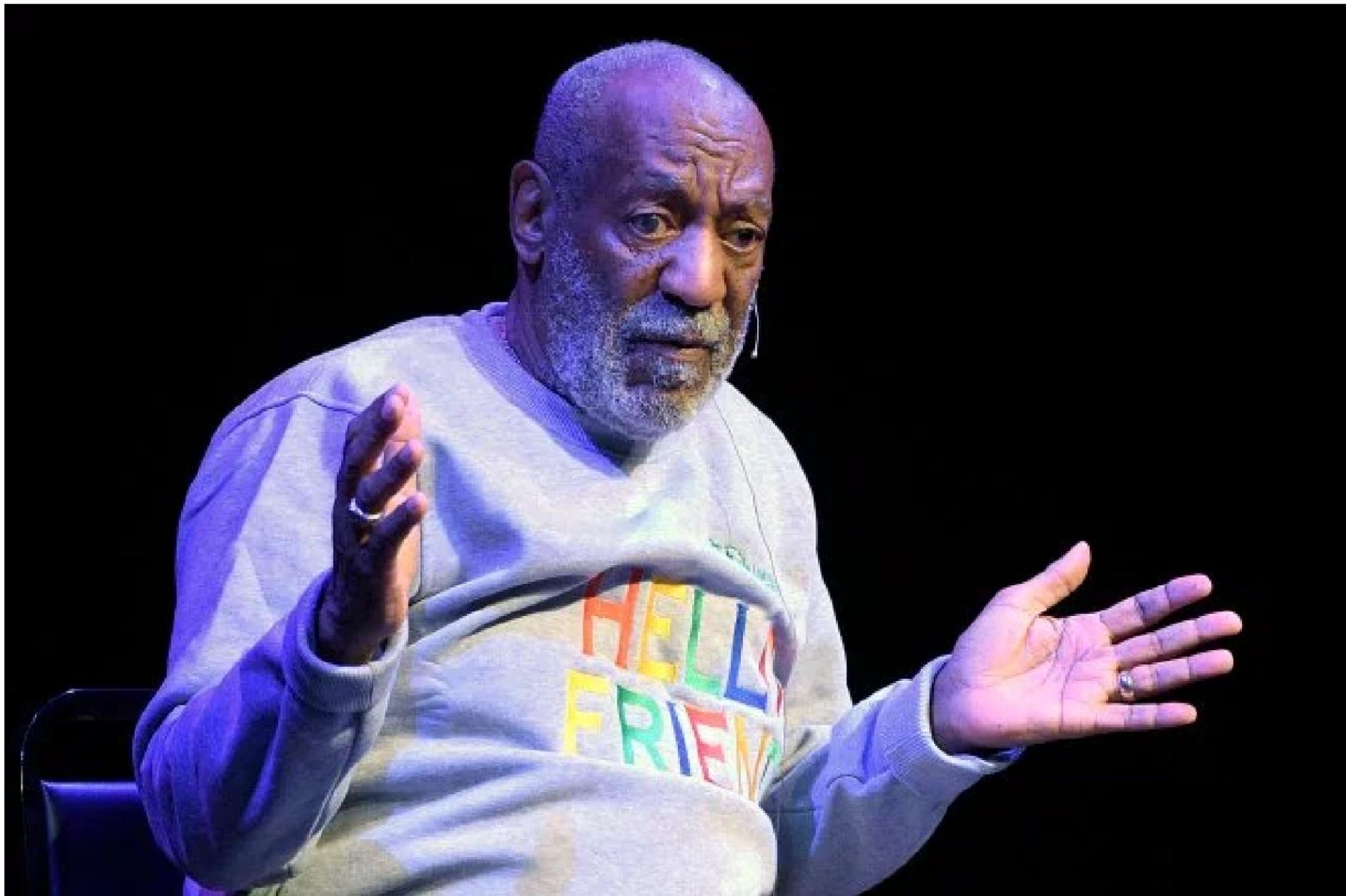


# Cosby performed at Playboy Clubs for free 'out of loyalty'

By [Ian Mohr](#)

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Bill Cosby

Photo: AP

Bill Cosby — who was accused by a former Playboy Bunny of attacking her **and a dozen more Bunnies** — performed at Hugh Hefner's Playboy Clubs for years for free "out of loyalty," according to an upcoming book.

Patty Farmer's "**Playboy Swings: How Hugh Hefner and Playboy Changed the Face of Music,**" says that Art Weiss — who worked at the clubs for 16 years starting in 1966 — recalled: "There were lots of stars who came through, to hang out as much as to work. Tony Bennett was there all the time . . . Likewise, Bill Cosby; he was very, very hot at the time, yet he worked for the clubs out of loyalty to Hef. We couldn't have afforded to pay him his usual rate!"

For two decades, Playboy was the largest employer of entertainers in the US through its clubs and Playboy Jazz Festival, which Cosby emceed for more than 30 years.

Farmer told Page Six that Cosby declined to be interviewed for the book, out Sept. 14 from Beaufort, which focuses on the jazz music scene. "I wanted to interview him," she said. "But he said he didn't want to talk about Playboy anymore. It was before his troubles, but he said, 'I don't have anything else to contribute.'"

But — separately from the book — in 2014, former Bunny P.J. Masten claimed Cosby lured her to a Chicago hotel, drugged and raped her in 1979, and when she told her Playboy supervisor, "She said to me, 'You know that's Hef's best friend, right? . . . I suggest you keep your mouth shut.'" She added to CNN: "[There are] 12 former Bunnies . . . ashamed to come forward . . . They were also drugged and raped by Bill Cosby."

The book — with anecdotes on greats from Sinatra to Miles Davis — describes how Bunnies reported to a "Bunny Mother for inspection every night" and "were strictly forbidden from getting personal with club members. They couldn't date customers, give out their phone numbers or even share their last names." Joan Rivers, in one of her final interviews in Farmer's book, says, "The Bunnies weren't sluts! They were pretty, wholesome young women."

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