



Pinga

THE PRECIOUS GIFT GONE TOO SOON

by Kamila Kozłowska ■ photos by Sylwia Ilenda, Anette Mattsson

On 30th March 2021, the whole Arabian horse industry was hit by heart-breaking news. Janow Podlaski State Stud and the Polish breeding lost one of the most precious mares to have ever been born in Poland. At the age of only seventeen, the priceless Pinga (Gazal Al Shaqab x Pilar by Fawor) passed away while on lease to one of the top North American breeders, Cedar Ridge Arabians. Those who, at least once in their lives, were lucky to meet any Polish mares, know how special they are. Pinga belonged to the truly special horses that, once trot into someone's life, leave an irreversible mark on their hearts forever.

Born in 2004 at the Janow Podlaski State Stud in Poland, Pinga was special from the very first day of her life. However, for most of her early days, she lived in the shadow of her close cousin Pianissima (Gazal Al Shaqab x Pianosa by Eukaliptus) who, only a year older than

her charming stable companion, was often perceived as the almost perfect Arabian mare. No doubt Pianissima was as close to perfection as an Arabian horse can be but Pinga was no less beautiful or charismatic. Her head might not have been as exotically dished and refined as that of her legendary cousin but it was still beautifully shaped with dark mesmerising eyes and a feminine expression. Pinga was also blessed with other admirable attributes; a long elegant swan-like neck highly set on the almost perfect body with an exceptionally strong level top line. However, it was her amazing attitude, commanding charisma and powerful animated trot that she will be best remembered for. The way she carried herself captured the attention of anyone who visited the stables in Janow Podlaski, no matter whether the visitor was an experienced horseperson or a total layman. Phenotypically, Pinga was a true reflection of her precious



pedigree. The double dose of beauty, refinement, elegance and charisma that she inherited from her remarkable parents must have brought nothing less than spectacular results. Her world-famous sire, Gazal Al Shaqab (Anaza El Farid x Kajora by Kaborr), a 2001 World Champion Stallion and already a living legend, has revolutionised the modern Arabian horse breeding around the world. This Stallion Supreme is a very successful combination of Egyptian, Russian, American and, through his maternal granddam Edjora (Exelsjor x Edessa by Pietuszok), also Polish bloodlines. Several generations of his outstanding offspring have already conquered the showrings

across all continents and have spread his valuable genes all around the globe. The lease of Gazal from the Qatari Al Shaqab Stud to the Polish state studs in 2002 and 2003 was an excellent idea as he turned out to cross extremely well with the Polish mares. Apart from such incredible individuals as Pinga and Pianissima, Gazal Al Shaqab, during his two-yearly stay in Poland, produced some very valuable horses, including the exquisite World Champion Mare Emandoria (out of Emanda by Ecaho), born in 2004 at the Michalow State Stud. For many years, his progeny born in Poland, especially his delightful daughters, were





Pilar (Fawor x Pipi)

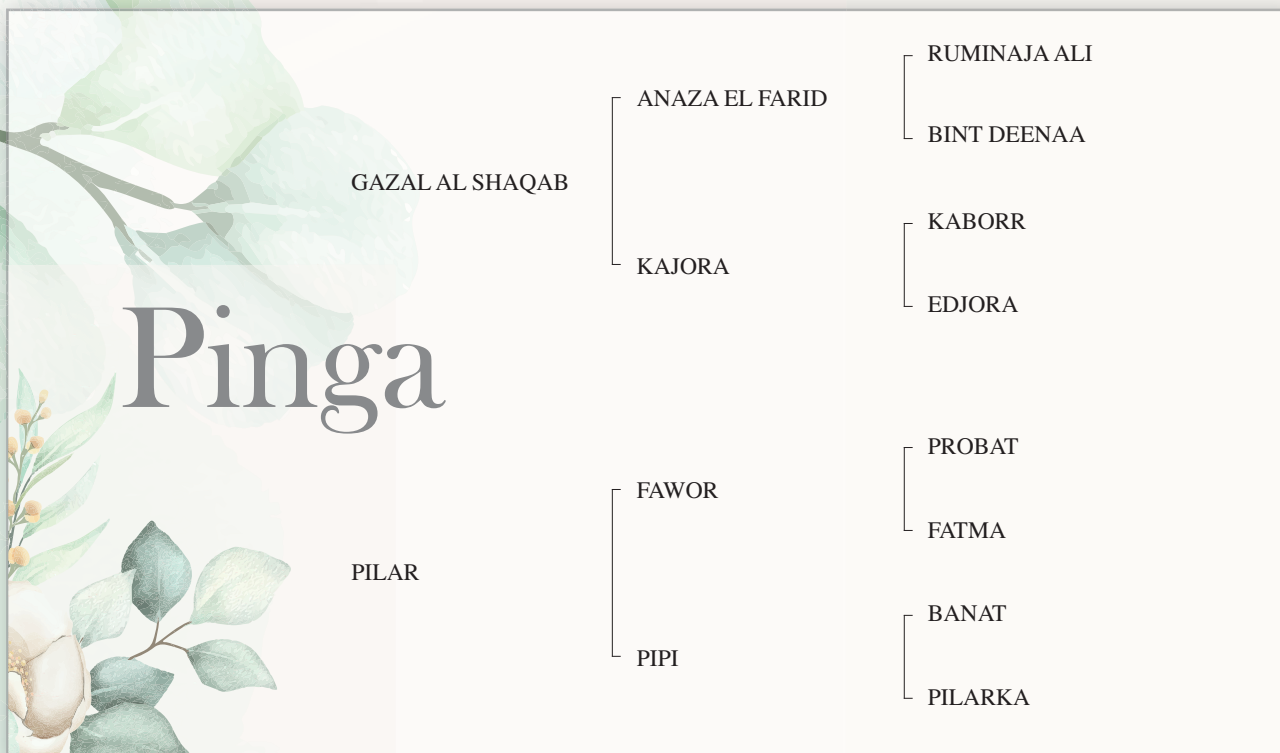


Gazal Al Shaqab (Anaza El Farid x Kajora)

unbeaten at the shows, placed among the most desired sale horses and now are also considered the most valuable and prolific broodmares. Wildona’s dam Wilda (out of Wilga by Ekstern) and Perfinka’s dam Perfirka (out of Perforacja by Ernal) may serve as two great examples of excellent and proven producers.

Genetically, Pinga’s greatness was undoubtedly boosted with her dam’s aristocratic heritage as she proudly represented the esteemed Szamrajowka family, commonly known as

the prized Janow Podlaski P-line. Established by Count Branicki circa 1810 in Biala Cerkiew, which now belongs to the territory of Ukraine, the family of Szamrajowka was nearly extinct after the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, when the stud was completely destroyed and all the mares were brutally slaughtered as a much-hated symbol of Polish aristocracy. Fortunately, a few representatives of this priceless dam line had already been spread among other Arabian horse breeders and, hence, the family managed



to survive the bloody revolution. But that was not the end of the Szamrajowka family’s tragic fortune. Shortly after re-establishing the dam line in Janow Podlaski, through the Yugoslavian-bred grey mare Kewa (Siglavy Bagdady 11 x Kalga by Amurath), the Poles lost Szamrajowka again when the Soviet troops invaded Poland in 1939, taking nine stallions and fifty-four mares to Russian Tersk Stud, including the precious Kewa with a yearling filly Wlodarka (by Ofir) by her side. Luckily, the second attempt at reintroducing

Szamrajowka to the Polish breeding programme was much more successful. In the late 1950’s, Wlodarka’s invaluable daughter Piewica (by Priboj) was imported from the Soviet Union to the Polish State Stud of Albigowa. Tail female, Pinga traces back to this legendary mare who, together with her three highly influential daughters, secured the position of P-line in the Polish breeding. Her 1964 grey daughter Pierzga (by Negatiw), among other valuable get, produced two excellent mares by Palas, Pieczec and Pilarka.



Pinga at the 2010 Polish National Show in Janow Podlaski





Pinga's amazing performance at the 2012 European Championships in Moorsele

Both beautiful snow-white greys, the former is mostly known as the dam of the World Champion Stallion Piruet (by Probat), while the latter made the Szamrajowka family famous around the world. Not only was Pilarka a superb show horse, winning the laurels of the Polish, European and World Champion Mare, but she also became a proven producer for Janow Podlaski, where she gave birth to two exceptional daughters. One of them was the precious Pinia (by Probat), the dam of Pianosa (by Eukaliptus) who, bred to Gazal Al Shaqab, produced the unforgettable Pianissima. The other one was the incomparable Pipi (by Banat), another outstanding producer who crossed extremely well with the 1982 Junior World Champion Fawor. This cross resulted in three full siblings: the Polish National Junior Champion Colt Pilot, the amazing broodmare Pilica, who is the dam of Palmeta by Ecaho and, last but not least, the Polish National Junior Champion Filly Pilar. Following in the footsteps of her prolific dam, Pilar, at the age of fourteen, was already a proud mother of ten get; eight mares and two stallions. Half

of the progeny that she produced in Poland, before being exported to Qatar, were sired by Gazal Al Shaqab. This included the star of the 2007 Pride of Poland Auction Pieta, sold for €300.000 to Shirley Watts of Halsdon Arabians; the chief sire at the Janow Podlaski State Stud Pomian as well as her most remarkable daughter Pinga, who was living proof that the cross between Gazal Al Shaqab and Pilar was a match made in heaven. That was probably one of the reasons why the owners of Gazal, the Qatari Al Shaqab Stud, purchased Pilar at the 2010 Pride of Poland Sale for the record price of €240.000. At Al Shaqab, Pilar was once again bred to Gazal, twice to his son Marwan Al Shaqab and once to his grandson Wadee Al Shaqab, but the results were not as spectacular as those in Poland and the hopes for another horse of Pinga's quality were not fulfilled. However, having a mare of such a strong genetic prepotency as Pilar in the breeding programme will surely bring great results in future generations. Especially that she crossed well also with other stallions. Two years after purchasing Pieta, Shirley



Pinga as the Polish National Champion Mare and Best in Show in 2010

Watts spent another half a million euro on her maternal half-sister Pinta by Ekstern, while Nina Suskiewiczova decided to add the precious Pilarosa (by Al Adeed Al Shaqab) to her Suweco Stud in Czech Republic, paying €133.000 at the 2018 Pride of Poland Sale; an investment that quickly paid off, when Pilarosa became Polish National Gold Champion Mare two years after the purchase was made. However, it needs to be mentioned that the genetic prepotency of the Szamrajowka dam line is not only visible through the prism of numerous victories in championships or high sale prices at auctions. With so many remarkable race winners representing P-line, the athletic abilities of this family should not be underestimated, especially when great results on the racetrack go side by side with beauty and refinement. Two great grandsons of the incomparable Piewica: the Polish National Champion Stallion and Criterium winner Pepton (Bandos x Pemba by Czort) as well as the All Nations Cup and European Reserve Champion Stallion and Derby winner Piechur (Banat x Pierzeja by Bandos), together with

the aforementioned Pieczec who, apart from being the dam of Piruet, also won the Oaks, serve as perfect examples that one does not exclude the other. Pinga herself represented the best of both worlds; the quintessence of the Polish breeding, where ethereal beauty combined with amazing athletic capabilities created what I like to call the powerful femininity of the Polish mares. However unrealistic it may sound, Pinga, similarly to her own dam Pilar, was both ethereal and powerful at the same time. As a three-year-old filly, she was placed in three out of five races in which she had a chance to participate. Her undeniable class, charm and charisma did not come unnoticed during the championships. Her very first attempt at bewitching the judges was nothing less than a spectacular success. As a yearling filly, after a quick warm-up at the local Polish shows in Falborek and Belzyce, Pinga became Polish National Champion Filly and Best in Show, with the highest score that I have ever seen - 96.33 points! That was probably the highest score ever in the long history of the Polish



Maltson





Nationals; the score that surpassed the marks achieved by the legendary Pianissima in 2004, when she reached for the same trophy. With nine times 20 for type, head and neck and movement, Pinga proved that the blend of Gazal Al Shaqab with Szamrajowka's blood was not just a happy coincidence. Pianissima might have been breathtakingly beautiful but she was not one in a million.

After spending the early years in her motherland, in 2010, Pinga, as a more mature mare, set off to conquer the world. The USA was her first destination. Leased by Frank & Frank Partners, founded by Frank Hennessey and Frank Chisholm, and prepared for the shows by Greg Gallun, she managed to win several regional shows as well as the Reserve Senior Mare Championship in Scottsdale and Top Ten Senior Mare title in Las Vegas. Maturing ever so slowly as the Polish Arabians often do, at the age of six, she was not yet ready to reach for the highest honours at the US shows. Her road to glory

started shortly after she returned home from the USA in 2010, when, at the Polish Nationals, she repeated her own success from 2005, this time as a senior mare. With another spectacular score of 93.67 points, Pinga was crowned the Polish National Champion Mare, winning also the Best in Show title. However, that again was only a warm-up before conquering Europe. In



Pinga at the 2017 Polish Nationals, collecting a well-deserved WAHO Trophy

2012, at the age of eight, looking more beautiful than ever, Pinga enchanted the judges in Moorsele with her ground-covering trot for which she received the maximum marks. With additional two times 20 for type, four times 20 for head and neck and a total score of 94.20 points, she became European Champion Senior Mare. Just a few months after the European Championships, she stormed into the Parisian arena of the most prestigious championship on the globe and, leaving her competitors far behind, she won the World Champion Senior Mare title.

After a few years of a well-deserved rest in her mother stud, in 2015, Pinga returned on her journey around the world. This time, she headed towards the Middle East, more precisely, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. While on lease to Al Jawza Stud, she was trained and presented by Glenn Schoukens. During her stay at the Schoukens Training Centre, Pinga managed to add a few significant trophies to her lustrous show career, including the titles of Silver Champion Mare in Aachen and Platinum World Champion Mare in Paris. Before returning to Janow, she added two more medals to



Pinga in Paris, trotting for the Platinum World Champion Mare title in 2015





Piniata (Eden C x Pinga)



her impressive collection: gold at the 2016 PSAIAHF in Riyadh and silver at the 2016 Qatar International Arabian Horse A Show.

In 2017, a year after Pinga came back home from Saudi Arabia, the World Arabian Horse Organisation acknowledged her amazing achievements with another award. The prestigious WAHO Trophy, awarded to remarkable representatives of the Arabian breed, was a cherry on the cake of her impressive career. At the age of thirteen, Pinga was already highly appreciated as both a show champion and a prolific broodmare. She conquered the Old Continent and the Arabian Peninsula without much effort. It was just the New World that she still had to amaze...

In the summer of 2020, Pinga set off on her last journey to Minnesota, with the ambitious aim to conquer the American showrings. Lara Ames, the owner of Cedar Ridge Arabians and the publisher of the Arabian Horse Times Magazine, is known for her love and admiration for the Polish horses. At the 2014 Pride of Poland Sale, she purchased Perfirka (Gazal Al Shaqab x Perforacja by Ernal) for €220.000. Captivated

with this charming mare, Lara decided to lease her unforgettable daughter Perfinka (by Esparto) who, after a very successful show career in the USA, was sold at the 2020 Pride of Poland Auction for a record price of €1.250.000 to Saudi Arabia. When Perfinka's time in the USA was coming to an end, Lara received a unique offer to lease Pinga for one and a half years. During her second attempt at conquering the US grounds, Pinga was prepared for competition at the Midwest Training Centre owned by David Boggs. Despite her great shape and spectacular looks, she was 'only' third in her class at the 2021 Scottsdale Show. Unfortunately, Pinga will no longer have a chance to amaze America again. Due to some severe complications after a colic surgery, this year's Scottsdale was her last show ever.

Luckily, Pinga's exceptional legacy will live on through the promising progeny that she has left behind. Out of thirteen offspring, six mares and seven stallions, three daughters with whom she has blessed her home stud, have the potential to extend Pinga's branch of the Szamrajowka family in the Polish breeding. These three daughters: Piniata and



Paterna (Eden C x Pinga)

Paterna, both by Eden C, together with Petula by Kahil Al Shaqab, have already proven themselves as both successful show horses and potential future producers. In 2015, the beautiful bay Piniata, following in her dam's footsteps, became Polish National Champion Mare and Best in Show at the young age of four. She is lucky to have inherited her dam's unforgettable trot and a level top line. Her full sister,

the classy chestnut Paterna, was named Reserve Champion Junior Filly at the 2013 Bialka Junior Spring Show and at the 2014 Polish Nationals. She is also the dam of a promising three-year-old bay filly Paradnica by Pinga's full brother Pomian. Last but not least, the elegant bay Petula, as a yearling filly, won the Top Five title at the 2015 European Championships in Verona.



Petula (Kahil Al Shaqab x Pinga)

Even though no longer with us, some horses can never be forgotten. As a true ambassador of the Arabian breed, Pinga was surely one of those extraordinary horses who show the world how amazing and versatile Arabian horses truly are. Beautiful inside and out, this magnificent mare was so much more than a successful show champion and a prolific broodmare. She was the symbol of powerful femininity

who proudly continued the legacy of her legendary Polish ancestors. Her heritage will live on through her outstanding offspring that she has left in her maternal stud. At the age of seventeen, the living legend Pinga left the world far too early, leaving all those who were lucky enough to meet her truly heartbroken. This gorgeous mare, though gone too soon, will live in our hearts forever.. □