



The Italian in Me

Globe Theatre

Dina Morrone

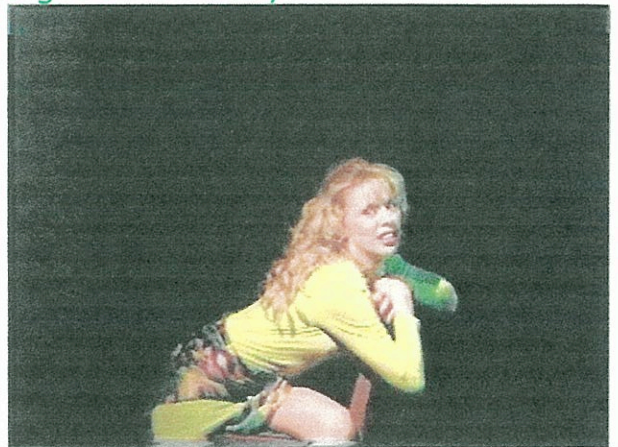
"Stick your finger in the hole - all the way in!"

When a show opens with those inauspicious words, you sort of raise your eyebrow and wonder, ". . . how are they going to follow that?" Dina Morrone, a lovely Italian from Northern Canada follows it with a compelling, comic, sad, poignant and riveting exposition of her struggle to become an actress in the show business world of Italy which seems to have the term "casting couch" firmly entrenched in its modus operandi.

While most one-woman shows are a washed over variation of ". . . my baby left me and ain't coming back no more", this show has no baby who has left anybody, and we're pretty sure that if it ever happened, Dina wouldn't fret over it, since with her personality and looks she can snap her fingers and get a new baby in a heartbeat. But that's not what the show is about. It's about immersion in a way of life so different from the familiar, that the term "culture shock" is more than just a cliché. Dina talks about life with her grandmother "Nona" in Canada, and her decision to jump continents to pursue an acting career in Italy. The fun begins when she describes her experiences with the Italian men and how their views of sex are so different from what she had experienced or expected in her native country.

The audience howls when she talks about the many churches she visited, modifying her prayers as the situations never quite worked out as she hoped describing all the sexual mine fields she constantly had to evade before finally establishing a career as a talk-show host in Italian television.

Creating characters comes easy to Dina, who brings to life several people, from her loving grandmother to her interview with Federico Fellini, with a few others in-



between, capturing a variety of voices, inflections and personalities, and her depictions of various encounters keeps the audience in constant stitches. While she undoubtedly is a great actress, excellent singer and entertainer, her greatest asset is the ability to tell a story.



As she describes situations and people, using different accents, adopting attitudes and mannerisms, it becomes evident that we are sharing some very intimate and private events that made a deep impression in her life.

And in that sharing, we sort of live them vicariously, getting excited with her at a possible success, getting angry when she's mistreated, feeling exasperated as doors seem to slam shut and eventually accepting her life and the place she has found which for now, seems to bring her the fulfillment she has so diligently sought.

Talking to Dina after the show, we discovered a warm, open and sincere individual whose major concern is providing a meaningful experience for the audience that she openly reveres and respects. Several people came up to her and congratulated her, with one patron exclaiming "You nailed it" Indeed, she did!

And what about the opening lines? You'll have to see the show to find out their context, but don't be surprised if along with the laughs you also get an unexpected cultural lesson. Before the show, the Italian National Anthem is played, and at least one person stood in reverence while the music played. If you've never heard it, you're in for a truly unexpected treat.

Dina can easily bring out the Italian in you too, and under Peter Flood's direction will continue to do so until March 5, 2006 at the Globe Playhouse, 1107 North Kings Road, West Hollywood. Reservations at: (323) 960-5521 or www.plays411.com/theitalian

PICK OF THE WEEK

Dina's website
www.dinamorrone.com

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