

Los Angeles and Southern California

Italian's a big part of the 2011 Long Beach Grand Prix

By FJ De Santis, Jr.

LONG BEACH, CA, The Long Beach Grand Prix is a mix of racing enthusiast, curiosity seekers and regular attendees. The glamour of fast cars and daring drivers brought thousands to view the event.

Ferrari is always an eye catcher with their professional racing team. Their cars have done well and they always draw a crowd at their paddock.

Jaguar sponsored the racing team of Paul Gentilozzi. Paul has been racing for many years

has the charm needed to encourage sponsors and the ability to handle a high speed race car. He is the co-founder of RSR Racing, and is both a businessman and a world class sportscar driver. He is a confirmed in the lineup for the #33 JaguarRSR XKR GT entry in 2010. Paul won the GTS class at the "12 Hours of Sebring" in 1992, earned eight IMSA / Grand-Am victories, won the 1993 IMSA GTS Manufacturers' Championship with Oldsmobile,



Paul and Deborah Gentilozzi

titles in 1998, 1999, 2001, 2004 and 2006 and ranks first in virtually every Trans-Am performance category, including wins, podiums, top-five and top-ten finishes, race starts, laps led, fastest race laps, lead-lap finishes and total winnings. With all that under his belt, the Long Beach Grand Prix is old hat. Paul is proud to be an Italian in the racing arena and has many Italian friends and competitors right along side here at the Grand Prix.



and as an experienced driver knows the dangers and rewards of a winning team, Paul's family is from Rome and Naples. He

won the 2002 Rolex 24 at Daytona in the GTS class with Scott Pruett, Brian Simo and Michael Lauer, won Trans-Am

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

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ent cultures all living together. But living in Los Angeles now, over the years I have been witnessing this shift, this change... this amazing blend of ethnicity and culture. And a lot of people who don't speak English, who stick to their own, who create pockets, who feel displaced and I think that's how my parents must have felt when they first left Italy and ended up in Canada.

My grandfather immigrated to Canada when he was 50. At the time, it was not common to leave at 50. Most people immigrated when they were young men. My grandfather only went so he could then invite his young married daughters, my mom and dad, etc., to come to Canada and work since there wasn't any work where they lived. And the plan was that, maybe after they worked a couple of years they would move back. But life takes over and the move back never happened. He sacrificed a lot to leave at such an advanced age. He never really learned to speak English. Never learned to read or write



Dina Morrone

the language. He worked so hard, and always wondered if he had done the right thing, to leave his home and land and move his

family to Canada. He always second guessed his decision. And my dad on the other hand did not want to leave Italy or his family, but he was young, newly married to my mom and his family was poor and there was no work there for young people so he basically had to go when the opportunity arose. And I know it was very difficult for him because he missed his family and especially his mother every single day. In fact, he only went back to Italy one time and, saw his mother just that one time. And in a way maybe my grandfather might have even felt guilty for taking my dad away from his family. I guess, in some way, by writing this play, the fact that I am here, the fact that I can read and write English which he never could do, the fact that I am telling a portion of his story and my families story, I guess if my grandfather were alive today he would have his answer and know that he did do the right thing.

"Thank you Dina."
Dina:" Thank you for your time, grazie mille."

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