

PORTRAIT OF AN EGYPTIAN PHOTOGRAPHER

AHMED TAHA

CAIRO

An Article By ArabianHorse MAGAZINE - Interviewed by Sonia Smaldone

Successful photographers often become idols of new generations. It's always interesting to see them in life, to take a glance behind the scenes, and hear their unique stories on how they got into photography. That's the aim of the interview with Egyptian photographer Ahmed Taha, a very talented artist with a soft spot for Arabian horse photography.

Hello, Ahmed. Welcome on board! Let's start from the very beginning. Why did you choose to pursue a career as a photographer? Did you go to school to study photography, or are you self-taught?

Hello, it is such an honor to be interviewed by you. I started it as a hobby, and by the time I realized that practice makes it perfect. So people started asking me to attend shows as a photographer and photograph their horses at their farms, and this when it turned into a career and, yes, I'm self-taught.

What does photography mean to you? How would you describe your photography style?

Photography is my life. It is also my chance to show the world the beauty that can pass by without notice every day in one second with one shot. After all, I consider myself an artist meaning that my style must have an artistic balanced touch, and the more it is natural, the more it is better, and it can touch the soul.





AL SHIRAA
ARABIAN HORSE SHOW

أفضل مصور
في البطولة

**BEST PHOTOGRAPHER
IN THE SHOW**



Who were your early influences?

The one and only Gigi Grasso! I was struck by his talent and the constancy of quality in his photography from the beginning.

What is your favorite subject to photograph? Why?

Arabian Horses: I like to photograph the elegance and the pride in the Arabian Horses, in the way through generations of purity and heritage.

Dogs: I love them, and I love their loyalty that you can see in their eyes with every shot.

The Sea: I like diving and taking pictures under the water because I believe that what's underwater is another ally's life that is always hungry for discovery.

Which is your favorite lens? Why?

My favorite is 70/200 because it can show so many details, and it can isolate the background if it is not needed, which helps a lot when photographing animals.

What makes the good picture stand out from the average?

First, the art in the photo, the colors, and lighting, but most of all, the horse expression. When you take the shot in one nanosecond, and it might not be seen or captured ever again because this shot is the real Spirit of the Arabian horse. It is the topical moment of the session, which might take an hour or days to come.

How do you educate yourself to take better pictures?

Practice, practice, practice, by knowing more about the angles though self-teaching myself from other colleges work too.

Among your photo-collections, which one is your favorite? Why?

The one with the grey stallion standing so proud showing his ultimate beauty, with a wide colorful chest band and the Arabian red saddle. The

atmosphere of the photo and the angle, and the look in his eye are everything. I wished to capture in this horse the moment I saw him coming from far away.

What kind of tools do you use for post-processing?

Mostly color correction programs and tones of coffee!

How did you get involved in the Arabian horse world as a photographer? What's your favorite national or international show-competition? Why?

I'm a horse lover so, I started photographing the Arabian Horses in shows from the audience rows and at the collecting arena when the grooms are preparing the horses. I had no chance of photographing any Arabian Horses studs at this time, and after three years of learning and asking people like judges and breeders on cho-





osing the best photos that I captured and asking them why you prefer this rather than that one. From their choices, I knew what is preferable and what is not. Then, I studied some Arabian Horses conformation books. During these three years, I never published anything at all. I had to work hard! I also had to study Arabian horse's behavior so to be able to capture the best of each horse too. Then, I started publishing on my page on Facebook. People started noticing me and asking me to photograph their horses which led me to the show arena.

Each show venue is different in a way or another,

but defiantly my favorite always is the show/area with a good view or background, or the sun is in a good position for photography.

Who are your best friends in this sector?

It's a privilege that almost everyone is a friend in his way to me. I can't say names. I might forget anyone.

What is the least enjoyable part of being a photographer for you? And the most rewarding part?

I get going to photograph a horse, and the people around him do not





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know how to deal with him or are not hearing my instructions to reach the best angles. Or even when a horse is not in good condition health-wise, this can break my heart as an artist and a human being. The most rewarding for me is finding the horse that is screaming out his characters in his look and attitude, plus the appreciating look in the owner's eyes when he sees the outcome.

What are your hopes and dreams or future goals? Where do you see yourself in the next five years?
My hopes and dreams are to be more International and that people know me more. That is why I'm happy about this interview, and I believe it's a step toward my dreams. In five years? I have no clue except that I'm sure that I will work so hard to be better every day, and I hope I'll be in every title show in the world one day.

Thank you so much, Ahmed. Have faith in yourself, and you can make everything come true. Think beyond your ability, go beyond your dream, have such courage to handle any situation. It is your journey, and you can make it smoother with your dreaming. Best of luck from all of us on the AHM Team!



Ahmed Taha



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