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Bowery's Amato Opera to Shutter

It's curtains for the 61-year-old family-owned institution, which will play its last show in May

By [Elizabeth Bougerol](#) | Wednesday, Jul 29, 2009 | Updated 9:55 AM EST



Bougerol

The legendary Amato Opera will close its doors on the Bowery in May.

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So we were going down the Bowery just days ago in the lightly falling snow, bemoaning the lost CBGBs and shaking our head at all the shiny glass-and-steel construction -- and we thought to ourselves, at least the [Amato Opera](#) (probably the only opera house in the country to be entirely self-sustaining) is still going strong in its 61st season.

But of course you should never say such things, because of the immediate jinxing effect. Sure enough, [Curbed tips us off to the NYT piece](#) confirming that the last show will be in May ("The Marriage of Figaro," on the 31st) as [Tony Amato](#), who founded the place in 1948 with his wife Sally, quietly sold the building in December for \$3.7 million to [Steve Croman](#), who you may recognize from the [Village Voice's](#) 10 Worst Landlords list.

We'd been pleased recently when we read (also in the *Voice*) that Amato's niece vowed to keep it open if her 90-year-old uncle wanted to retire, so this is especially sad. Go and see an opera before May. The tickets are \$35, and you don't want to miss the chance to experience this slice of wonderful old [New York](#) before it's gone.

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