

WE, WOMEN

by Giorgia Mauri

We, Women project is involving more and more women from all over the world.

It is a great satisfaction to realise and then find confirmation of the fact that women want to tell their stories and bear witness to their experience for the benefit of future generations.

So we are not stopping. We continue to collect contributions and trace the path. We can only suppose what the destination of this project will be. The goal is to hand over to future generations a testimony that will act as a guide, that will help them find their way.

All women together can do this, can achieve this ambitious goal.

Thanks to those who have participated and those who will participate for their valuable contribution to this great dream.

KATHLEEN OHLSSON



Breeder and Businesswoman

My name is Kathleen Ohlsson, I'm 37 years old and an Arabian horse breeder in Sweden.

I had my first Arabian horse when I was 13 years old and been stucked with the breed since that. My mother who I lived with, was not involved in horses at all, but she kindly built a tiny little stable with two boxes in our garden where I kept my Arabian horse and a pony.

When I was 20 years old, I bought my first Arabian stallion and was working in a stud farm for Warmbloods. I learned a lot about breeding, insemination, foals and so on. It was at that time I decided I want to be a breeder and focus more on that part instead of riding.

A couple of years later, I imported my first two breeding mares.

Today, I run our stud farm together with my husband. We have around 15 horses, an approved EU stallion station and I'm educated in insemination, lab work and everything around. We ship semen and are selling horses all over the world. I love this work!

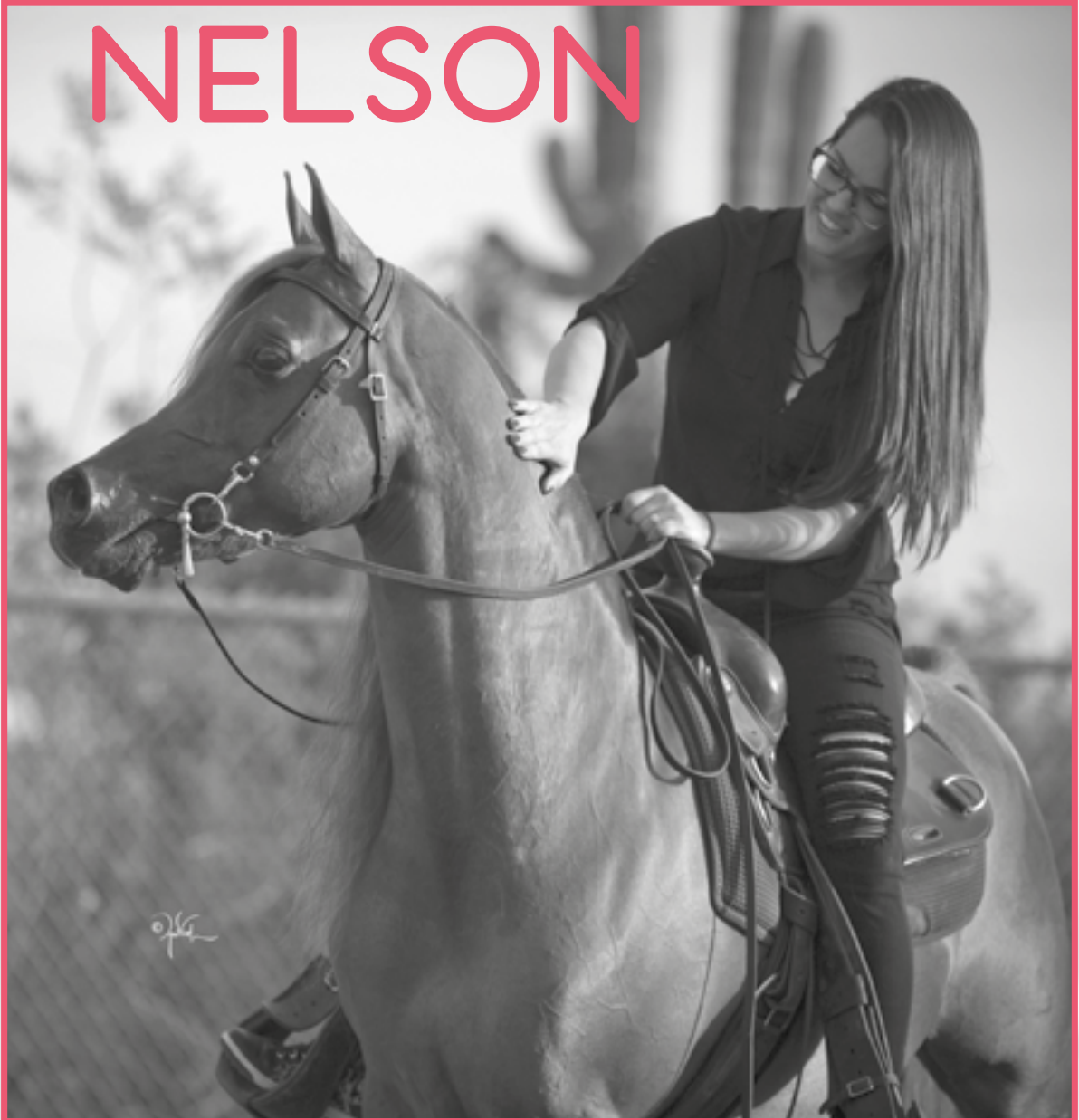
I think, like in the rest of the world and in all business, there's both plus and minus to be a woman. I think it was harder when I was younger. You had to prove yourself more to other people and people sometimes had bad thoughts about you and above all, preconceived notions. If I was a young man with a rising stallion and a owned stud farm, I think people would have applauded me instead.

I THINK THE MOST IMPORTANT IS TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELF, BELIEVE IN YOUR OWN BREEDING PROGRAM OR WHAT YOU ARE INTO, HAVE YOUR OWN VISION AND TRY TO SURROUND YOU WITH PEOPLE YOU LIKE AND HOPEFULLY CAN TRUST. PEOPLE THAT GIVES YOU ENERGY. DURING THE YEARS, I FOUND OUT THAT TEAM WORK WITH GOOD PEOPLE AND FRIENDSHIP IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO HELP YOU KEEP GOING.

The passion to Arabian horse drives me. Even if it's a very tough world and sometimes I really think to myself what I'm in to, I never give up because I love the Arabian horse.

I THINK I'M A GOOD EXAMPLE THAT YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT AND BELIEVE IN YOUR DREAMS! WORK HARD, BE KIND, STAY HUMBLE BUT DON'T LET ANYONE STEP ON YOU.

ALLY NELSON



Businesswoman in Marketing Management, Social Media and PR

My name is Ally Nelson, I reside in Scottsdale, Arizona and was born and raised in Southern California. I was not raised in a equestrian family, however, my parents always supported my dreams and ambitions, instilling a strong work ethic within me. As a small child my closest friend had Arabian horses and I was uncontrollably drawn to the barn.

By age 11 my parents accepted that this was not a phase for me, they bought me my first show horse and I've never looked back.

My entire childhood I competed with Arabian and Half Arabian performance horses, I also dabbled a bit in the halter. I attended college in Los Angeles with a focus on Animal Science and Marketing which has led me to the exact place I am now.

I currently own Ally Nelson PR, a marketing firm that assists Arabian horse breeders all around the world with their annual marketing strategies. Along with ANPR I manage the farm Sahara Scottsdale, a herd of approximately 150 Arabian horses, many great stallions and on average 35 foals per year.

I've always approached the Arabian horse with great intrigue and respect! It is so important to not forget what brought us here, the horse! The titles and trophies only get you so far, the roots of passion for the Arabian horse carries one through all aspects of this wonderful industry!

I have never been one to look at my ambitions or career in the sense of man vs woman. I know that if I apply myself and do the best job that I am capable of I will be successful.

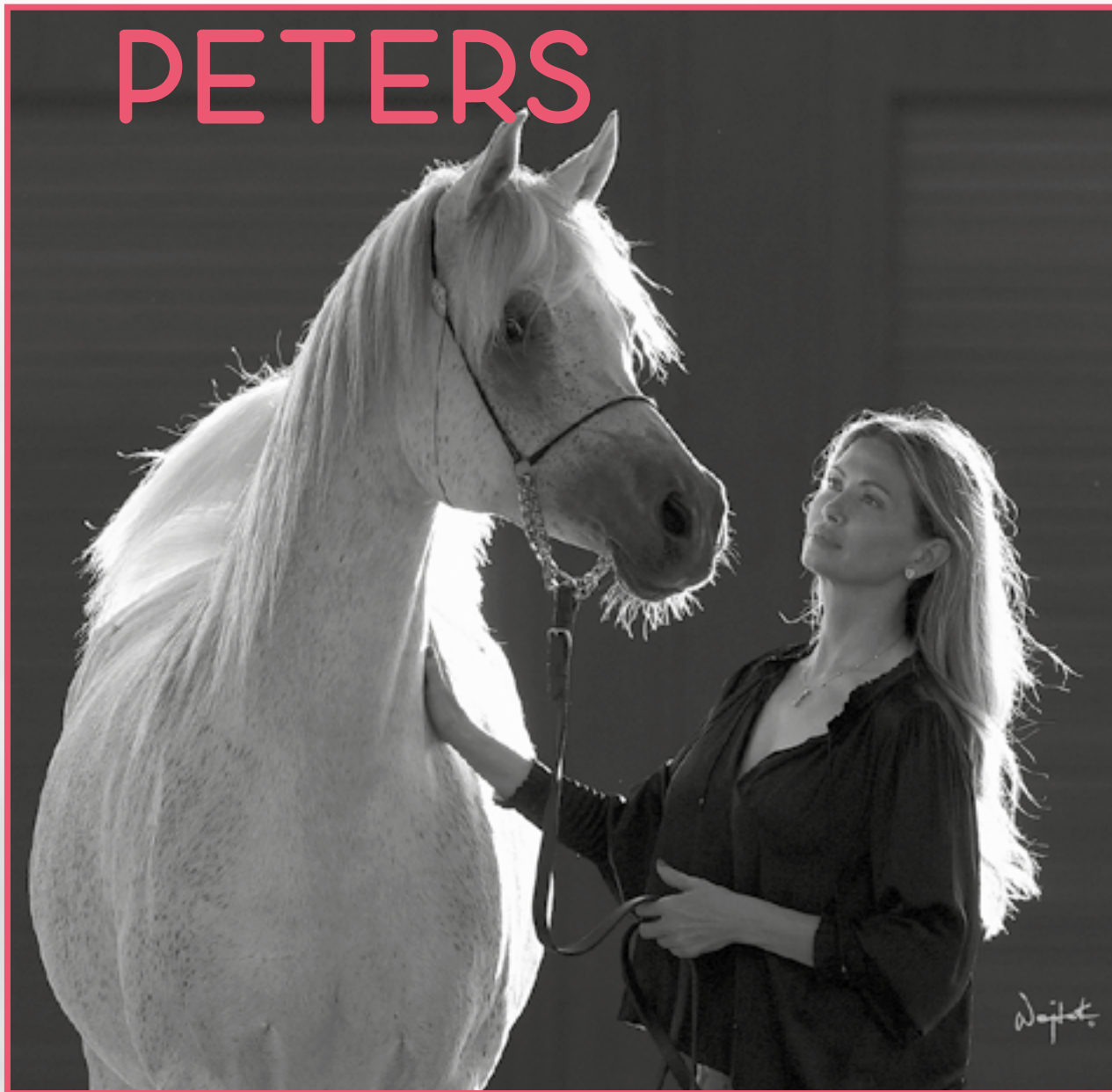
I feel the most important quality one must have for success is passion. If you are passionate about a specific project you & that project will shine! I also believe it is very important to stay humble, appreciating your successes but also not being afraid to ask for help when it is needed.

I would love to think that we as women are paving the way for future generations. Together we are stronger and I will always be open to helping the next generation just as I have had mentors help me along the way.

To future generations of young women I would like to say:

LADIES, HARD WORK PAYS OFF IN THE END. FOCUS ON YOUR LONG TERM VISIONS, CONTINUE TO IGNITE YOUR PASSION FOR GROWTH & STAY HUMBLE. THIS INDUSTRY IS GLAMOROUS AND EXCITING, ENJOY THOSE ASPECTS FROM TIME TO TIME BUT DON'T ALLOW THEM TO DICTATE YOUR PATH. IN THE END IT'S ALL ABOUT OUR LOVE FOR THE ARABIAN HORSE – CHERISH THAT!

MINDY PETERS



Breeder and Film Producer

My name is Mindy Peters. I am a third generation Arabian horse breeder.

I am living in Santa Ynez, California USA. However, I was born and raised on a farm in Iowa next to my grandparents Arabian horse farm.

I have been working in the film industry for over 20 years but my full time passion is working on my Arabian breeding program.

I see the Arabian horse industry as a global family. For all of us who love Arabian horses we have a connection that is deep and mostly inspired by passion. Therefore, I believe we must honor and respect this mutual love that we share by listening and respecting each other's ideas and philosophies. As we all have different visions and taste in what we like. Even though we follow breed standard it is important to honor each individuals vision and to help each other by sharing information and personal experiences with our horses.

I believe there is always room to be seen and heard and to create opportunities to help elevate our breed. Women have a soul connection to these creatures much like a mother loves her child and family. There is tremendous power in that. We as women have the ability to have great effect and contribution because of this. I believe anything attached to love has great power.

As with any endeavor in life there are always difficulties. I choose not to focus on difficulties I focus on solving problems. Most especially if you are trying to make a difference or create change and evolution. What does this mean to me? It

means that you must forge forward with these key elements; passion, curiosity and discipline. Most importantly find people with long term experience who you respect, who have been successful, and learn from them as much as you can.

Along with the elements I mention in the previous answer I think it is vitally important to have an open mind to learn and continuously leveling up. Full commitment to your goals is also essential and maintaining your vision. However, one thing very important to me is to help each other to succeed.

We must do this by being generous with our knowledge and sharing what we have learned with others so we can lift each other as we climb. I was fortunate to have so many wonderful mentors like My grandfather, Sheila Varian, Sigi Siller, Lenita Perroy, and My aunt, Shelley Hjelm. I enjoy helping new young Breeders and Arabian enthusiasts. This brings me great joy!

I think my experience and history can be an inspiration for future generations of women. As much as I don't focus on difficulties I have had many and I have worked through them. I have also had great successes and have a clear idea of how I reached those successes. Women are generally great listeners and will sometimes even work harder than men to reach their goals. There is great value in that. I also have many wonderful stories about Arabian horses and how they have been the ribbon that has interlaced my life together from a young girl on a farm to moving across the country to work for an Arabian horse breeder to Hollywood to traveling all around the world. It all started as a dream.

MY MESSAGE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS OF YOUNG WOMEN IS 'IF YOU CAN DREAM IT YOU CAN ACHIEVE IT'

ROSANGELA BRUGALI



Model and Owner

Hello, my name is Rosangela, Rosy to my friends, but I would have loved to be called Ginevra, I have never liked my name, I don't find myself in it.

I live in northern Italy, in a small town near Bergamo, and for a couple of years now I've been working with my fiancé in managing the stable.

I approached the world of Arabian horses when I met Luca Oberti 15 years ago, at my first Arabian horse morphology show.

To be honest, I was baffled. I didn't understand... the method.

As I got to know more, thanks to Luca, who is now my partner, I began to worship the beauty of this breed.

I like to watch them dancing freely and happily in the paddocks.

The mares in the group, wow, I love their haughtiness, as they seem to be challenging each other for the most attitude.... goosebumps.

It wasn't always like this, until recently it would have been unthinkable for me to physically approach them, I feared them, in fact I was terrified of them.

I don't presume to call myself a horsewoman. Those

who are have my admiration, I envy their courage, the free relationship they manage to establish with this splendid animal...

But I am working on it, I will slowly eradicate this ancestral fear of mine, I promise.

To tell the truth, the birth of my horse, (it would be Luca's, but I like to think it's mine) Invictus, born 6 years ago, has helped me a lot, I love him. I would also add thanks to Desire Faraone, "our" stable girl, a blessing and a curse who, despite her young age, manages to be very convincing with her very authoritative but necessary ways.

In this 'crazy world', I initially had to face certain difficulties ... not as a woman/person, but because of my holistic approach to horses, an approach that has helped me and many people close to me for decades, so I said to myself 'why not use it also for animals?' It wasn't easy to get people to understand its importance, but I can be extremely convincing and insistent, and by now, when there is a health problem in the stable, I put my own spin on it, calling in veterinarians who practice this discipline, which ranges from homeopathy, acupuncture, osteopathy and, to finish, I would mention the wonderful quantum medicine. I love seeing horses come back to perfect health and observing the regained serenity in their eyes.

I am convinced that what we think and what we say makes all the difference... "the word becomes flesh"... Arabian horses have changed my way of thinking and consequently changed my life path in love and work.

LIVE LIGHTLY. LET YOUR INSTINCTS GUIDE YOU, RUN AWAY FROM ADVICE... EVEN FROM THIS ONE... BECAUSE EVERYTHING IS RELATIVE.

Rosangela... or rather, Ginevra.

ELENA VIGNATO



Videomaker

My name is Elena Vignato, I live close to Venice and I'm a videomaker. I am a part of the Arabian Essence Team and through the years I've covered multiple roles inside the company, until I became production and video editing manager.

This beautiful adventure in the world of the Arabian Horses began in 2015, at the Wels show to be precise. My father asked for my collaboration as a camera operator for the livestream of the show. I was immediately struck by the appearance of these horses, even though it took some time to deeply understand and appreciate all of the details that makes them so special.

But I think if I have to identify the specific moment in which I did, definitely and hopelessly, fall in love with this breed, then we go back to the moment I met this Italian filly - Nemesi Regalis.

From the moment I saw her I got completely lost in the depth of her big black eyes. That's when something inside of me clicked and I started visualizing videos, short films, mini series, tv ads with these magnificent animals as the leading role.

I personally love to be a woman in the Arabian horse world. It is an environment very open and welcoming towards talented people, be they photographers, groomers, trainers or even helpers and supporters.

I've met so many fantastic women who made their way into this business and are living their best lives surrounded by the love of these special animals.

I can say in total honesty that I was very lucky, as both Marco Vignato (my father) and Elvis Giughera

have been supporting me and my projects since the beginning. I didn't find any difficulties in proposing myself in this world.

Arabian Essence has always been a benchmark for art related to Arabian horses, and perhaps the biggest difficulty I face is living up to the company name.

It wasn't an easy path, to capture the beauty and the uniqueness of an Arabian Horse in a video is always challenging.

I want to thank once again Elvis and Johanna Ullstrom, for helping me understand the details in these animals, allowing me to show them to the world through my videos.

I think the base of a successful project as a video maker/photographer/graphic designer in this particular business is represented by the ability to see through the eyes of the breeder.

Many professionals have been in and out of this business in no time because they were not able to understand the subject they were filming to the fullest.

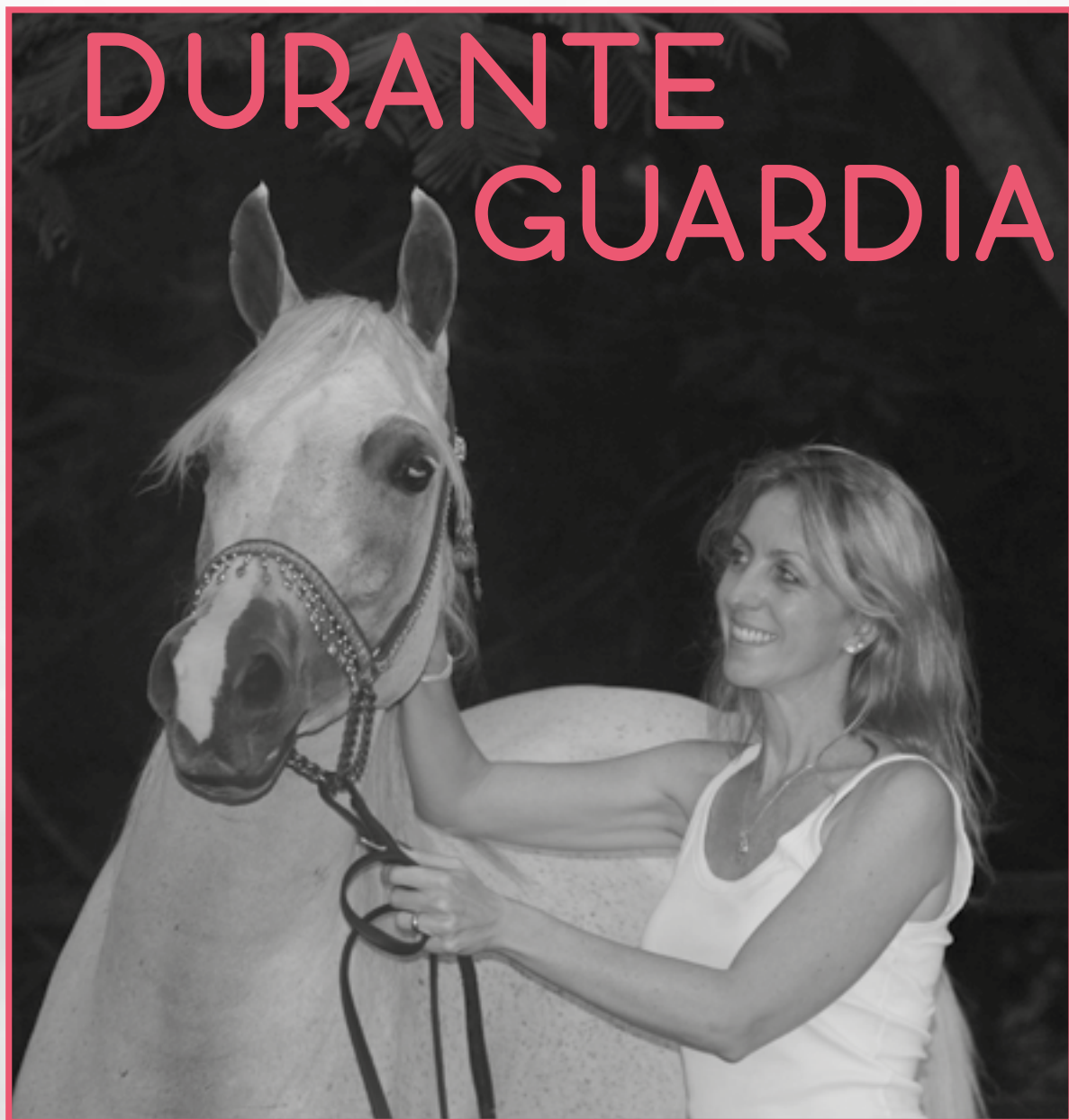
It is safe to say my experience as a Maine Coon breeder for over 15 years has helped me a lot in getting the right approach to comprehend the morphology of the Arabian Horse and what a breeder actually wants and needs to see.

I hope my experience and history can be an inspiration for a future generation of women in this world. I hope there will be other women who will decide to put themselves into this field.

I believe, for those who are talented and work honestly, this would be a beautiful challenge.

MY MESSAGE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS OF YOUNG WOMEN TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO TAKE THEIR OWN PATH, WHATEVER IT MAY BE, IS: AS INTIMIDATING AS IT CAN BE TO INTERACT WITH CELEBRITIES, OR ROYALTY, YOU WILL FIND THAT THERE IS GREAT ACCEPTANCE AND CONSIDERATION FOR THOSE WHO WILL SHOWCASE THEIR TALENTS. ART PLAYS A BIG PART IN THIS BUSINESS AND IT IS HIGHLY APPRECIATED. WHATEVER FORM OF ART YOU WANT TO EXPRESS YOURSELF WITH IN THIS ARABIAN HORSE WORLD, GO FOR IT!

CRISTIANE DURANTE GUARDIA



Breeder, Judge and Arab horse tv program's Responsible

My name is Cristiane Durante Guardia and I am the owner of Haras Pin located in Bragança Paulista in Brazil.

We have some mares that I cover with several selected stallions. My family and I, Zico Guardia and my daughter Fernanda, live of Arabian horses.

I met my first Arabian horse 30 years ago with my father Claudio Durante and we started breeding. I have been on the board of the Arabian Horse (ABCCA) for over 10 years with ABCCA woman and kids; today my position is director of promotion, responsible for the Arab horse television program. I have been an amateur handler, I am a judge at ABCCA and I live every day with Arabian horses

and my family. I love horses and I love Arabian horse!

The horse gives the woman a sense of companionship, friendship and also makes her understand the limits. But affection is a necessary ingredient at any stage, and animals immediately correspond to what they receive. Women who can be with a horse to look after should do so because it is therapy.

The biggest difficulty is managing time with other activities as a mother, wife, with my profession as a nutritionist that don't allow me to have more time with the horses, but as much as I can I am in contact with them.

FOR THE GIRLS OF THE NEXT GENERATION, MY IDEA IS THAT THEY GET INVOLVED WITH HORSES BECAUSE THEY ARE INCREDIBLE ANIMALS, SWEET AND THEY BRING US A LOT OF JOY. TO REALISE A DREAM, YOU HAVE TO BE FOCUSED ON ACHIEVING IT AND PRIORITISE WHAT YOU LIKE.

TALITHA BAKKER



Breeder, Trainer and Endurance Rider

My name is Talitha Bakker and I am an Arabian Horse breeder from The Netherlands. Besides breeding them, I also compete with them in halter competitions and endurance riding.

The world of the Arabian horse is incredible. The Arabian horse has this amazing ability to connect people, making us feel we are all part of this big Arabian horse family. Sharing that one great passion, the love for the Arabian horse. It doesn't matter where you come from, which language you speak or what your religion is, when it comes to the Arabian horse, we all speak the same language and the passion is shared.

Personally I do not feel much different in being a woman in the Arabian horse world. I feel that I am respected as much as the male breeders do. For a long time it was not allowed for us woman to participate in endurance races in Saudi Arabia, but recently this was also changed which makes this country open to us woman as well.

I do not find any difficulties or obstacles. I have dealt with the Arabic culture while growing up with

the Arabian horse, I came to respect and enjoy their culture as it is part of the Arabian horse. When all share the same love and passion for a horse, then you feel all equal.

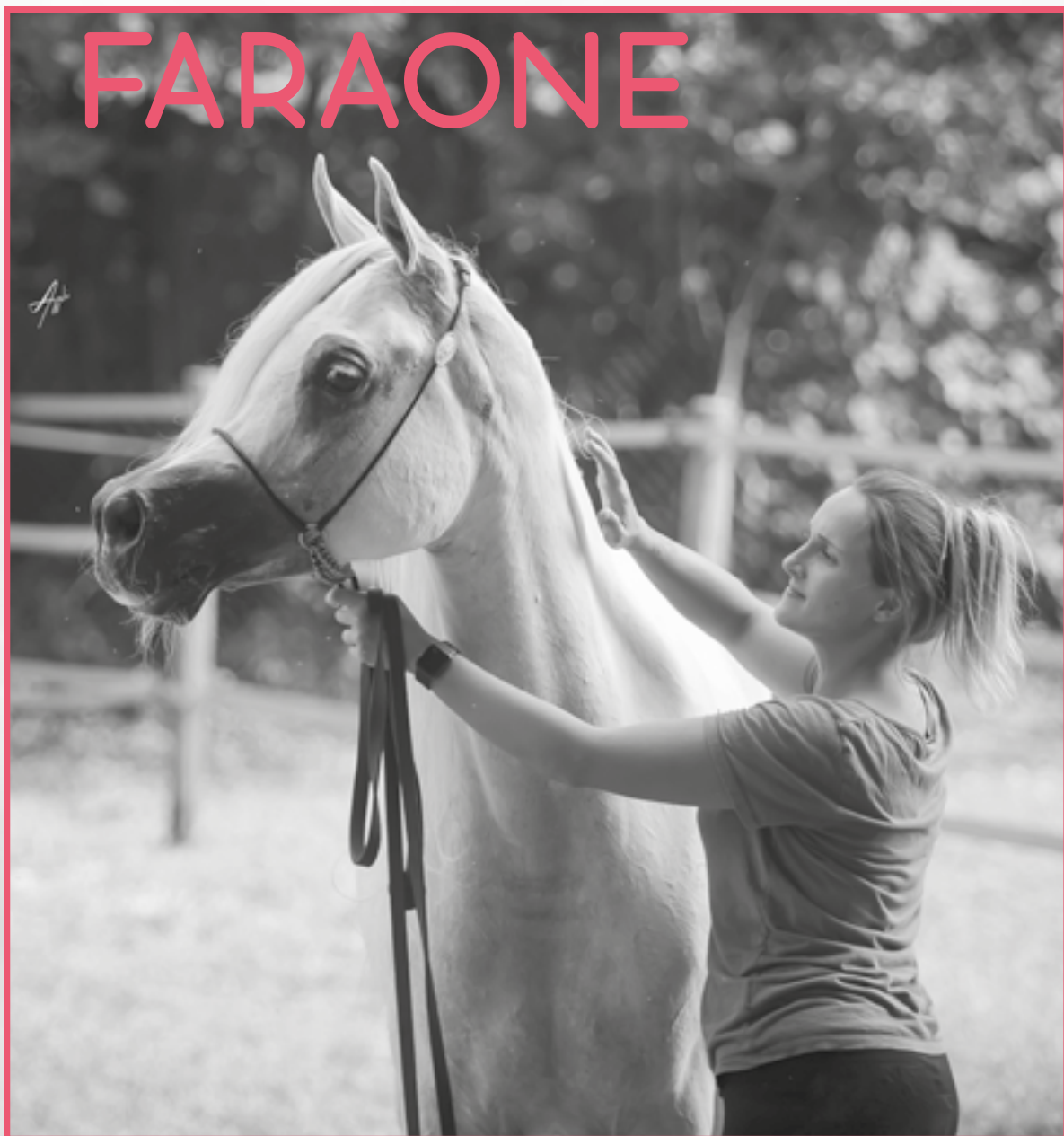
In any business, you need to have a vision in mind. Along your journey towards this vision, you learn to adapt and perfect this vision, making the journey towards it maybe even more valuable than the goal itself.

Determination, the quality to adjust and the will to learn are all key factors in order to achieve your ultimate goal.

The new generation often is used to get what they want. In this world, everything is accessible to them, while we, in the pre-internet years, really had to work hard to achieve something. I think that the new generation of woman needs to understand that you only get to where you want to be by working hard, being willing to learn from others and to keep believing in your dream, despite what others say.

KEEP YOUR VISION IN MIND AND GO FOR IT. DREAMS DO NOT BECOME REALITY THROUGH MAGIC; IT TAKES A VISION, DETERMINATION, AND HARD WORK. HARD WORK BEATS TALENT IF TALENT DOESN'T WORK HARD.

DESIRÉ FARAONE



Groom

Hello everyone, my name is Desiré I am 25 years old and I am a groom at Luca Oberti Arabians.

My first approach to Arabian horses was thanks to my brothers who had a passion for Arabian saddle horses. Even though I grew up among them, my fear for this "particular" animal was always present.

In 2012 I visited Roberto Zaniboni's training centre and there I decided to buy my first Arabian mare together with my family. Thanks to her and to Roberto's teachings I began to feel that a real passion for the world of morphology was growing inside me. From then on, together with the team of the centre, my presence at the shows was constant.

In 2015 someone noticed that I probably knew how to do something in my own small way. So in the summer Luca Oberti called me and asked me if I could join his team for a few months. Five years have already passed since that day. These years have given me real professional growth.

Today, I cannot say that I am completely familiar with everything that concerns the world of the Arabian horse, but I try at every opportunity I am given to learn as much as possible and then put it into practice. Very often people believe that the figure of a woman in a training centre is necessary to give the horse that extra peace of mind and attention to detail. I see it a bit like a mother to a child.

From the moment I joined this world I was lucky. I was helped to learn the basic concepts and to put them into practice without any pressure. When I arrived at Luca's I was welcomed like a daughter by both him and Rosangela and this gave me even more ways and a desire to want to learn and enrich my passion. I was given the opportunity to work with horses of a certain level, together we achieved great results and thanks to Luca I was able to gain experience outside Italy that I would never have expected to have.

To undertake any role in the world of Arabian horses you must certainly have a lot of determination, a great desire to do, to learn, and not be in a hurry to immediately aim for the best you can give or do. Certainly many of those who do my job from the start aim to become a great trainer and handler. But for me it's not the same thing. I prefer to stay "behind the scenes" and with every victory I bring home, to be satisfied with what I have done, to see the results of horses that I devote my time to every day, but also to see the joy of their owners and the gratitude they show you for what you do for their horses.

It is also true that the minority of women working in this field is remarkable. This makes me a little pensive because I think that many see this passion as something that does not bring a future. But I can assure you that this is not true.

SO, GIRLS, COME FORWARD BECAUSE EVEN IN JOINING THE ARABIAN HORSE WORLD THERE CAN BE MANY POSSIBILITIES FOR A FUTURE. THE MESSAGE I CAN SEND TO ALL THOSE YOUNG GIRLS WHO HAVE THIS PASSION IS: ALWAYS FOLLOW YOUR PASSION, DO NOT BE CONDITIONED BY WHAT YOU SEE AND HEAR. ONLY BY EXPERIENCING THIS PASSION YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHAT IT REALLY TASTES LIKE.

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

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