

WE, WOMEN

by Giorgia Mauri

I stumbled upon this sentence days ago and can't get it out of my head.

"If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same".

It is taken from Kipling's poem If and welcomes the world's greatest tennis players as they enter Centre Court at Wimbledon.

I think it means that often things are not as they seem, that every event even the most extraordinary brings with it a new world full of possibilities and choices to be made. That one should never believe (only) the facade and exhort one to remain whole and true to oneself.

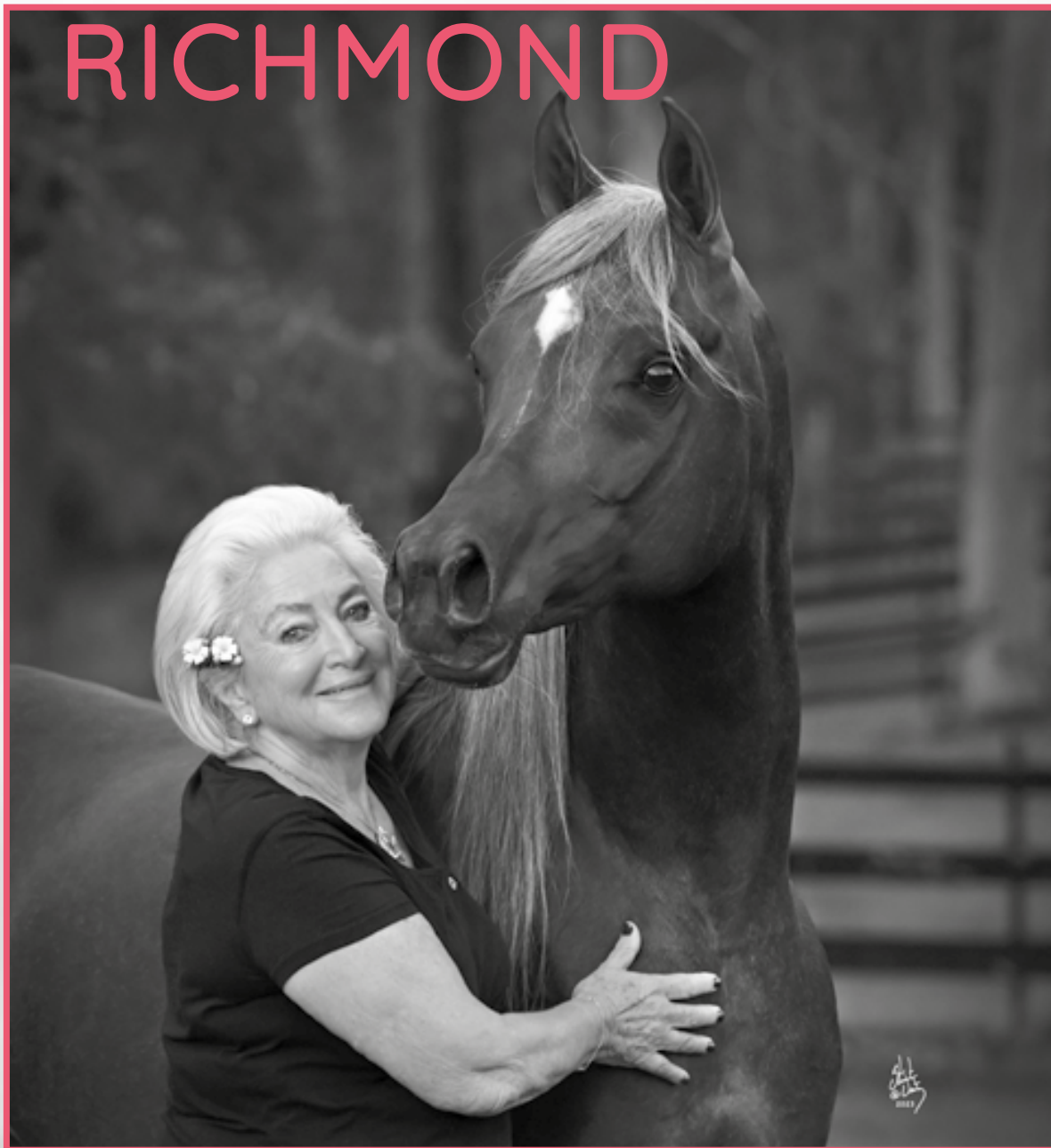


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MARION RICHMOND



Breeder

I am Marion Richmond, born in Australia and descended from an English convict, through my mother: my father was a refugee from Germany. Most of my working life was spent in our family electrical engineering business. It was a male-dominated industry at the time, and I faced significant difficulties based simply because I was a woman. This is a stark contrast to the Arabian horse industry at the time, where one had women like Judi Forbis, Sheila Varian, Sigi Merz (Siller), and now her daughter, Janina, Becky Rogers and Lisa McCracken. Horsewomen were valued based on their knowledge and ability, not their gender. I am now retired with three adult children, seven grandchildren and a husband, so I am able to spend much time with my lifelong passion of Arabian horse.

As a child I was in hospital for long periods of time, and was brought books to read: only horse stories, of course. My favourite was the story of the Godolphin Arabian, so from five years of age I had in my mind a picture of a white Arabian mare. That has not changed until now. At the age of 10 years, I purchased my first horse, with my own pocket money, a very old partbred mare who came with a saddle (with no stuffing) and a bridle tied up with string. I gave pony rides and sold guinea pigs by the roadside to buy oats, at 10&6 per bag. My parents had just purchased 22 acres at Dural, New South Wales, as they bred dogs, and had 70 in the city! Simeon Stud now has 72 acres, as every time, I had a big sale I either purchased adjoining land or horses with new bloodlines.

I approached the world of the Arabian horse through the Arabian horse. I am always looking to breed "the perfect horse", so I am looking at photos, videos, some Facebook posts, for horses that will fit my ideal to incorporate into my programme. Before 2019 I travelled as much as I could, to go to as many farms with straight Egyptian horses as possible. I also enjoyed judging at shows to

learn about other programmes. I very much enjoy being a woman in the Arabian horse industry. In Australia I welcome all and sundry to my farm, and try to spend time to impart to young and old, and new people into the industry, what I have learned over the years. In Australia, this industry has no gender bias.

The only time I have had a slight hiccup has been in some parts of the Middle East, where women are not as respected as they should be.

Tenacity and perseverance are the two qualities that one needs to fulfill your dreams. Never give up in searching for perfection. Despite other people's voices, you always must keep the image of the horse in front of your mind. Sometimes, miracles can happen! Sometimes, one has to sell a wonderful horse to bring in new bloodlines: life is also a compromise. Frozen semen, if it is good quality, is another way to bring new blood.

Experience is always valuable. Recently, at a show in Australia with five judges (one from the USA, two from the Middle East and two Australian), we showed three straight Egyptian females. One was a yearling, and top score of the show, a mare, second highest overall score of the show, and an 18 year old broodmare who went top fourth overall (all bloodlines, all genders, all ages). One of the Australian judges had complained beforehand, about having to also judge a straight Egyptian class. After the classes, I am told they apologised to the committee, as they had just loved the horses. So many breeders of Arabian horses, who had never seen straight Egyptians competing, were overwhelmed and most of them were young women starting out with a just a few horses. I think the fact that I am a woman of 76 years, and people can see I am still breeding wonderful horses is an inspiration for other women to follow their dreams.

IF YOU ARE LUCKY ENOUGH IN LIFE TO HAVE A PASSION – FOLLOW IT. KEEP IT IN YOUR HEART. YOU ARE TRULY BLESSED.

ALEXANDRA LEBEDEVA



Rider, passionate

My name is Alexandra Lebedeva, I am 24 years old. I live in Italy but I was born in Moldova. Since I was five years old I have a great passion for horses, I started with show jumping horses and then I fell in love with reining, I did endurance and finally I found my love and started working with an Arabian horse, EK Dehor. With him we started competing in a western pleasure class and I started training horses for shows, learning how to take care of these amazing horses. My history with Arabian horses started four years ago when I was asked to go and work in an Endurance stable

in Dubai, after this experience I had the great opportunity to work in a stable where they train Arabians for shows. I think these kinds of horses need more attention, patience, a lot of sensitivity, and I think they need to trust the person they are working with. Maybe sometimes men think they can do everything better than a woman, it would be nice if men would push and encourage more women to do this work, to present, to show ... for me the key to get ahead in any situation is to have a goal and work hard to get it!
This world needs more women!

DON'T BE AFRAID TO GO AFTER WHAT YOU WANT TO DO AND WHAT YOU WANT TO BE, BUT DON'T BE AFRAID TO BE WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE.

COSTAZA LALISCIA



Athlete, Endurance Rider and Riding Teacher

I'm Costanza Laliscia and I'm 23 years old. I live in Umbria, in the province of Perugia, and I carry out my business in Agello of Magione in the Umbrian countryside, where my family's Italia Endurance Stables & Academy is located.

I am first and foremost an athlete in the endurance discipline, but I also take care of the general management of our stables and also of training. In fact, Italia Endurance also has an Academy that deals with the training of talented young athletes, the champions of tomorrow. I am very passionate about teaching because it allows me to transfer to others not only what I have learned from a technical point of view, but also those values and emotions that this sport has been able to give me. With the aim of continuing my professional career also in the field of training, I graduated in Motor Sciences at the University of Perugia.

I approached the world of horses, and in particular the Arabian thoroughbred horse, thanks to my family and above all thanks to my father Gianluca, who has always had a great passion for horses. Since I was a very small child

he brought me in close contact with this beautiful animal which I then fell in love with.

Being a woman for me has never been an obstacle in this world. In fact, I think that equestrian sports are among the very few sports where women and men can compete on the same level and without distinction.

Given that horses are always part of my life projects, the male physique is often associated with resistance to fatigue, but above all in the discipline of endurance, what counts together with physical performance is concentration combined with a marked sensitivity, an exquisitely feminine that allows you to communicate more easily with the animal. I believe that sensitivity is one of the characteristics that most distinguishes me: being able to interpret the horse, a living being that does not speak but that transmits emotions that we must be able to catch and interpret. This empathy is essential to get in touch with horses and to achieve important results with them.

THE MESSAGE I WOULD LIKE TO SEND TO FUTURE GENERATIONS OF WOMEN IS TO SET PRECISE GOALS, IN LIFE AS IN SPORT, AND DO EVERYTHING TO ACHIEVE THEM, WITH THE AWARENESS THAT WOMEN HAVE NOTHING LESS THAN MEN, ON THE CONTRARY, WE NORMALLY HAVE SOMETHING IN ADDITION, SUCH AS SENSITIVITY, IN FACT. WE HAVE TO ASSERT OURSELVES AS PEOPLE AND WE WON'T FIND OBSTACLES IF WE HAVE CLEAR GOALS TO ACHIEVE AND IF WE PUT ALL OF OURSELVES INTO THE WILL TO ACHIEVE THEM.

MARZIA & SIMONA



ANICA secretaries

MIRJAM & VALENTINA



ANICA secretaries

Who you are, where you come from and what you do?

Simona: Good morning everyone! We are Marzia, Mirjam, Simona and Valentina, we all live in the province of Parma, an area that is a bit magical for us because it is rich in excellence and opportunities. In fact, important industries are born here: first and foremost the food industry (prosciutto and Parmigiano Reggiano cheese need no introduction), then we have car manufacturers (see Dallara automobili), a cutting-edge investigation department that is RIS, and even as far as art is concerned, Giuseppe Verdi and Parmigianino immediately come to mind. We work in the ANICA secretariat, which is of national importance for the Purebred Arabian Horse Stud Book. Italian breeding, in fact has reached high levels for racing, endurance and shows. We take care of registration: births, transfers of ownership, imports, etc...

Mirjam: I was born in Switzerland (my mother was Swiss) and when I was two we moved to a very small village in the hills of Parma where I still live with my family and my animals. Passionate about horses from a very young age. Since last year I no longer have horses but I have many bees hives and several dogs (German Kurzhaar) with whom I spend my free time in truffle hunting and various competitions. Time is never enough to do everything.

Valentina: I was born in Parma back in 1979 and still live in my birthplace. I love the place where I live, far from the city, surrounded by greenery and (almost) the silence of the countryside. I love animals very much, despite that I have always had only and exclusively dogs. At a very young age I did a little bit of horseback riding together with some elementary school friends without alas great success. For the past few years instead, besides following my son involved in rugby, I have been dabbling in long-distance triathlons together with my husband; the effort I put into doing this sport reminds me so much of the effort put in by all those we take care of in the Secretariat, who, riding their very strong Arabian horses, complete grueling races in mountain running and more. Not incidentally, both of these disciplines are defined as endurance.

How did you approach the world of the Arabian horse?

Simona: It all happened by chance, I was looking for a job and after an interview and a trial period I was hired. I was immediately intrigued by the focus and importance of genealogies ascertained by DNA testing. After the first few years, though, in seeing the various psa-related events, I really wanted to ride! So I attended a riding school for a while. Then the decrease in free time at that time and the resulting leg ache from not doing regular activities made me give up the sport. However, I have some basic knowledge left, and when there is an opportunity for a horseback ride on vacation, I don't miss it!

Mirjam: I finished high school and I started working almost immediately for ANICA. It was 1986 and ANICA had just moved to Parma to the offices of Ing. Giovanni Ficai, whom I still thank for passing on his passion for the Arabian horse. There were no computers there was nothing, just a small room with a few papers and an agenda with a list of horses and their owners. An old typewriter with which I used to compile and write pedigrees side by side with photocopies of the parents' pedigrees, and then there were the magnificent old WAHO stud books that the Engineer, as we all called him, had taught me to read to complete the horses' data.

Valentina: I came to Anica quite casually, initially as an archivist; the documentation that we receive daily for all equines registered in the Arabian Horse Stud Book has to be catalogued in order to be reused over and over again depending on the needs of each horse and its progeny. I admit that I knew early on that I would love this place, which did not show itself as just paperwork.

Marzia: Since 1990 I have been a part of what I consider to be a family: the A.N.I.C.A. Being an accountancy graduate, I was immediately involved in the accounting department and all related activities.

The activity that was assigned to me and that I have continued to follow until today, is very gratifying to me because it is in line with my educational and professional profile. This is also thanks to the serene

environment that has welcomed me and always marked by maximum cooperation.

What does it mean today to be a woman like you in the Arabian horse world?

Simona: We are fortunate because we not only have the classic office work but also do some traveling (such as for membership meetings, National competition secretariat, etc.). We like to go on away trips because it gives us a chance to meet breeders in person.

Have you found any difficulties or obstacles in proposing yourself in this world?

Nowadays life has definitely become more complex, impending deadlines and bureaucracy always keep everyone running.

What qualities or characteristics do you think you must have in order to pursue your dream or to undertake a project you care about?

Mirjam: When you do something with passion, obstacles become a stimulus to do better, in work you need precision, attention respect for those who work with you and certainly stimulus to do better and better.

Valentina: With time you learn to take measures with everything around you, I consider Anica and my colleagues Mirjam, Marzia and Simona a second family, with whom I can face joys and sorrows. We work as a team, supporting and confronting each other on any difficulty in order to be able to solve each situation in the best possible way. The causticity of this work faced in

4 has a whole other flavor, so I believe that being able to share and help others are necessary qualities.

Do you think that your experience and history can be an inspiration for a future generation of women in this world?

Mirjam: Maybe, I don't know. It depends on what goals you have. Here you don't have any career possibilities.

Valentina: I cannot give an answer to this question. I can definitely say for sure that the experience of the colleagues before me and their stories of life lived in the Anica world are a help for me and my daily work, maybe the same will happen with those who will come after me, maybe.

Marzia: I think I am not able to give a precise answer, I say, on my life and work experience, that commitment and honesty in work and life definitely brings you great satisfaction.

Leave a message to future generations of young women to encourage them to take their own path, whatever it may be.

Simona: I have a dream! (M L King) Dear girls, remember that anything is possible as long as you believe in your dream. Stay united and friends, because being able to work in a pleasant environment is truly a blessing.

For future generations, in my humble opinion, I think the starting point is to take care of the study as much as possible, then with the right commitment comes everything else.

WE, WOMEN

is:

Margot Chazel
Sunny Sassudelli
Chiara Carrer
Antonia Bautista
Jennifer Dhombre
Kamila Kozłowska
Anna Maria Raffa
Jennifer Von Dahn
Urszula Łęczycka
Kathleen Ohlsson
Ally Nelson
Mindy Peters
Rosangela Brugali
Elena Vignato
Cristiane Durante Guardia
Talitha Bakker
Desiré Faraone
Sandra Platzeck
Raquel Jacovas
Adriana & Alessandra Moura
Magdalena Muraszko-Kowalska
Helena Jodie Byrne
Manuela Lucini
Christie Metz
Dana Russo
Patrycja Makowska
Mary Hellen Chavez
Dulce Rosas
Flávia Torres
Kasia Dolińska-Witkowska
Elisa Grassi
Raquel Sorvilo
Yassmin Atieh
Nadia Boersch
Paola Marinangeli
Sandra Zänglein
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Anna Scarpa
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Beth Ellen Hunziker
Judith Wich-Wenning
Martine Van Hee

Nabila Al Ali
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Marion Richmond
Alexandra Lebedeva
Costanza Laliscia
Marzia, Simona, Mirjam & Valentina