



The Los Angeles Italian Community



THEATRE IN L.A. *With a touch of Italy*

"The moose on the loose" the new hilarious and family friendly comedy written and performed by Dina Morrone on stage at "Theatrewest".

LOS ANGELES, CA With the one woman show "The Italian in me" the actress/writer Dina Morrone had the chance to show her versatility and sense of humor that were greatly applauded by critics and audiences, and she was subsequently selected by reviewplays.com as one of the Top Ten Best Actresses of 2006. Now she is ready to perform again from June 3 to July 10 at Theatrewest, (one of the oldest established equity waiver houses) this time in a comedy with a curious title "The moose on the loose". Here follows her open-hearted interview that really makes you feel like watching this promising play that will make you laugh, think and probably somehow identify with the characters.

First of all Dina, would you like to introduce yourself to our readers and tell us about what you did in the past?

I was born in Canada, but I moved to Rome Italy to work in the entertainment business as an actress. I had many wonderful

fulfilling years living and working in Rome as an actress, tv host, voice over artist and model. I saw the Pope and I met Federico Fellini. Based on my experience in Rome, I wrote my one woman show called The Italian In Me, which is like a full immersion Italian lesson about cinema, sex and saints, or and Federico Fellini too. During the work in progress phase of The Italian In Me, it was entitled "Getting there, by going Nowhere".

The Italian In Me was very well received and I was thrilled about the outcome, the audiences response, and the critics kind words. After the initial ten week run, I continued to perform it around Los Angeles and also took it to Toronto Canada, and I still perform it today.

I work in Voice Over as an Announcer for Awards shows as well as on feature films where my speaking Italian does come in very handy.

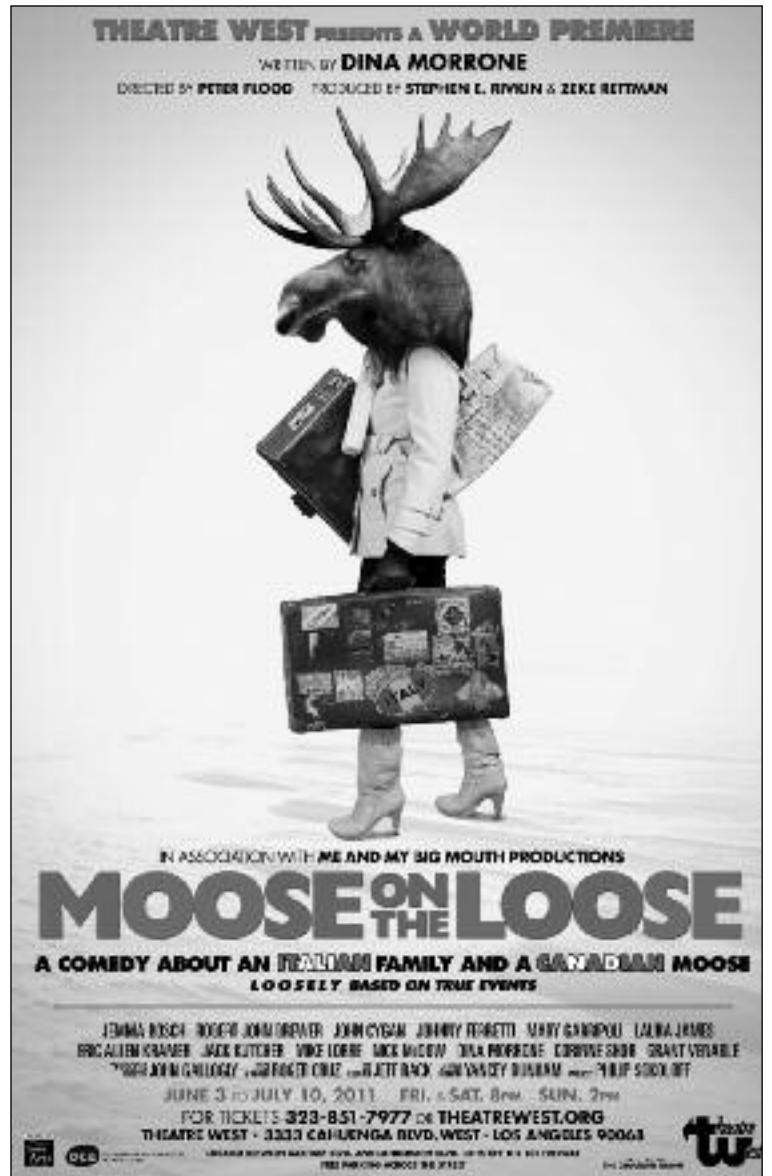
Although I love voice over and working with my voice, it's the voice that is inside of me that I

am the most proud of and the one I want to share with everyone. Having audiences laugh and be moved to tears, or to make them feel like it's their story too or that they can relate to what I am saying, that makes me very happy. Theatre, performing and writing for the stage gives me and my voice that opportunity. I figure, I'm an Italian, but I'm also first generation Canadian, but I am also fortunate enough through my families sacrifices of leaving Italy, now able to live in this great country America... and now to share with you my stories... I feel blessed!

As you are an Italian-Canadian, may I ask you if you took any inspiration from your family when you decided to write this comedy?

As I already said, I'm a first generation Canadian. My parents immigrated from Calabria to Thunder Bay, Ontario, in Canada and there I was born along with my sister and brother. And let me tell you, we were like fish out of water because we weren't living in some urban metropolitan city where there was a little Italy or a lot of Italians. The city I grew up in was small and isolated and yes there were Italians but in a city of about 109,000 there were about 15 thousand Italians, if that. It was a city where there were mostly people from Finland, Ukraine, local Aboriginals, and a lot of English people. So we were considered a minority. And Italians when I was growing in that small city, well, we were looked down upon

We did have our Italian Church, our Italian Banquet hall; our Italian grocery store, our one hour of Italian tv on Sunday after church and one hour of Italian radio once a week and a lot of Italian records playing at home. I never even spoke English until I started kindergarten. We spoke Italian, we spoke Calabrese Dialect, and we spoke a mixture of Italian/Calabrese/English words. It all became a mumble jumble at times. When I was in grade school and highschool I was quite embarrassed to be Italian and to have parents and grandparents who did not speak English. I so badly wanted to fit in. To blend in. To be Canadian. And of course it was very difficult to do so as we only ate Italian food, we only hung out with Italian relatives, and we couldn't hide, because we were very Italian, even if my siblings and I are all three very fair, with blonde hair and blue eyes. But, there we were living in this COLD, snowy, place in the middle of nowhere so we were just like a fish out of water. The place was better suited for MOOSE but somehow there was work there and so that's where they ended up.



*Quick side story. I wanted to fit in so badly and be Canadian, that when my parents would go out on weekends to some Italian wedding, we would beg them to let us buy "Chef Boy R Dee" Pizza Mix. (spelling) So we could eat THAT pizza and not the Italian one my mom made fresh with her bare hands with real flour and real sauce and cheese etc. That's how desperate we were to blend in!

My play is about being and feeling displaced... Immigrants in general all have that in common. They are all displaced and feel displaced. And their children, even if born in the new country, feel just as displaced because where do they belong? How do they fit in? What is their culture? Am I American? Italian? Canadian? And then when they begin to marry outside their own culture, what happens? What happens to those kids? What are they?

What have a Calabrian family and a Canadian moose in common?

The moose is a metaphor for displaced people. Here you have a part of Canada that really is and should only be MOOSE COUNTRY but now there are small cities that have sprung up all over and suddenly the moose has lost his home and so when he wanders into town (true story) people are shocked that there is a moose on the loose. No actually, THIS IS his home! We belong in big cities! Not in bush towns.

So they are all out of place.

Can you tell us how did Moose On The Loose come about?

TRUE story... one day on the phone with my mother who lives in Canada... we were talking about some nature catastrophe that had just occurred here in LA. It was either the fires or rain and mud slides etc., something bad.

In talking about this my mother said, in Italian, "Well, that's terrible. At least around here we really can't complain. I mean, it's cold and we get a lot of snow, but not much else happens. Maybe just a moose wanders into town." I laughed. But my mom told me that it was a true story. That in fact it had just happened up the street in her Polish neighbor's house. Well, I laughed. And I thought, he didn't wander... he used to live there until all of us came along...

And that conversation is what sparked me to write this play. Once I had my first reading of Moose On The Loose, I knew I had very something. I knew I was on to something. And I knew that yes, it was going to be a very funny play, but that it wasn't just going to be funny... but that is was going to be about something. That I was touching on some very universal themes that people of all cultures can relate to. Canada, we used to say when I was growing up was a melting pot, a mixed salad, because we had so many differ-

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Contacts:

Nick M. D'Egidio (562) 947-2819

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e-mail: san1nicola@yahoo.com



Save the Date

**Federated Italo-Americans
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*Celebrating the 150th Anniversary
of the Unification of Italy*

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Glendale Hilton Hotel

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