

February 2-8, 2006

# BACKSTAGE <sup>west</sup>

120+ Casting Notices

THE ACTOR'S RESOURCE

## THE ITALIAN IN ME at the Globe Playhouse

It would probably be best if you were a household name, had a lead role on a hit sitcom, or had at least five decades of fame to your credit before you try to tackle that ever-dreaded genre, the one-person show. If not, you'd better have a hook—a big hook—to not only attract an audience but also keep us captive.

Dina Morrone, an aspiring actor-writer, leaves Canada—which her Italian grandmother always thought was in the United States—to get into the biz. Nothing new here. But our gal doesn't head for New York or Hollywood to find her thesp career; she heads to Rome, Italy. First stop, the Vatican, to ask the pope for help with her career. Now she's got my interest.

Prayers to Jesus, Saints Mary and John and Rita, and even a last-minute plea to Saint Pollo, the saint of turbulence and turbulent times, don't work. Neither do all the casting couches rolled

out by sleazy agents, producers, et al. Hark! The saints must have gotten busy, because Morrone ends up with a face-to-face with the maestro himself, Federico Fellini. The director's unfortunate untimely death sends Morrone from film to television. Her career blooms, and our lass becomes an Italian TV star.

Like most of this style of theatre, *The Italian in Me*, in its world premiere, is hit-and-miss. The tale, under Peter Flood's targeted direction, is different enough to make us want to pay attention and listen. Her profound little scene with Fellini is written to and rendered to perfection.

As a performer, she seems confident, no opening-weekend jitters showing. She is beautiful and sexy and down-to-earth, a real charmer. Her gorgeous long blond hair becomes almost a prop as she tussles and tosses, flips, pulls back or razzle-dazzles it, but it always falls amazingly in place like a Breck commercial.

Presented by Me & My Big Mouth Productions at the Globe Playhouse, 1107 N. Kings Rd., West Hollywood. Fri.-Sat. 8 p.m. (Also Thu. 8 p.m. Feb. 2 & 9, Sun. 2 p.m. Feb. 19-Mar. 5.) Jan. 27-Mar. 5. (323) 960-5521.

Reviewed by Dave DePino



Pope and faith: Dina Morrone in *The Italian in Me*.