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LIKE NO OTHER

by Talitha Bakker with a sincere thank you to Doug Dahmen ■ photos by Haras Meia Lua archive

here are many stories written on a great bay stallion named Ali Jamaal. A bay stallion foaled on March 21st 1982 in Muskegon, Michigan, bred by James Bergen. But Ali Jamaal was not just a horse and this is not just another story. This is the story about Ali Jamaal, the character behind the horse, his life, his journey and his goodbye.

We all know that as far as perfection goes, Ali Jamaal was the one who came closest to that ideal. A description of Ali Jamaal in his prime for anyone who had not seen him then falls markedly short. It was a combination of his degree of excellence, extreme type and near perfect conformation that set him on a level above his peers. His big dark eyes told a story and showed a strength that kept him going for 32 years.

When the Bergren brothers bred Ali Jamaals dam Heritage Memory to the great Ruminaja Ali, they would never dared to dream of breeding a colt who would make such an impact on the Arabian Horse breeding like Ali Jamaal







Ali Jamaal - 1990 US National Champion Stallion, presented By Greg Gallún



Ali Jamaal after he was acquired, as a 4 years old



*MORAFIC AHR*32261 Grey 1956

SHAIKH AL BADI AHR*54456 Grey 1969

*BINT MAISA EL SAGHIRA AHR*23220 Bay 1958

RUMINAJA ALI AHR*134937 Grey 1976

*KHOFO AHR*32265 Grey 1965

BINT MAGIDAA AHR*62907 Grey 1970

*MAGIDAA AHR*56075 Chestnut 1964

1982 bay, stallion

EL MAGATO AHR*19276 Grey 1961

MARHARETTA AHR*10356 Grey 1955

EL GATO AHR*9075 Bay 1954

HERITAGE MEMORY AHR*70746 Bay 1971

FADJ ABR*16761 Grey 1960

HERITAGE LABELLE AHR*28255 Grey 1964

LA DONNA AHR*10659 Grey 1956

MABROUKA EAO*12 Chestnut 1951

NAZEER RAS*247 Grey 1934 MANSOUR RAS*111 Grey 4921 BINT SAMIHA RAS*133 Bay 1925 MAISA EAO*213 Grey 1948

MORAFIC EAO*29 Grey 1956 NABILAH EAO*166 Grey 1960

ALAA EL DIN EAO*352 Chestnut 1956 MAYSA EAO*519 Chestnut 1955

FERSEYN AHR*1381 Grey 1937 EL SIKADA AHR*2340 Bay 1942

FERSEYN AHR*1381 Grey 1937 *IWONKA III AHR*3937 Chestnut 1936

FADJUR AHR*7668 Bay 1952

SAKI AHR*6248 Grey 1950

FERNEYN AHR*2865 Grey 1944

WADDAANA AHR*4610 Grey 1948

NAZEER RAS*247 Grey 1934 MANSOUR RAS*111 Grey 1921 BINT SAMIHA RAS*133 Bay 1925 SID ABOUHOM RAS*285 Grey 1936 MONIET EL NEFOUS RAS*441 Chestrati 1946

SHAHLOUL RAS/193 Grey 1931 ZAREEFA RAS/149 Bay 1927

NAZEER RAS*247 Grey 1934 MABROUKA EAO*12 Chestnut 1951 ANTER IOHB 28 Cliestinit 1946 FARASHA EAO 90 Grey 1951

NAZEER RAS*247 Grey 1934 KATEEFA RAS*321 Grey 1938 ANTER IOHB*28 Chestnut 1946 MAHFOUZA EAO*514 Bay 1943

*RASEYN AHR*597 Grey 1923 *FERDA AHR*596 Bay 1915

SIKIN AHR*964 Bay 1933 EL ADALON AHR*1497 Bay 1938

•RASEYN AHR*597 Grey 1923 •FERDA AHR*596 Bay 1913

IBN MAHOMET PASB*144 Chestmit LYSA PASB*242 Chesting 1915

FADIFEILAN ABR*2603 Bay 1942 BINT SAHARA ABR*2394 Grey 1942

FERSEYN AHR*1381 Grey 1937 FERDIA AUR*1588 Grey 1938

FERSEYN AHR*1381 Gwy 1937 MONEYNA AHR*1382 Gwy 1937

BARAK ABR*3494 Grey 1943 AMAANA ABR*837 Grey 1931

did. The moment Ali Jamaal was born, they knew he was a special one and so did everyone else who came to see him. Tom Bergren was saving the name of his favorite sport figure Jamaal Wilkes for a very special colt and so the bay colt got named Ali Jamaal and the rest is history! In 1984 Jamaal was send to David Gardner of Gardner Bloodstock in China Springs, Texas to prepare him for the 1985 US Nationals. Ali Jamaal went on to make history for the Bergren Brothers Farm. In 1985, when he was three years old, Ali Jamaal was named unanimous National Champion Futurity Stallion and the Bergrens Brothers became the first farm in history to have owned a US National champion futurity colt who in turn sired a US National champion futurity colt. For the Bergrens Brothers it was an unprecedented honor to have owned two such amazing stallions like Ruminaja Ali and Ali Jamaal.

But it was not this title that would change the life of Ali Jamaal, it was the impression he made on Doug Dahmen during that show. He was stunned by his beauty and uniqueness in the ring and later back at his stall. He knew Ali Jamaal was something extraordinary and he made an inquiry to Gardner Bloodstock which revealed a rather scorching price. A visit to Texas a few weeks later to see Ali Jamaal again only confirmed that there was nothing else like him or even close.

Back then, Doug already build up a great friendship with Lenita Perroy, who was newly into Arabian Horses. She came to see El Shaklan at Dougs place in 1983 and bred all her seven mares to this remarkable stallion. Since then, Doug and Lenita became great friends. "I had the privilege of helping her establish her breeding program," Doug tells. "In early 1986 on a visit to California she said, I am ready for THE stallion!"

"Doug knew the stallion for lenita to buy. He called her and said "You must go see him!"

Lenita loved Ruminaja Ali so she went to Texas to see Jamaal and decided she must have him. The negotiation took months and once they reached the agreement, Lenita has cashed out some assets, sold a farm for half its value and



had a carry on suitcase with the funds to see the Bergrens in Michigan and to buy Jamaal. A couple of days later Lenita arrived back in Santa Barbara. The deal was done, however there was no registration papers, no bill of sale and no receipt for the suitcase full of cash and needless to say, no horse. Lenita answered Dougs anxiety with "Don't worry! They like me!"

And they did. Three weeks later, Ali Jamaal and the papers arrived and he finished the last half of the breeding season. Then in November 1986 he travelled to Haras Meia Lua, Lenita's farm in Sorocaba, Brazil.

His arrival was a sensation. Most breeders in Brazil were very impressed as they had not yet seen a horse of this quality before – and some breeders were





Shaikh al Badi



Morafic



Ruminaja Ali

When the first crop arrived they were of that great quality as Lenita expected. Howeverh is ability as a sire was not proven with some skepticism. Would that be valid? After all, Jamaal was the result of a such diverse outcross. Linebred Nazeer on line bred Ferseyn...

Time revealed that those very nice babies matured slowly and became superstars, like photographic images that developed into focus. They required patience but the reward was that they became more beautiful as they grew up and they retain that beauty for their lifetimes. From this first foal crop came several exquisite fillies who went later Brazilian National Champions and also some outstanding colts. Then Ali Jamaal's name began to be famous and breedings were in great demand in spite of being very expensive. Those that bred high quality mares had excellent results: fillies were shown and won. Also colts became good stallions. These first foal crops included the legendary stallions Nyhl el Jamaal (x Naharra) and Ludjin el Jamaal (x Lydira el Shaklan)

Luiz Rocco from Haras Clio was involved with Ali Jamaal from the first day and bought three foals from his first foal crop that became very important horses in Brazil. "Even before meeting Ali Jamaal, Lenita Perroy prepared its initial group of mares with selected beautiful daughters of El Shaklan, Ansata Ibn Halima and El Hilal, among others. It seemed she knew that one day would have a stallion like him to initiate one of the most important Arabian horse breeding programs of the world," Luiz says. "I remember the day Lenita returned from the United States with photos of the stallion she had just bought. She was very enthusiastic about the new acquisition. Time proved that she was in the right way."

In 1988 Doug told Lenita it was time to bring Ali Jamaal back to the United States as he was too special not to be shown to the public! In December 1988, Ali Jamaal came back to Santa Ynez to stand for the 1989 breeding season and for an intended one time attempt to gain what those close to him and his fans



Ali Jamaal National Chanpion daughters



were sure he could attain – US National Champion Stallion.

A welcome but heavy breeding season ensued. "I felt tremendous responsibility for this great horse, so much that I did everything with him," Doug tells. "Handling him for breeding, his grooming and his conditioning. The showing of horses, especially stallions, works best where there is not a blurring of roles. I felt that in order for Jamaal to complete his destiny in the ring, someone else should be his show person." So the word got out and that someone else, Greg Gallun, followed Lenita to the Santa Ynez Post office and asked "What about me?" Although several trainers put their names forward, gut feelings told Lenita and Doug that Greg was the right guy for the job. Besides, he and his brother Brad had promoted and campaigned Strike to the US National Champion stallion four years before. In 1989 with Greg Gallun, Jamaal was Pacific Slope Champion, Canadian National Champion and US Reserve National Champion stallion. And as Lenita had planned Ali Jamaal returned to Brazil that fall, retired from the show

Ali Jamaal and sons, International A





Ali Jamaal, Greg Gallun, Lenita after the title Canadian National Champion Stallion won in 1989



Greg Gallun showing Ali Jamaal to US National Championship in 1990. The judge, in the back, Mike Vilasenor.



ring and to settle into a full time career as a breeding stallion.

But Greg and Brad were convinced that Ali Jamaal deserved a second chance for the National champion title.

After months of cajoling and persuasion, Greg and Brad convinced Lenita that Ali Jamaal would get another chance in the ring to become the 1990 US National Champion stallion. And he was...

Most people that were there would agree that it was probably the most competitive stallion class in history with six of the eventual top ten with previous National

Championships or reserves.

That following season, Ali Jamaal stood at stud with the Gallun families Bethesda Arabians in Santa Ynez for the 1991 season. During this season he covered many mares that produced legendary offspring like Magic Dream (x the Dreamspinner), Ryad el Jamaal (x Roxana el Shaklan) and many more. People came to realize what a beautiful horse he was and the people close to him also knew what a character he was. People might say he was a difficult horse, but I would say he was a King and wanted to be treated like one. His game, his rules but at all times, he would stay fair and trustable with a great sense of humor! He had such a strong mind and would never show his weakness. Stories goes that at one time one of the caretakers of Jamaal noticed he was a bit off his game. Nothing worth mentioning, but maybe best to call in a vet just to check up on him. When the vet came they discovered that Jamaal was seriously ill and they nearly lost him. But Jamaal would never show. That was the kind of horse he was; strong and proud.

After the 1991 breeding season, Ali Jamaal returned back to Brazil never again to leave the farm. At this time, European breeders were very interested in him and came to Haras Meia Lua looking for sons and daughters for their breeding programs. Several went to Austria, Italy, Germany, England, but also to other countries like Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and later to Australia, South Africa and the Middle East.

Lenita proved to be a great manager for Ali Jamaal as a second factor to make a horse a great sire is the opportunity of breeding quality Mares. The owner has to look for the ones that are right for him. At Haras Meia Lua, Ali Jamaal found mares that had been chosen with great care, for their beauty and conformation. They were daughters and granddaughters of famous stallions, good sires of different lines: Egyptian, Spanish, Domestic American and Polish. Many of them had excellent Results. Some of the best Jamaal daughters were retained to form the Mare families of the breeding program. Later, Jamaal sons were stallions at Haras Meia Lua. They bred the foundation mares, and



Doug with Ali Jamaal after He Had Won The Us National Champion 1990



Ali Jamaal with Ferdinand Huemer



the Jamaal daughters. This line-breeding had good results. The resulting daughters were bred to another Jamaal son or to Jamaal himself. Also outcrosses were made and every time Ali Jamaal proved to be a strong sire. Even today in 2014, Lenita's pastures are filled with the most beautiful Arabian horse collection the world has ever known. My personal favorite being the timeless beauty Jullye el Ludjin as to me there is no other as beautiful as she. All horses at Lenita's farm are descents of Ali Jamaal and all of them, even the later generations have this unmistaken "Jamaal look" that separates them from the rest. It is like Ali Jamaal gave a little of his spirit to everyone of his offspring. The mark of a great sire is lasting the influence and with Ali Jamaal it is obvious now into the 4th and 5th generation and his offspring have permeated the entire world of Arabian Horses.

Lenita dedicated herself totally to Ali Jamaal and his get. Brilliant breeding, marketing and promotion ensured his place in the Arabian breed. She gave him wonderful mares and an idyllic life. At Haras Meia Lua, Ali Jamaal lived as a king. He had a beautiful field alongside his lake with a shelter were he could find comfort in case of rain and heat and a majestic view on his mares to gaze at across the way. To Lenita, Ali Jamaal

was very special and she made sure he would live the best life possible and it is through her care and love that he lived as long as he did for 32 years. When I visited Ali Jamaal back in 2012 and 2013 he was obviously not looking as he did in his prime time but to me it was not the beauty and perfection which left me and so many other people speechless, it was his presence, his charisma, the fire in his eyes, the royalty. Even at 32 years of age, he still had this glow around him. Even if you did not know the history of Ali Jamaal, you could feel he was royalty. He brought tears to the eyes of everyone that saw him. As he was not just a horse, he was a King and a big credit to Lenita who gave him the opportunity to let him be the King and loved him as the special horse he was even when he got older and needed her the most.

And now the King is gone and looking at his life it is evident that all of the right things happened with Jamaal, every step of his way and although he is not with us anymore, he still lives on in his offspring and in the hearts and memories of everyone fortunate enough to have met him. \Box

"The aura and mystic of Ali Jamaal is profound. There are stallions, a short list of stallions whom add credibility to a pedigree. Jamaal is one of those stallions. His beauty and courage are so rare, that's what made him special. We are so proud to have been a part of his life and had the honor of seeing him on a daily basis. He made you know why one can fall in love with Arabian horses. The respect that he and Lenita Perroy have earned together is well deserved. He was born a king and will be one forever" Greg Gallun – Gallun Farms

"Since we liked Ali Jamaal as an individual and believed in its power as a stallion, my brother Vico and I have always kept in our Haras Clio a majority of horses with Jamaal blood. Among them the highlights were three colts purchased from Haras Meia Lua with ages from 5 to 11 months old. Ryad El Jamaal (x Roxana Elshaklan) was bought at 11 months of age and, after a brilliant career at the shows, was sold to Haras Vanguarda, where became the leading sire of National Champions in Brazil, including two National Champions bred by Haras Clio: the fillies Chammyra El Ryad (x Chammur) and Rywanna (x Marwan Crystal RCA). Arkane El Jamaal (x Terta Real) was purchased at 6 months of age and became National Champion Colt before being exported to the United States. The third was Yllan El Jamaal (x Acuity), chosen at Haras Meia Lua at five months of age. Yllan became a great success in reproduction and its progeny has been exported to 15 countries. We are currently using a grandson of Ali Jamaal, Aryes El Ludjin, whose daughters born in Brazil have the well known 'Jamaal Look' which we always like to have in our products."

Luiz Rocco – Haras Clio

"I came in contact with Lenita Perroy in 1992 and bought my first horse from her in 1993 -Lilyh El Jamaal, - and many many more to follow. This first horse from Lenita did not only create a backbone for my breeding program, through her daughter Lara El Ludjin, and her grandson Lawrence El Gazal, - but also has been the start of a wonderful friendship and a most important personal relationship for my whole life with Lenita. I have been told that I own the biggest collection of Ali Jamaal get and grand get worldwide and outside Haras Meja Lua, - this is an honour and my daily job. Ali Jamaal and his best offspring are standing in my humble opinion for beauty and quality. But with Ali Jamaal beauty has not only been expressed in a beautiful face, - he has been one of the very few stallions in breeding history which gave nearly all his children an unmistakable "Look" - combined with something absolutely unaffordable which is named 'CLASS'!" Ferdinand Huemer – La Movida Arabians

"I was lucky enough to still see Ali Jamaal. Only few stallions ever give you the feeling of being close to a strong aura, Ali Jamaal gave me that feeling. Being around him made you feel humble and respectful, i enjoyed that. What stroke me was that none the less his age and the few ails that come with his age, this stallion is very update on the modern style and fashion we like so much today. Most stallions or mares you see back after 20 years you would say they aren't anymore what we look for today but not Ali Jamaal he was a timeless beauty. I'm glad i can work with a few of his daughters and granddaughters, having seen Ali Jamaal i have leaned to understand and respect them even more. Thank you Ali Jamaal, rest in peace in the greater greens."

Bart van Buggenhout – Aljassimya Farm

"Ali Jamaal was my ideal. Because of my close association with him, Ali Jamaal became my foundation sire. He consistently provided me with outstanding versions of himself, both direct and line bred. I am grateful to Lenita Perroy and Ali Jamaal himself for the greatest opportunity in my life with Arabian Horses." – Doug Dahmen – Intara Arabians "Ali Jamaal has inspired me to start breeding Arabian Horses. To me he is the ideal Arabian Horse and I feel very fortunate to not only have met him at his home in Brazil but also to own one of his daughters and to be surrounded by Ali Jamaal grandchildren and great grand children at my farm today."

Talitha Bakker - Arabian Stud Europe







Ali Jamaal







Ali Jamaal with bay daughters



Ali Jamaal with grey daughters



Parys El Jamaal, U.S. Res.National Champion, sire of US Res National Futurity Stallion Besson Carol, and of Shalina el Jamaal, US National Champion Mare



Dakar el Jamaal- US National Champion x Sonoma Lady (US.Res, National Champion)



Scala el Jamaal,owned by F. Huemer, Austrian International Champion, Res. Champion Nation's Cup

Jiuliusz de Wiec by Debowiec, (Brazilian National Champion) x Jiullya el Jamaal, x Jullye el Ludjin A succesful sire of show ring winners, Jiuliusz is owned by Pommeroy and J. Sloane Europe





Lara el Ludjin



Lilyh el Jamaal Nation's Cup Champion for F. Huemer. Mother of Lara el Ludjin, Austrian Champion, the mother of Lorenzo el Bri, European Champion, bred by F.Huemer, owned by Mario Matt

Tulle el Jamaal, US Res. National Champion, ex Talbreena





Niharra el Jamaal, Austria Nat. Champion owner F. Huemer

Dakar el Jamaal



Renée el Jamaal National Champion in Brazil





Miss el Jamaal. National Champion in Brazil



Alihanna el Jamaal National Champion in Brazil



Bey el Jamaal, South Africa Res. Nat Champion his son was Nat. Champion Stallion



Hileah el Jamaal, Austria Nat. Champion owner F. Huemer



Juliana el Jamaal, Austria Nat. Champion owner F. Huemer



Yllan el Jamaal



Nyhl el Jamaal





Johann el Jamaal



Ryad el Jamaal

Alathea el Jamaal National Champion in Brazil



Jureyn el Ludjin, full sister to Jullye, Haras Meia Lua







Eloise el Jamaal National Champion in Brazil

Arkane el Jamaal National Champion in Brazil



Lethyf el Jamaal Res. National Champion





Nogara El Ludjin x Res. National Champion Narah el Jamaal Important matriarch at Haras Meia Lua



Ermyne Nyhl,daughter of National Champion Eloise el Jamaal Important matriarch at Haras Meia Lua



Erynne el Perseus, daughter of Ermyne, (3 times Jamaal)



Ninjah el Jamaal,Brazilian National Champion



Ludjin el Jamaal at 20 years old. Photo Darryl



Niceya el Perseus x Nogara el Ludjin (3 times Jamaal)



Gdynia el Perseus, owned by Santa Ventura



Nautis el Perseus x Nogara el Ludjin (3 times Jamaal) Owned by Mario Matt





Electra el Perseus, daughter of Ermyne, (3 times Jamaal)

Bianca el Ludjin, x TW Bey Fantasy (Bey Shah)







Perseus el Jamaal, x Perfectshahn SRA (Bey Shah), 2002 black stallion. One of the influential stallions at Haras Meia Lua





Ghydara el Perseus





Tessara el Perseus x Talara el Jamaal



Jylda el Jamaal x Jullye, Haras Meia Lua





Javier el Jamaal by Juliet (now Dubai Arabian Horse Stud) son of Juliet



Haidée el Perseus , x Harklée el Ludjin



Saudi el Perseus, now in Australia, x Silk el Jamaal



Johrdan el Jamaal x Juliet el Ludjin owned by Pedro Amaral





Juliet el Ludjin Haras Meia Lua

BLOODLINE

Johann el Jamaal x Juliet el Ludjin



Ginza el Ludjin, mother of Gdynya and Ghydara important matriarch at Haras Meia Lua







Johara el Perseus x Josephine el Jamaal

Jazeer de Wiec x Josephine el Jamaal 2011 Brazilian National Champion, Haras Meia Lua



Josephine el Jamaal x Juliet el Ludjin Haras Meia Lua

