

GO WILD: Ski the Powder at Mt. Bohemia • Hit Grand Portage's Trails
Race the CopperDog • Bike Minnesota's Heck of the North

Lake Superior

MAGAZINE™

**Wish You
Were Here?** p.18

Add This Falls to Your Fall Plans

First to Turn

Discover North Shore Colors

2014 Achievement Award

**Honoring Split Rock's
Keeper of the Light**

\$4.95 November 2014



www.LakeSuperior.com

PLUS!

Great Gouda! Muffins & More
Madeline Island Home Makeover
Is Radon a Health Risk for You?

In the Words of the Playwrights

The plays of writers with strong ties to Thunder Bay take center stage during the Magnus Theatre's 2014-15 season. Lake Superior Magazine managing editor Bob Berg corresponded with the playwrights to see how a sense of place influences their work. We posed the same questions to both writers.

"The Hours That Remain," by Métis actor and playwright Keith Barker, is a psychological thriller about a woman's search for her missing sister, inspired by the true story of Aboriginal women abducted and missing or murdered on a stretch of highway in northern British Columbia known as the Highway of Tears.

LSM: Where are you from originally?

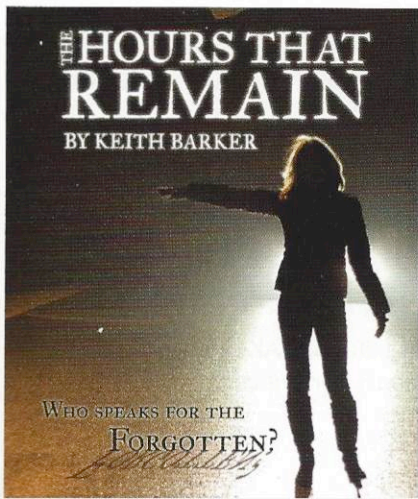
KB: I was born in Geraldton, but I grew up in Longlac, Thunder Bay and Kenora.

LSM: How has that home area influenced your work?

KB: I was raised by women. They were strong and powerful and always full of grace. I learned my life lessons sitting in a sauna listening to their stories. That's where my writing comes from.



Keith Barker



These women. These voices. And I will always be proud of that.

LSM: What does it mean to have your play performed in Thunder Bay?

KB: Because of distance and travel, my family and friends rarely get to see my work. This is one of those rare opportunities when my work is coming to them. And I am eternally grateful to Magnus Theatre for making this happen.

LSM: Where do you call home now?

KB: Toronto.

LSM: What would you like audience members to take home after seeing "The Hours That Remain"?

KB: I want them to leave wanting to know more (about this tragedy of missing women).

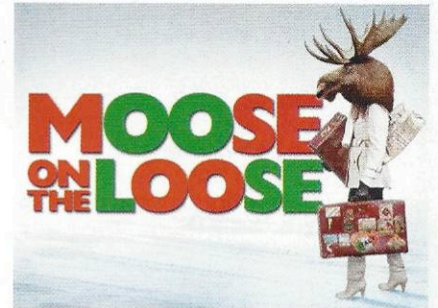
A lighter topic is found in "Moose On The Loose" by actor-playwright Dina Morrone. It's about the Tappino family, who moved from Italy to (the fictional) Way Up Bay, Ontario. It's about the immigrant experience of growing up in northern Ontario to parents who don't speak English. (She emphasizes that this is not her family, and the play is not about her.)

LSM: Where are you from originally?

DM: I was born in Port Arthur, which is now Thunder Bay. My parents emigrated from Calabria, in southern Italy, to Port Arthur. I am first-generation Canadian.

LSM: How has that home area influenced your work?

DM: My home area has very much influenced my work, my life and the choices I have made over the years. I take a little bit of Thunder Bay with me everywhere I go and in everything I write. I wrote "Moose On The Loose" because of something that actually happened in my neighborhood in Thunder Bay. A moose wandered into the neighborhood and got



stuck in the neighbor's yard. That was the starting point for this piece, and then I just ran with it.



Dina Morrone

LSM: What does it mean to have your play performed in Thunder Bay?

DM: I am ecstatic and overcome with emotion that "Moose On The Loose" has been selected by Magnus Theatre to be a part of the 2014-15 season. Magnus Theatre is a gem of a theatre with a great reputation for doing top-notch quality work.

LSM: Where do you call home now?

DM: I live in Los Angeles with my husband, Stephen Rivkin, who is originally from Minneapolis.

LSM: What would you like audience members to take home after seeing "Moose On The Loose"?

DM: 1) That family is family. Whether it's language barriers, cultural differences, generational gap, family is family and will always be there for you or at least should be there for you. 2) To see that the moose in my play is a metaphor for displaced people.

"The Hours That Remain," Oct. 23-Nov. 8. "Moose On The Loose," April 9-25. Magnus Theatre, Thunder Bay. 807-345-5552. www.magnus.on.ca.