

# The Town & Times

and Canyon Crier

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## The Italian in Me

First off, let me express this...Dina Morrone is one *hotta spicy, meat-a-ball!* Raised by beloved old country Italian grandparents, chicken farming, consumed by show-biz aspirations, she headed off for Rome, Italy as a young woman to follow her dreams of stardom in Italian cinema. Naive, beautiful, hopeful and financially limited, she runs into one sexually deviant theatrical agent after another, on her enthusiastic journey. (Hollywood it seems, is not the only town where talent is rewarded, on the "casting couch.") Cleverly self-written and *passionately* performed solo under the *lively* and *creative* direction of Peter Flood, she *riotously* shares the true incidents of her ambitious quest. Playing countless well-defined and colorful characters with their own agendas, she had the audience in the palm of her hand from the start. With each disappointing and sleazy encounter, she finds the strength to go on by praying her way through Rome's multitude of churches. Very funny! Dodging a non-stop sexual obstacle course,



PHOTO BY ED KRIEGER

Dina Morrone stars in  
"The Italian in Me."

she views Pope John Paul, which her grandmother assures her will favorably guide her fate. Not usually a big fan of solo plays, I loved every spirited, involving, entertaining moment of this one! *Loveably loony* and very talented, Morrone vividly brought each character to life with distinct, multiple transitions, from one memorable character to the next. A refreshingly natural performer, it seemed as if she were personally telling her story to friends in her living room. In one of my favorite scenes, she plays both herself, and Federico Fellini, as she nervously auditions for a commercial. The highly acclaimed Thad Taylor, who has owned and operated this theatre for 34 years told me this, "She is by far the best single performer on my stage since Nia Vardalos opened 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding' here." As the true story goes, that show was seen and developed into a *hit* film by Tom Hanks actress wife, Rita Wilson. Come back Rita...you're gonna love this one too! Joe Morrissey's *inventive* and mood setting lighting, and the Globe Theatre's natural European styling perfectly framed the overall picture for us! *Fresh, feisty, funny, and fabulous*, you really should catch this Roman Romp and the adorable woman who lived it! Running through March 5 at The Globe Playhouse, 1107 North Kings Road in West Hollywood. For seats/times call (323) 960-5521.