN BEARS PLAY BALL (MON)
(HBO) EMMA AND GRANDPA: SPRING (THU)
—7:30—
(5) POPEYE AND FRIENDS
(20) LILIAS, YOGA AND YOU
(11) VOLTRON, DEFENDER OF THE UNIVERSE
(13) SESAME STREET
(HBO) EMMA AND GRANDPA: SPRING (MON)
(HBO) FRAGGLE ROCK (WED)
(HBO) NOT SO GREAT MOMENTS IN SPORTS (THU)
—8:00—
(5) FLINTSTONES
(20) WOODY WOODPECKER
(20) MACNEIL / LEHRER NEWSHOUR
(13) FAT ALBERT
(HBO) MOVIE (MON-WED, FRI)
—8:30—
(5) TOM AND JERRY
(20) POPEYE
(11) FLINTSTONES
(13) MISTER ROGERS (R)
(HBO) MOVIE (THU)
—9:00—
(2) (7) DONAHUE
(4) FANTASY ISLAND
(5) I LOVE LUCY
(7) TIC TAC DOUGH
(9) LOVE CONNECTION
(11) PEOPLE ARE TALKING
(20) W.O.W.!
(20) SESAME STREET
(13) JAGAEROBICS
(13) ERNEST ANGLEY
(20) EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING
—9:30—
(4) SUPER PASSWORD
(5) LEAVE IT TO BEAVER
(7) JOKERS WILD
(11) BODY LANGUAGE
(20) ROMPER ROOM
(13) TODAY'S SPECIAL
—10:00—
(2) ALICE
(4) FACTS OF LIFE (R)
(5) ANDY GRIFFITH
(7) LET'S MAKE A DEAL
(9) MORNING BREAK
(11) $25,000 PYRAMID
(13) HOUR MAGAZINE
(20) (13) 700 CLUB
(20) SESAME STREET
(20) ELECTRIC COMPANY (R)
(HBO) MOVIE
—10:30—
(2) LAVERNE & SHIRLEY
(4) SALE OF THE CENTURY
(5) BEWITCHED
(7) FAMILY FEUD
(11) LET'S MAKE A DEAL
(13) 3-2-1 CONTACT (R)
—11:00—
(2) (4) WHEEL OF FORTUNE
(5) MERV GRIFFIN (FRI)
(5) CAROL BURNETT AND FRIENDS (MON-THU)
(7) (13) ALL-STAR BLITZ
(9) (11) PRICE IS RIGHT
(20) (5) MISTER ROGERS (R)
—11:30—
(2) (4) SCRABBLE
(5) RHODA (MON-THU)
(7) RYAN'S HOPE
(11) FAMILY FEUD
(20) (9) INDEPENDENT NEWS
(20) 3-2-1 CONTACT (R)
(13) VEGETABLE SOUP

AFTERNOON

—12:00—
(2) (4) (7) (9) (11) (13) NEWS
(5) PANORAMA
(20) FAMILY
(20) WRITE COURSE (FRI)
(20) FRUGAL GOURMET (MON)
(20) KATHY'S KITCHEN (TUE)
(20) A TASTE OF CHINA (WED)
(20) WOODWRIGHT'S SHOP (THU)
(20) MACNEIL / LEHRER NEWSHOUR
(13) BIG VALLEY
(7) EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING
(HBO) MOVIE (MON, THU, FRI)
(HBO) NOT NECESSARILY THE NEWS (TUE)
(HBO) VIDEO JUKEBOX (WED)
—12:30—
(2) (4) SEARCH FOR TOMORROW
(7) (13) LOVING
(9) (11) YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS
(20) SNEAK PREVIEWS (FRI)
(20) GREAT CHEFS OF NEW ORLEANS (MON)
(20) ALOHA CHINA (TUE)
(20) A TASTE OF CHINA (WED)
(20) DO IT YOURSELF SHOW (THU)
(HBO) MOVIE (TUE, WED)
—1:00—
(2) (4) DAYS OF OUR LIVES
(4) (13) MOVIE
(7) (13) ALL MY CHILDREN
(20) HOGAN'S HEROES
(20) WHY IN THE WORLD (FRI)
(20) JUSTIN WILSON'S LOUISIANA COOKIN' (MON)
(20) MYSTERY! (TUE)
(20) FIRING LINE (WED)
(20) THE HEART OF THE DRAGON (THU)
(13) EVENING EXCHANGE
—1:30—
(9) (11) AS THE WORLD TURNS
(20) GILLIGAN'S ISLAND
(20) ALL ABOUT TV (FRI)
(20) THIS OLD HOUSE (MON)
—2:00—
(2) (4) ANOTHER WORLD
(7) (13) ONE LIFE TO LIVE
(20) EYE ON WASHINGTON
(20) SPACEFLIGHT (FRI)
(20) SQUARE FOOT GARDENING (MON)
(20) MASTERPIECE THEATRE (TUE)
(20) NOVA (WED)
(20) OPEN MIND (THU)
(13) BLACK FORUM (FRI)
(13) JUST FOR YOU (MON)
(13) SQUARE FOOT GARDENING (TUE)
(13) COMMON CENTS (WED)
(13) TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL (THU)
(HBO) MOVIE (WED-FRI)
—2:30—
(5) INSIGHT (FRI)
(7) (13) CAPITOL
(20) KIDS INCORPORATED (FRI)
(20) KID'S BREAK (MON-THU)
(20) NEW TECH TIMES (MON)
(20) PRESENTE (THU)
(20) CONSULTATION (FRI)
(13) HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH (MON)
(13) LAST CHANCE GARAGE (TUE)
(13) MOTORWEEK (WED)
(13) ROD AND REEL (THU)
(HBO) MOVIE (TUE)
—3:00—
(2) (4) SANTA BARBARA
(5) INSPECTOR GADGET
(7) (13) GENERAL HOSPITAL
(9) (11) GUIDING LIGHT
(20) SUPERFRIENDS
(20) MISTER ROGERS (R)
(13) ACRYLIC PAINTING (FRI)
(13) PAINTING CERAMICS (MON)
(13) MAGIC OF OIL PAINTING (TUE)
(13) MAGIC OF WATERCOLORS (WED)
(13) MAGIC OF ANIMAL PAINTING (THU)
(13) CAPTAIN CHESAPEAKE / ROBO-TECH
(13) TEACHING WRITING (FRI)
(13) GED (MON, WED)
(13) BEGINNINGS (TUE, THU)
(HBO) NOT SO GREAT MOMENTS IN SPORTS (MON)
—3:30—
(5) FAT ALBERT
(20) HEATHCLIFF
(20) ELECTRIC COMPANY (R)
(20) (13) MISTER ROGERS (R)
(13) VOLTRON, DEFENDER OF THE UNIVERSE
—4:00—
(2) TIC TAC DOUGH
(4) JEOPARDY
(5) (13) HE-MAN AND MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE
(7) LOVE CONNECTION
(9) HOUR MAGAZINE
(11) SANFORD AND SON
(11) HAWAII FIVE-O
(20) VOLTRON, DEFENDER OF THE UNIVERSE
(20) (13) SESAME STREET
(13) ELECTRIC COMPANY (R)
(HBO) MOVIE (FRI)
(HBO) EMMA AND GRANDPA: SPRING (MON)
(HBO) PETER NO-TAIL (TUE)
(HBO) FRAGGLE ROCK (WED)
(HBO) THE BERENSTAIN BEARS PLAY BALL (THU)
—4:30—
(2) JOKER'S WILD
(4) PEOPLE'S COURT
(5) BATMAN
(7) ANYTHING FOR MONEY
(9) JEFFERSONS
(20) VOLTRON, DEFENDER OF THE UNIVERSE
(13) 3-2-1 CONTACT (R)
(13) SCOOBY DOO
(HBO) COLLEGE (MON)
(HBO) MY FATHER, MY RIVAL (WED)
(HBO) EMMA AND GRANDPA: SPRING (THU)
—5:00—
(2) NEWSCOPE
(4) (9) NEWS
(5) LOVE BOAT
(7) EVERY SECOND COUNTS
(11) BARNEY MILLER
(11) THREE'S COMPANY
(20) BUGS BUNNY
(20) SESAME STREET
(13) WHEN ROOTS DIE (FRI)
(13) KUP'S SHOW (MON)
(13) FIRING LINE (TUE)
(13) WORKING WOMEN (WED)

GARFIELD CHARACTERS © 1978 UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE, INC.

That finicky feline, Garfield, barks up the wrong tree — and is sent to the city pound — in "Here Comes Garfield," airing Friday, May 10 on CBS.

(13) NOVA (THU)
(13) FAT ALBERT
(13) 3-2-1 CONTACT (R)
(HBO) MOVIE (THU)
—8:30—
(2) (7) (13) NEWS
(2) TAXI
(20) LAVERNE & SHIRLEY
(20) CREATIVE WOMAN (WED)
(13) MORK AND MINDY
(13) COLORSOUNDS
(HBO) FRAGGLE ROCK (FRI)
(HBO) MOVIE (MON-WED)

FRIDAY

MAY 10, 1985

DAYTIME CHILDREN'S SHOWS

—2:30—
(20) KIDS INCORPORATED
—8:30—
(HBO) FRAGGLE ROCK Cotterpin Doozer and Gobo Fraggle search for the Doozers' original cave.

DAYTIME MOVIES

—6:30—
(HBO) "Somewhere Tomorrow" (1984) Sarah Jessica Parker, Nancy Addison. A young woman manages to overcome grief over her father's death, as well as difficulties in getting along with her mother, with the love and help of a ghost. 'PG'
—8:00—
(HBO) "The Sting II" (1983) Jackie Gleason, Mac Davis. An experienced con artist tries to score big with the help of a fellow peddler. 'PG'
—10:00—
(HBO) "Iceman" (1984) Timothy Hutton, Lindsay Crouse. Members of an expedition team discover and defrost a frozen 40,000-year-old creature, and one member wants to keep the iceman alive. 'PG'
—12:00—
(HBO) "The Sign Of Four" (1982) Ian Richardson, David Healy. Sherlock Holmes investigates a robbery and murder in this version of the classic Arthur Conan Doyle mystery.
—1:00—
(5) "The Bank Dick" (1940) W.C. Fields, Una Merkel. A man inadvertently foils a robbery and is awarded the job of bank guard, forcing him to face a real holdup.
(11) "Babes On Broadway" (1942) Judy Garland, Mickey Rooney. Talented young hopefuls do a benefit show for orphans and wind up in a Broadway show.
—2:00—
(HBO) "Yes, Giorgio" (1982) Luciano Pavarotti, Kathryn Harrold. A renowned operatic tenor becomes romantically involved with a pretty voice specialist. 'PG'
—4:00—
(HBO) "Somewhere Tomorrow" (1984) Sarah Jessica Parker, Nancy Addison. A young woman manages to overcome grief over her father's death, as well as difficulties in getting along with her mother, with the love and help of a ghost. 'PG'

EVENING

—6:00—
(2) (4) (7) (9) (13) NEWS
(5) WKRP IN CINCINNATI
(20) DIFF'RENT STROKES
(20) 3-2-1 CONTACT (R)
(20) (13) MACNEIL / LEHRER NEWSHOUR
(13) STAR TREK
(HBO) MOVIE "The Sting II" (1983) Jackie Gleason, Mac Davis. An experienced con artist tries to score big with the help of a fellow peddler. 'PG'
—6:30—
(2) NBC NEWS
(5) TAXI
(7) CBS NEWS
(20) WHAT'S HAPPENING!!
(20) BUSINESS REPORT
—7:00—
(2) WHEEL OF FORTUNE
(4) NBC NEWS
(5) THREE'S COMPANY
(7) (13) ABC NEWS
(9) CBS NEWS
(20) $100,000 NAME THAT TUNE
(20) JEFFERSONS
(20) MACNEIL / LEHRER NEWSHOUR
(20) (13) BUSINESS REPORT
(13) ANYTHING FOR MONEY
—7:30—
(2) JEOPARDY
(4) $100,000 NAME THAT TUNE
(5) M*A*S*H
(7) ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT
(9) WHEEL OF FORTUNE
(11) PEOPLE'S COURT
(13) EVENING MAGAZINE
(13) SANFORD AND SON
(13) EVENING EXCHANGE
(13) CAROL BURNETT AND FRIENDS
(13) WILD, WILD WORLD OF ANIMALS
—8:00—
(2) (4) BEST TIMES
(5) P.M. MAGAZINE
(7) (13) WEBSTER
(9) (11) BUGS BUNNY MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL Animated. Through a series of flashbacks, the rascally rabbit and his friends discover that an inebriated stork