

The Italian In Me

by Shirley Prince

The Italian In Me could be the title of a newly discovered Fellini movie but is instead the title of a wonderfully funny and touching one-woman show written and performed by **Dina Morrone**. Playing at the **Globe Playhouse** in West Hollywood, the show which is directed by writer/director Peter Flood, depicts the true-life struggles of an Italian/Canadian aspiring actress trying to make it big, not in Hollywood, but in what she thinks is the more accessible market of Rome, Italy.

With her strict Catholic grandmother's (Nonna) reluctant blessing, the actress relocates to Rome from Canada, sans substantial funds or knowledge of the city and begins her uncertain journey for fame and fortune. She prays in the Basilicas to God to make her famous. In her quest, she encounters various Italian agents - sexual sharks with their own individual idiosyncrasies. Ms. Marrone's portrayal of her meeting with the "Maestro" Federico Fellini and her riveting conversation with the director engage the audience and give new insight into the often misrepresented legend.

Based on the actress's true-life experiences, this show is exceptionally funny, entertaining and touching. The extremely talented Ms. Marrone depicts all of the characters individually with much humor and humanity. Her characterization of her often disturbingly honest Nonna is both touching and hilarious. The minimalist set accentuated by the lighting design of Joe Morrissey assists the performance in attaining its goal. Morrissey's use of shadows -

from the steeples of the basilicas to the bright, energetic lights of an Italian variety show brings a sense of realism to the show.

Also impressive is the use of a screen center stage that depicts the costume and



photo by Ed Krieger

scene changes for each segment of the show. Ms. Marrone's use of her attire is highly effective in illustrating the various stages in her search for fame. Director Flood keeps the production moving with his contributions including fluid blocking. This show is worthy of seeing more than once! It's briskly paced length and the immense talent of Dina Morrone make one wanting more - just like a wonderfully, warm, (ceramic) cup of cappuccino!

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