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Media Contact:  
Gina Hyams, PR Consultant  
413.464.2851  
ginahyams@gmail.com

High-resolution photographs are available for download at  
<http://www.mahaiwe.org/press.html>

**An Evening with Bill Cosby**  
Mahaiwe Benefit Performance on October 13

\*\*\*Tickets go on sale August 17\*\*\*

Great Barrington, Mass.— Comedian Bill Cosby will headline the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center 2013 Gala on Sunday, October 13 at 7:30pm in a festive evening to benefit the Mahaiwe's programs and to honor Louis J. Allegrone, who led his firm, the Allegrone Companies, in completing the historic restoration of the Mahaiwe Theater.

Tickets, which go on sale August 17, are \$80 to \$150 for the performance only and \$250 to \$750 for the performance plus a champagne reception or pre-show dinner at Fiori or Castle Street Café and a tribute message or ad in the Tribute Playbill. The Mahaiwe is located at 14 Castle Street in Great Barrington, Mass. For tickets and information, see [www.mahaiwe.org](http://www.mahaiwe.org) or call 413.528.0100.

“Bill Cosby's comedy has been a favorite for generations of Americans,” said Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly. “We are so thrilled to welcome him to the Mahaiwe, and to honor Lou Allegrone, whose expertise, guidance, and personal enthusiasm were critical to the success of the theater's restoration beginning in 2002 and continuing through several years of phased construction.”

Over the past century, few entertainers have achieved the legendary status of Bill Cosby. His successes span five decades and virtually all media, remarkable accomplishments for a kid who emerged from humble beginnings in a Philly project. In the 1960s, his stand-up act was a coast-to-coast sensation, spawning a string of hilarious, best-selling comedy albums, which

went on to win eight Gold records, five Platinum records and five Grammy Awards. His role on TV's *I Spy* made him the first African-American to co-star in a dramatic series, breaking television's racial barrier and winning three Emmy Awards. In the 1980s, he again rocked the television world with *The Cosby Show*, a gentle, whimsical, and hugely successful series that single-handedly revived the family sitcom (and rescued NBC). With hit movies like *Uptown Saturday Night* and best-selling books like *Fatherhood*, Bill Cosby is quite simply a national treasure with the unique ability to touch people's hearts.

Louis J. Allegrone is president of the Allegrone Companies, a fourth-generation, privately-held and family-operated construction management, general contracting, design, and development firm. Lou's grandfather founded Louis Allegrone & Sons in 1921, having emigrated to the Berkshires from Italy to continue the art of plastering and masonry. When Lou's father, Louis C. joined his grandfather in 1944, the family business expanded, going on to restore and preserve many of the oldest buildings in the area. Lou officially joined his father in 1975 after earning a civil engineering degree, and he continued to rapidly expand and diversify the family business. His passion for his work and family history has passed on to his children, who now represent the fourth generation in the company's framework. Today, the Allegrone Companies are a diverse community-centered organization with 70 employees.

"The Mahaiwe Theater restoration touched on nearly every aspect of my background and core values, and it remains the most exciting and rewarding project in my career," said Allegrone. "I am humbled and grateful for this honor from the Mahaiwe and I accept it on behalf of my family and all the craftsmen who contributed to the restoration. I always reflect on my journey with Mahaiwe founding chair and my dear friend Lola Jaffe to restore this historic treasure with pride and appreciation."

## **ABOUT THE MAHAIWE**

Located in downtown Great Barrington, Massachusetts, the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center is the year-round presenter of world-class music, dance, theater, classic films, "Live in HD" broadcasts, and arts education programs for the southern Berkshires and neighboring regions. The intimate jewel box of a theater opened in 1905 and has been in continuous operation for over 100 years. In 2005, the theater experienced a renaissance as a beautifully restored 681-

seat venue to offer a broad range of cultural and community events. Today's "Mahaiwe Mix" of diverse, high quality programming strives to provide meaningful, memorable entertainment for all ages and interests.

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