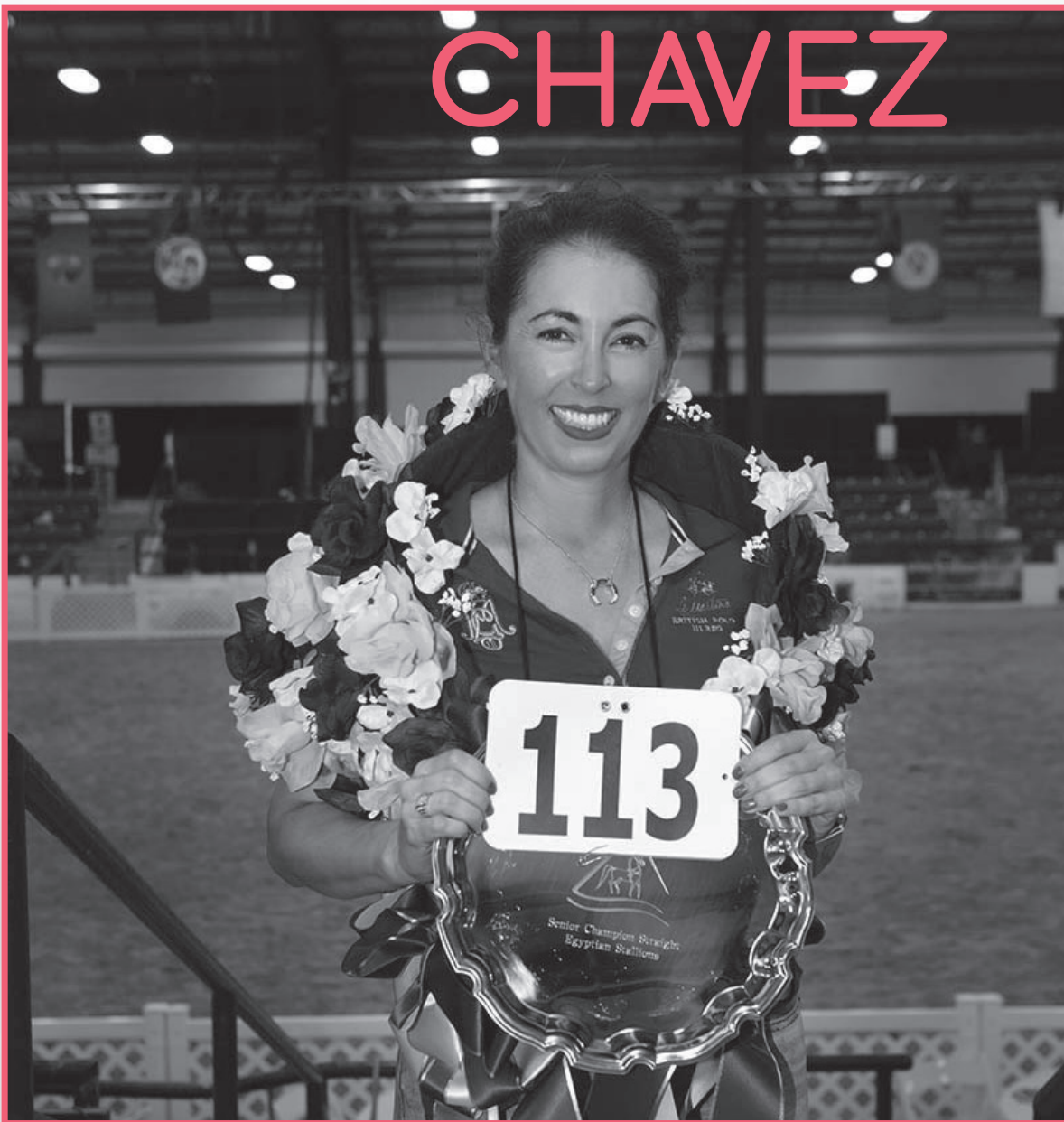


WE, WOMEN

by Giorgia Mauri

I'm glad to have started this journey because thanks to We, Women project I'm having the chance to know better and more closely many women in this world who are leaving an indelible mark, with their work and their personalities. Many of the women interviewed have appointed other women as their mentors and as examples to inspire them in their everyday life, breeding and otherwise. What these mentors have done has accompanied them in their choices and in their lives as women. Now the baton is passing from hand to hand and will reach future generations. The women of today are depositing in their writings, in these interviews, words, inspirations and advice that will encourage the actions of the women of tomorrow. If some changes need to be made to the situation today, at every level and certainly on a general and global level, the women of tomorrow will be able to count on the strength and courage of the women of today. I believe that We, Women project is a precious space for those who are writing it and for those who will feel like reading it. Valuable because it represents an emotional exchange. Thanks for reading and being part of it.

MARY ELLEN CHAVEZ



Mother, Entrepreneur, Breeder and World Traveler

I am Mary Ellen Chavez, Mother, Entrepreneur, Horse Breeder, and World Traveler. I am from New Mexico, USA and I have lived there my entire life. In my non horse life, for the past 25 years, I run a small chain of quick service restaurants that were started by my mother over 30 years ago.

I will always blame Walter Farley and his creation of the Black Stallion books as the reason I fell in love with the Arabian horse. As I grew older, I became fascinated with the history and romance of the Straight Egyptian in particular. As I grew and learned, I became fascinated with the art of Equine Reproduction and my passion became breeding Straight Egyptian Arabian horses. There have been many people who have taken me under their wing during my journey, from Veterinarians to incredible breeders of our day and patiently taught me about this incredible beautiful animal we call the Arabian horse. One of the things that I was told by several, is to travel to other farms and see other horses and other programs so that I could witness other horses, programs, and bloodlines and this would make me a better breeder. I have made it by business to travel the World to see horses in many different countries, shows, and farms. I have been from Europe, Africa, the Middle East and China because of the Arabian horse. This incredible horse has given me the gift of friends and family around the world and in many different parts of the industry. I will be forever grateful for the opportunities I've had because of the Arabian horse that I would have never had otherwise.

As far as being a woman, I don't believe this has had a big significance in my journey in the

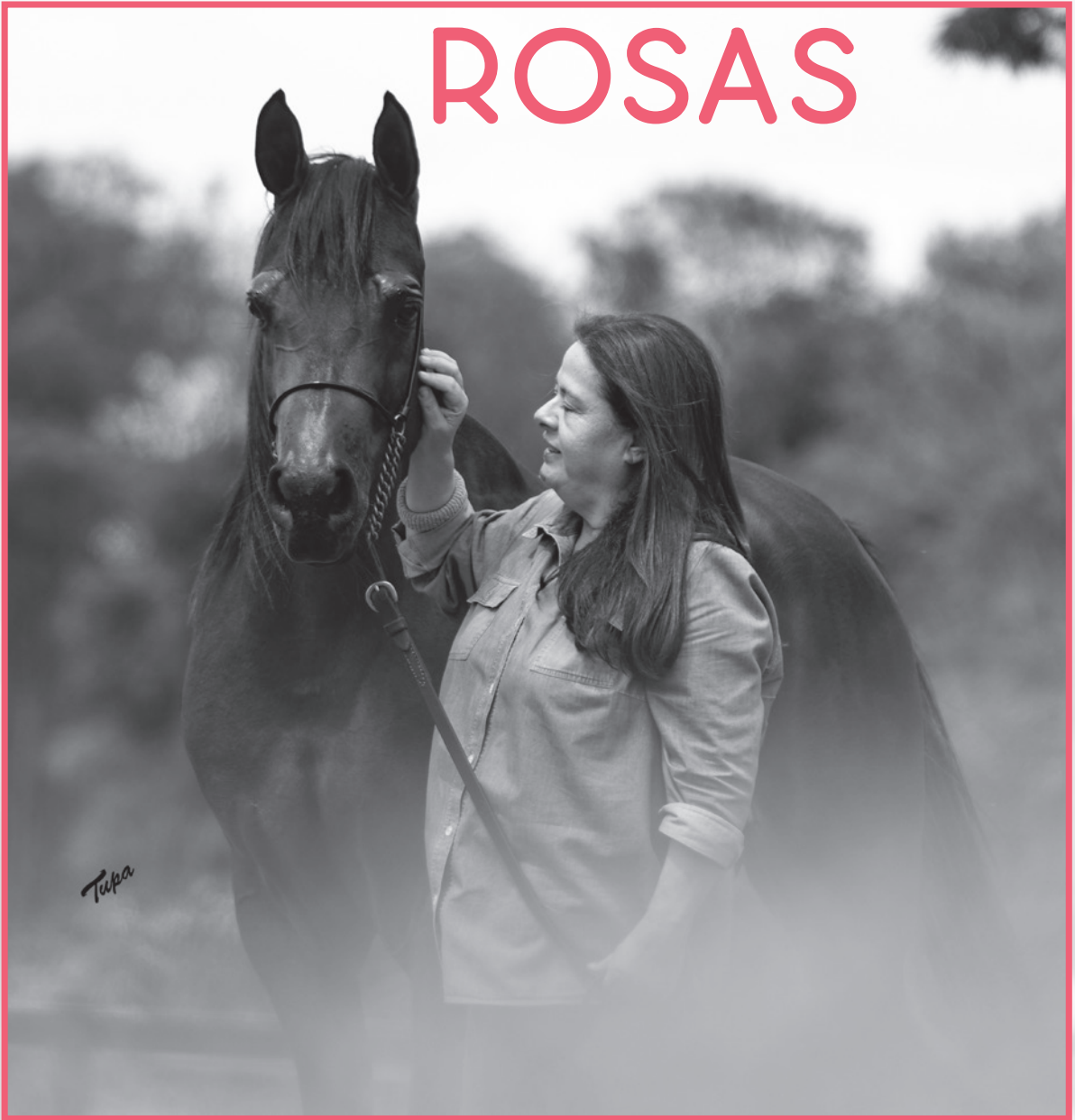
Arabian horse during this time. Although, I have learned that is because of other amazing woman in past decades had many more obstacles that they overcame in the industry in order for it to be what it is today. The Arabian horse industry was not always dominated by women as it is today and that is because of strong, determined women in the past who fought hard to break through the barriers and pave the way for woman today.

My greatest obstacles have been growing two businesses at once and not always having the funds to do what I would like to with both. It takes a lot of money to make any money with horses and I've not always had the luxury to market and promote as I would have liked. I've had to think outside of the box and become creative with what I do. I have learned some valuable lessons along my journey and wouldn't change it!

One has to be very resilient, passionate, and intelligent in order to be involved with horses. We invest many of our hopes and dreams into each foal we produce and each horse we have on our farm. Horses get into your heart and soul and become part of your inner fiber. They also get hurt and sometimes foals don't survive. We have to be able to set aside our emotion and make business decisions even when it hurts. It is a very difficult thing to pick yourself up, regroup, and go on after a disaster with one of our beloved horses. There are days when we wonder why we are doing this and then, you walk out to the barn, one of those velvety muzzle's nuzzles the side of your face and makes you smile. This is why I named my farm Sonrisa Farms, Sonrisa is Spanish for smile. That is when you know why you keep doing it.

TO FUTURE GENERATIONS OF YOUNG WOMEN I WOULD LIKE TO SAY: EXPLORE EVERY FACET OF WHAT YOU LOVE. FIND WHAT YOUR PASSION TRULY IS DOWN DEEP INSIDE AND PURSUE IT WITH ALL OF YOUR HEART. WE CAN ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING WE PUT OUR MINDS TO WITH HARD WORK AND RESILIENCE.

DULCE ROSAS



Breeder

My name is Dulce Rosas. I was born and live in São Paulo city, Brazil and I breed Arabian horses at Wolf Arabians, Boituva, São Paulo state.

I started riding horses when I was a little kid, about five years old, during vacations, in Campos do Jordão, a beautiful city in the middle of the mountains, where my family has a country house. I first met the Arabian horses when a group of friends invited me to attend an auction. Well, my intention was just to watch, but guess what, it was love at first sight and ended up buying an Arabian riding horse, etc.

After some time, I started to participate in endurance ridings and was wonderful to be in contact with such beautiful, great athletes, incredibly smart and versatile horses.

Few years later, I decided to start breeding Arabian horses, that besides the pleasure and joy of being around these fantastic horses, gave me

the opportunity to meet people from all around the world, attending to shows as a visitor, or as an exhibitor, visiting farms in everywhere and, especially, meeting some truly great friends.

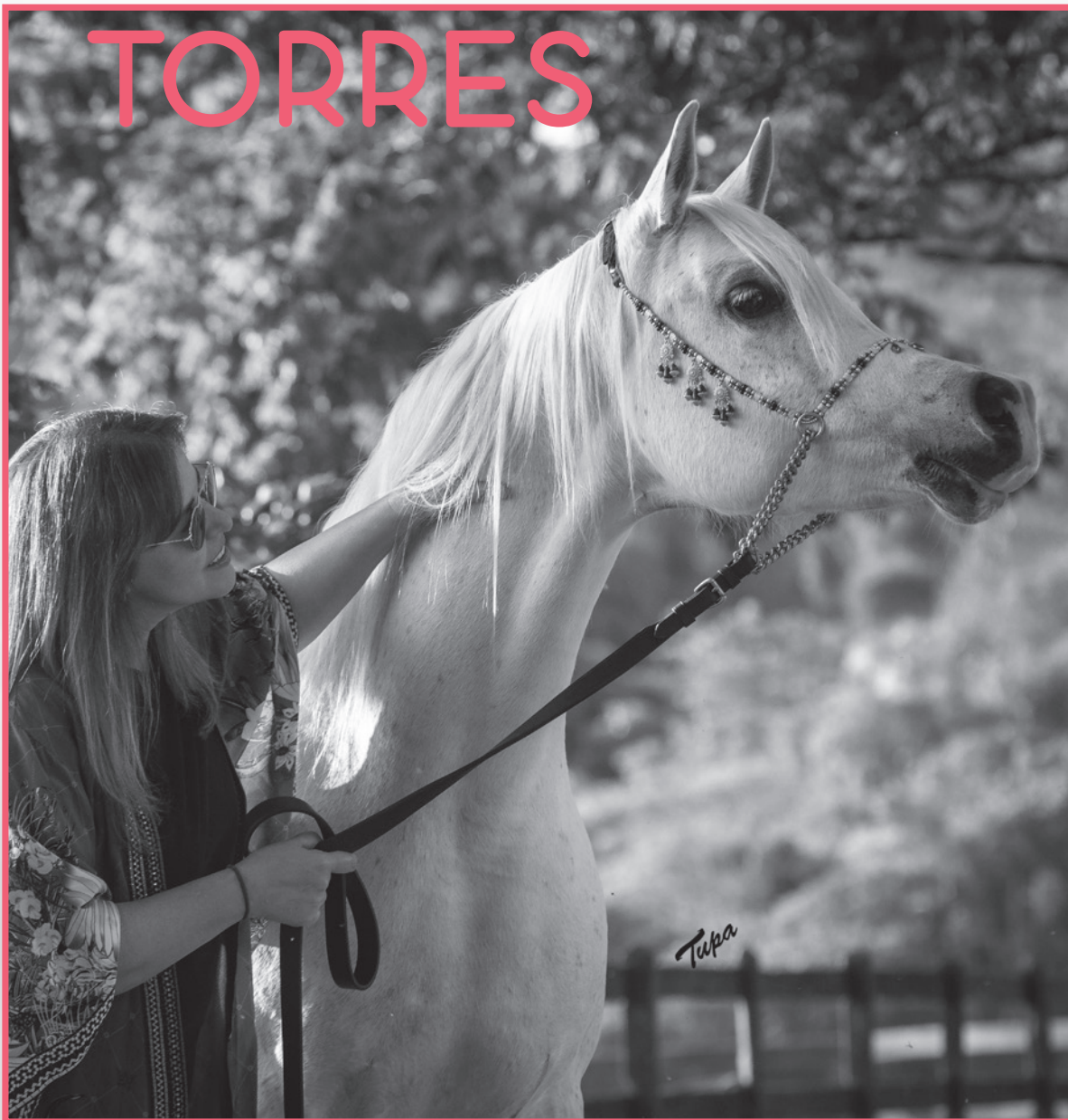
As a breeder, since the very beginning, my breeding program was based on horses with powerful movement, structure, big and expressive eyes. As a halter breeder, type and beauty, there is no need to say, has been always there. I am very happy with the evolution of the way I chose and so far, I've bred many champions and exported horses to many different countries.

I believe that women have a special feeling, a special way to communicate with such sensitive and intelligent animals as Arabian horses.

One of my favourite moments is when I'm at my farm and see the new and always so expected babies coming and watch them playing around while their mothers are grazing.

WOMEN, NOWADAYS, CAN BE INVOLVED IN ANY ACTIVITY THEY WANT AND AS HORSE BREEDERS, IT IS NO DIFFERENT, THEY CAN SUCCEED AND INFLUENCE THE BREEDING AS A WHOLE.

FLÁVIA TORRES



Breeder

My name is Flávia Torres and I am the proud owner of FT Arabians, located in the city of Boituva, São Paulo state, Brazil. I live at farm with my husband Brasílio Machado that has supported me all the time.

I'm a breeder since 1992 when my passion for Arabian horses started, participating in that time at Equine Endurance events. Today, I feel very fullfield for have bred some special horses like FT Shaella and FT Havanna El Keav.

Several women have collaborated with the Arabian horse throughout its history. Normally this activity is largely dominated by men and it

makes difficult for us to conquer our space. It is not an easy task.

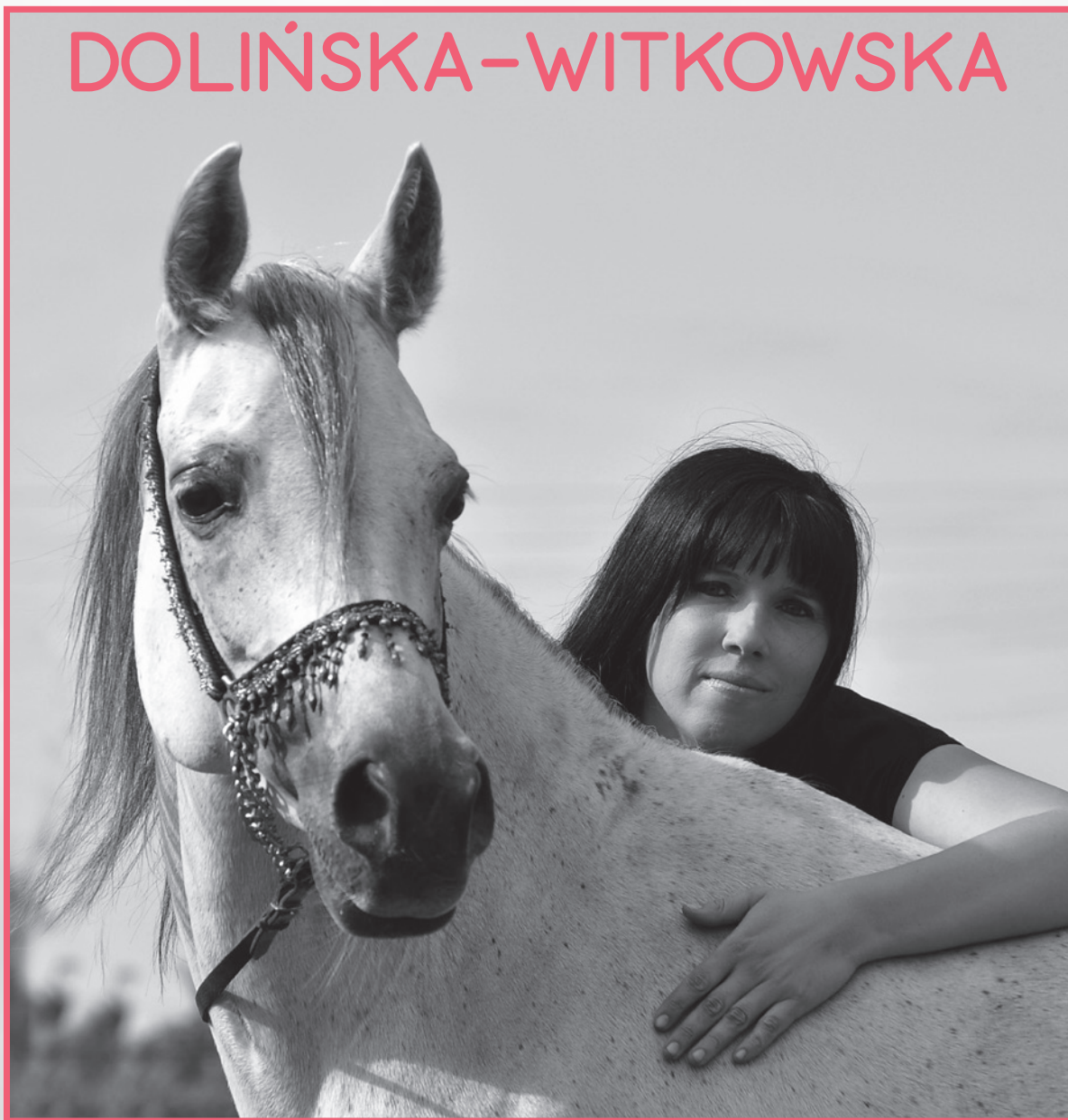
However today the world is evolving and we can see more women occupying spaces in the most diverse areas and this is also happening in the Arabian horse scenery.

I believe that with the love, patience and dedication of us women this becomes possible and we can collaborate a lot for the breeding. I trust that on this way we can stimulate the new generations to improve more and more.

GIRLS, FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS ! THE LOVE AND FULFILLMENT THAT YOU CAN HAVE BREEDING ARABIANS HORSES IS FANTASTIC AND CAN MAKE YOU VERY HAPPY AND ACCOMPLISHED WOMAN!

KASIA

DOLIŃSKA-WITKOWSKA



Photographer and Breeder

My name is Kasia Dolińska-Witkowska, I come from Poland. Since childhood I have been interested in horses. I liked photographing them and as a young girl I used to ride horses.

I started my adventure with Arabian horses when I was 17. I loved photographing horses so I put all my love to Arabians into photographing these beautiful animals. I was inspired to photograph Arabians by my friend Lilianna Dembska, who was taking pictures amateurishly and collecting all the books, magazines, postcards, stamps related to Arabians.

In 2000 I bought my first pure bred Arabian horse Esent (Elsing - Etylda). It was my riding horse. In the course of time I wanted to have a mare for breeding, from which I could get a foal. And so in 2002 I bought my first Arabian mare named Zaliczka (Borek - Zadziara) (I called her Zalia for short).

From her comes the name of the stud "Zalia Arabians", which I run together with my husband Robert.

Arabian horse breeding is difficult, but I persistently pursue my goal to breed Arabian horses of the highest world level.

Breeding requires humility, commitment and you have to do it with all your heart. I fulfill my dreams and I am fully satisfied because I do what I love.

Self-confidence is extremely important for a woman in this world. If we are confident, people will also believe that we are in the right place at the right time.

We need to know why we are doing all this and what we want to achieve. This will really keep us focused, active and proud to walk forward.

A woman in the Arab world has to work with many people. Empathy, understanding and trust are important for her. In this way she will be able to build a community of people who will strive for success together. It is about being able to understand the other person. I am surrounded by women who are also in love with Arabian horses: Patrycja Makowska, Lilianna Dembska, Urszula Łęczycka, Angelika Wadas and I can always count on mutual help. We always give each other advice and motivate each other.

AT THE END I CAN SAY THAT IN LIFE YOU NEED TO HAVE PASSIONS. PASSIONS STIMULATE THE SENSES, RELEASE POSITIVE EMOTIONS AND GIVE LIFE A DIRECTION. THEY MAKE IT MORE COLOURFUL AND MEANINGFUL. THAT IS WHY IT IS WORTH FOLLOWING THIS PATH AND LISTENING TO YOUR HEART. IF YOUR PASSION IS ARABIAN HORSES, DO NOT GIVE IT UP AND NEVER GIVE IN.

ELISA GRASSI



PR and Promotion Manager, Photographer and Graphic Designer

My name is Elisa Grassi. I was born and raised in Italy, in a small town close to the city of Parma. I graduated from University in Public Relations and Advertising. What I do now is a bit broader than my studies would suggest. I love photography and it has become in the last years a big part of my life. Arabian horse photography, that is. I also take care of advertising campaigns for several clients and try to manage all their needs as far as public relations and promotion goes. Next to it I cooperate since a few years with Lara Ames and Mieke Opsteyn in the production of the magazine Arabian Horse Times Abroad.

I never really approached the Arabian horse world, I was born into it. My dad used to breed Arabian horses and was very involved for many years with them. He's been for some years the secretary of the Italian Arabian horse association and I used to follow him everywhere to the shows. Let's say, I never really had a choice... and I am glad so. I grew up with the horses and they have always been a constant in my life.

I would like to think that there is no difference between men and women in our world. Some of the greatest breeders in the Arabian horse history are women... And I am extremely lucky to be able to work with some incredible ladies, in different aspects of my job. So I really don't think there is any difference between men and women in our world any more... nor should anybody

make one. There are powerful, smart and hard working women all around us and I'm proud to know many of them.

I didn't find any difficulties in proposing myself in this world. I strongly believe that WE, Women have a lot to offer, just as much as any men, if not more. Like Voltaire said "God created women to tame men". I am 40 years old, and there have been women in my mother's and grandmother's generation that fought for equality. We might have not reached it to 100% in every aspect of life or in any given job, but I believe we're pretty close. And rightfully so.

I think that to pursue your dream you should never give up. If you believe in your dreams, if you have a vision and you want to reach it, you should never ever give up. You might fall, and you need to find the strength to get back on your feet and pursue your goals. Some might take longer than others to achieve, some might be easier than others... but at the end of the road you will look back and realized you have learned from your mistakes, that you are stronger than you thought and that your dream finally stands right in front of you.

I don't know if my life or my story can be an inspiration to other women. I would hope so. I would hope my daughter will look at me one day and be proud of the woman who raised her. And I wish her to find the strength and passion to pursue her dreams.

LIFE CAN GET TOUGH AT TIMES, WE ALL HAVE EXPERIENCED THE UPS AND THE LOWS, INCLUDING MYSELF. YOU NEED TO STAND UP AND FIGHT. NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT IT MIGHT SEEM. YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU WANT AND FOR THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE. THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE YOUR DREAMS. AND IN THOSE BEAUTIFUL MOMENTS WHEN LIFE SMILES AT YOU, AND THERE ARE SO MANY, YOU WILL KNOW THAT IT WAS ALL WORTH IT.

RAQUEL SORVILO



Breeder, Amateur Handler and Insurance Broker

My name is Raquel Sorvilo, born in the city of São Paulo and living in the City of Socorro/SP since I was 4 years old. I'm from Haras Vale Formoso, daughter of owners João Roberto Sorvilo and Eliza Sorvilo, and today I work for an Insurance Broker, a family company.

Since I was little, when I moved to Socorro in the mid-90s, I had the privilege of living and growing up in the middle of nature and my father's horse breeding farm. I remember that my brother and I always ran across the pastures, playing and taking care of the horses. I started participating in the exhibitions very early, accompanying my parents and I remember that I always wanted to be in the middle, I even participated in many halter and performance tests. There were countless

memories, smiles, incredible experiences that were provided by this creation.

Within the Arabian Horse Universe in Brazil, I was very well received by the handlers who guided me in the best way and supported my development. I even had the privilege of having a wonderful experience in Scottsdale, Arizona, featuring a horse among many other handlers.

Making a dream come true requires a number of qualities, no matter how difficult that dream is, it is necessary to always remain firm in your commitment and never give up, always persist, not forgetting your principles. It is very important to be able to focus and have a positive mindset, be flexible and always be willing to learn.

I THINK MY EXPERIENCE CAN INSPIRE NEXT GENERATIONS OF WOMEN BECAUSE IT WAS THIS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE HORSES THAT GAVE ME UNIQUE MOMENTS IN MY LIFE. I HAD A REAL CHILDHOOD, NATURAL, WITH A LOT OF LOVE AND, CERTAINLY, FOR THE NEW GENERATION I WOULD NOT INDICATE A DIFFERENT INVOLVEMENT, AND I WOULD SAY TO THEM: FOCUS ON YOUR DREAMS AND DISCOVER THE BEST IN YOU.

YASSMIN ATIEH



Breeder, Announcer, Writer, Translator, Painter, Artist, Animal Lover/Rescuer,
Dentist

My name is Yassmin Atieh, owner of Petra - Arabians in Egypt. I always loved and had enormous passion for horses it was not until 2004 that I started sharing my love with the Arabian Horses. Now I can consider myself a true breeder with my 3rd generation in my small horsey family. I majored in dentistry but I dedicated my life to horses, I am also an Arabian show announcer, writer, translator, painter, artist, animal lover, animal rescuer, and was a DC for a little while. Simply let's say I'm a female that keeps exploring the Arabian horse world. I love everything related to art, animals, and freedom.

I have a mixed origin; I'm a proud Palestinian / Jordanian from my father side and my mother is Egyptian / Greek. I was born and have lived most of my life in Egypt.

I was told that I started crying every time I see a horse when I was 2 years old just to touch him, then I kept dreaming everyday to own a horse and keep in my bedroom (I even asked to have an extra bed for him). In 1990 my father promised me a horse, he was working in Kuwait - a gynecologist- but the Gulf war came upon us, so the dream was postponed till 2004. When we went to the Zahraa State Stud Auction, I met my first true love, a free spirited colt whose name was Shalan by Rashdan. He was literally my everything since that day, till his tragic death at very young age. The world crumbled over my shoulders, and hits kept coming, losing horses, family members, changing places and financial problems. That's life, I realized that every time I could still stand up again, regenerate my energy and create a whole new thing, sometimes alone and few times with my friends support but I kept coming back.

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

Well imagine adding to your question that I'm living in an Arab country, where believe me, women are not treated equally in any aspect, except maybe little. When I started with Shalan we went to the race tracks, I was the youngest and the only female there, was it tough ?!! Yes, it was. You walk around people

and you look like an alien, they see you as a female before seeing you as a human. After Shalan died I left the race tracks - I was young and never knew the abuse that happened in races for horses behind the curtains -. Going to the Arabian horse breeding community was different because there were other females, that already fought the fight long ago and managed to prove that there is no difference between a male and a female in the breeding society of the Arabian Horses in Egypt. The old wise female breeders helped me out without being even aware of it.

Somehow I found difficulties in proposing myself in this world. For an example, you are seen first as a female, how you look, what you do and you get judged immediately, then maybe you are seen as a breeder and as a human. For me now my friends are the people that I know they won't judge me or treat me in any way that I would not like, the other obstacle is abuse for the horses, in farms, in shows and in races, that was one of my battles.

Be strong as a stallion yet smart like a mare. Yes, you have to be both smart and strong to overcome all the obstacles of being from the other 50% of humanity that is seen differently. More importantly you should not lose your feminine touch with your horses. Sometimes I literally touch my horses with the back of my hand because they need the softest touch possible. We "women" have the magical touch with horses and no one can deny it. We have to hold on to it, and we have to roar at the same time in the face of sexism, racism or abuse.

I never thought my experience and history could be an inspiration for a future generation of women in this world because I'm another girl in this vastly world trying to prove herself. So I never thought I would be helpful. But remember when I said the female breeders helped me out, today I'm doing so without being aware just like they did. It's like an automatic support system in my spirit. I keep trying to spread the word to respect the horses and never abuse them....it's really involuntary.

MY MESSAGE TO YOUNG GENERATIONS OF WOMEN IS: DON'T KEEP IN MIND THAT YOU HAVE TO PROVE YOURSELF AS A WOMAN. REMEMBER THAT'S NOT THE GOAL. DO WHAT YOU WANT, WHAT YOU FEEL LIKE. YOU WON'T TAKE AN AWARD FOR BEING A SUCCESSFUL HORSE WOMAN, YOU WILL TAKE IT WHEN YOU ARE JUST SUCCESSFUL. REMEMBER WE ALL CAN DO IT. LOVE WHAT YOU DO, BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND YOU WILL EVENTUALLY SUCCEED. DREAM AND KEEP DREAMING; DREAMS REALLY DO COME TRUE MOST OF THE TIME, JUST WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT. NEVER EVER LET ANYONE BELITTLE YOU OR TREAT YOU DIFFERENTLY. ROAR OR JUST WALK AWAY...BUT DON'T BE A VICTIM. HAVE THE COURAGE TO BE WHO YOU ARE AND HAVE SOME PASSION TO YOURSELF WHENEVER YOU FALL. STAND UP EVERY TIME, KNOW DEEP DOWN THAT YOU HAVE NO OTHER WAY EXCEPT TO BE PROUD AND STAND UP TALL. YOU ARE A WOMAN, AND WHAT AN HONOR IT IS.

NADIA BOERSCH



Business Mentor, Female Leadership Coach, Brand & Marketing Strategist,
International Speaker

My name is Nadia Boersch.

Besides my hobby of breeding Arabian horses, I run a consulting company for branding & marketing strategy, I am an international speaker and coach and business mentor for women that want to have it all. My biggest mission is to transform business women into kick ass lady bosses through strategic business mentoring and to become natural female leaders that lead with presence and confidence and believe in themselves through the transformative power and sensitivity of the Arabian horse.

I was obsessed with horses since I could talk and walk. When I was 15 years old, my dad finally gave in to my begging and bought a Nagel-bred Arabian Stallion for me. This stallion was a huge part of my life and my best friend, we competed in tournaments (against Quarter horses) and to everyones surprise: we won quite a bit. But most importantly he taught me the power of being confident and to believe in myself. On the days I was insecure or not believing in myself or us as a team, he challenged the living hell out of me, on the days I felt confident and like we could conquer the world, he was the most amazing partner of all times, so I started to learn that the only difference was: ME and my confidence. This was the starting point of using Arabian horses to teach women how to become confident and learn to stand in their power. I am at awe of how the Arabian horse is able to read and transform people in general, and women in particular, sometimes it's almost like magic and I experience things in this process that are almost unbelievable.

I always had this vision of breeding super high quality Arabian horses in black, and started

breeding 6 years ago, in 2015. By following the advice of some amazing mentors and my intuition I hit the Jackpot with the first foal I bred: Shayan de Magnifique. Fast forward 5 years later we are selling horses globally and Shayan is breeding some of the best black mares the world has to offer. It shows that if you believe in what you do, it can go really, really fast.

I believe - and found out over time - breeding is like in any business: the beginning is hard, making the first connections is hard, creating a brand is hard, the first sale is hard, but over time and with growing confidence it gets easier and easier.

At the beginning I went to shows or breeding presentations and I knew noone there, it was really scary, but I took my courage and did what I had always done: kick myself in the ass, wear heels (maybe this part was not such a good idea), smile, and speak to people about our common passion and their stories about the Arabian horse.

I strongly believe that if you are confident, listen to your intuition, don't care what people think about you, have a vision that lights you like a fire-cracker, and most importantly believe without doubt that what you want and dream of is possible for you, you can achieve anything you desire. I see it every day in women and it lights me up like nothing else. I think my story shows what is possible within a short amount of time if you believe in your vision and yourself. However what I find inspiring is learning from all of the other female breeders that have paved the way before us, and I am so incredibly blessed and grateful to call some of them my mentors. Their stories are the true inspiration of what is possible and how to leave a legacy.

IF YOU CAN ENVISION IT, FEEL IT AND BELIEVE IT, IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE IT MANIFESTS BEFORE YOUR EYES. AND THEN IT GETS TO BE FUN, EXCITING AND AN INSPIRING JOURNEY AND YOU GET TO ENJOY THE RIDE! BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY FIND OTHER WOMEN THAT BELIEVE IN THE SAME VISION AND PASSION THAT WILL CELEBRATE WITH YOU ALONG THE WAY AND THAT YOU CAN ASK FOR ADVICE WHEN IT GETS TOUGH - FROM BREEDER TO BREEDER, BUSINESS WOMAN TO BUSINESS WOMAN, WOMAN TO WOMAN.

I strongly believe that in order to change the future trajectory of getting more young women Arabian breeders, is to create a community of female breeders where networking, exchanging knowledge and finding mentors is possible. This works fabulous in the business world with mentoring projects popping up for future female leaders all over the world and I would love to see something like this for women breeders as well, it would be a game changer. If this resonates and sparks someones interest I would love to be a part of it, after all: it only takes two people to start a movement.

PAOLA MARINANGELI



Painter and Photographer

My name is Paola Marinangeli, I am Italian and from 30 years now I am a painter specialised in Arabian Horses and Sighthounds, both are a great passion for me. I have always loved horses, from my youth, and occasionally enjoyed to paint horses but not Arabian, more than 30 years ago reading a magazine dedicated to horses I have seen some Arabian horse photos and realized how special their beauty is so started to collect infos, and through a beautiful book by Gigi Grasso dedicated to Arabian horses in Egypt I have fallen in love with Albadeia horses and became friend with a wonderful person, the late Dr. Nasr Marei who from the beginning encouraged me to dedicate my art to this fantastic breed and so I did.

Thanks to my passion for Arabian horses I have been so lucky to meet fantastic people and many of them are women, like me, I strongly believe that women are important in the Arabian Horse Community in all type of activities related to this fantastic breed: breeders, handlers, artists, photographers, there are 'excellencies'.... excellent women in all these activities. The number of women connected in a way or another to the Arabian horse breed increased over the last years, this makes me feel very happy, I have been so lucky to be appreciated, from the really

beginning, from Italian breeders but also from the most important breeders in several Countries. I had no difficulties of obstacles and the trust and appreciation I always had from my clients and friends is still a 'challenge' to make my work in the most possible accurate and passionate way.

I am, despite the age, still a dreamer.....have a lot of projects and dream that hope partially...to fulfill. This is typical of people involved with artistic activities, I put a lot of passion and dedication in my projects, in my work and believe this is the secret who helped me to realized many of my projects and have to say, also some important dreams...but have many still waiting.

Well, I can not say if my experience and personal history can be of inspiration for a future generation of women but my experience taught me to be determined, passionate and strong in pursuing my projects, working hard and never stop learning. From this point of view, I this could be more than an inspiration, a suggestion for future generation of women, we all know that we still have to be 'superior' in our activities in order to be appreciated, and there is still a lot to do in order to reach equality in all field of activities but the message, very simple message, I can leave to future generation of young women, is....

WORK HARD, WITH PASSION, WITH DEDICATION, STUDY AND WITH THE STRONG DESIRE TO FULFILL PROJECTS AND DREAMS, BE CONFIDENT IN YOUR POSSIBILITIES, CAPABILITIES AND SKILLS, IN ALL FIELD OF ACTIVITIES WE..WOMEN..PUT SOMETHING THAT IS REALLY SPECIAL AND ABSOLUTELY IMPORTANT, OUR TOUCH OF POETIC ELEGANCE, OUR STRENGTH AND PASSION, THIS IS TYPICAL OF WOMEN AND WILL BE, MORE AND MORE, THE SECRET IN FUTURE TO CONQUER MORE CONSIDERATION AND RESPECT AT ALL LEVELS.

SANDRA ZÄNGLEIN



Dental Technician, Breeder and Trainer

My name is Sandra Zänglein, I'm now 50 years old and I work as a dental technician.

I live together with my two daughters, 3 dogs and 16 Straight Egyptian horses right in the middle of Germany, in a really tiny village in Bavaria.

When I'm not working as a dental technician, I follow my dream and work with horses: I'm breeding Straight Egyptian horses and I'm training both horse and rider. Occasionally, I have also showed my Arabians under saddle and as amateur handler at breeding shows.

I have always had this dream: a stud farm of my own, breeding horses and spending quality time with them.

When I was 10 years old I got my first horse, an Arabian mix. It was a pure coincidence that I ended up with a pony with some Arab blood in it, but it changed my life.

I fell in love with the race! Other horses followed, but I never forgot that first one. In 1992 I visited my first Arabian stud farm and came back home the proud owner of an Arabian mare.

Ever since I have known this one truth: Arabian horses are my favorite!

I was deeply touched – I felt their energy, their majestic elegance, their spirit and their extreme charisma.

The next steps were the buying the first stallion, finding the perfect place for my stud and starting to breed.

Shah Mon Arabian Stud was born, a place with only Straight Egyptian horses, focusing on old, exquisite bloodlines.

Also my business feel'n'ride was founded.

How did I make that happen?

First of all, I was really lucky to have parents that supported me and help me live my dream.

But I guess what really worked for me was that I never gave up on my ideas.

In the beginning there is always a vision, you have to give it some space to develop and then you have to be brave enough to act upon it.

And this is true for all things in life.

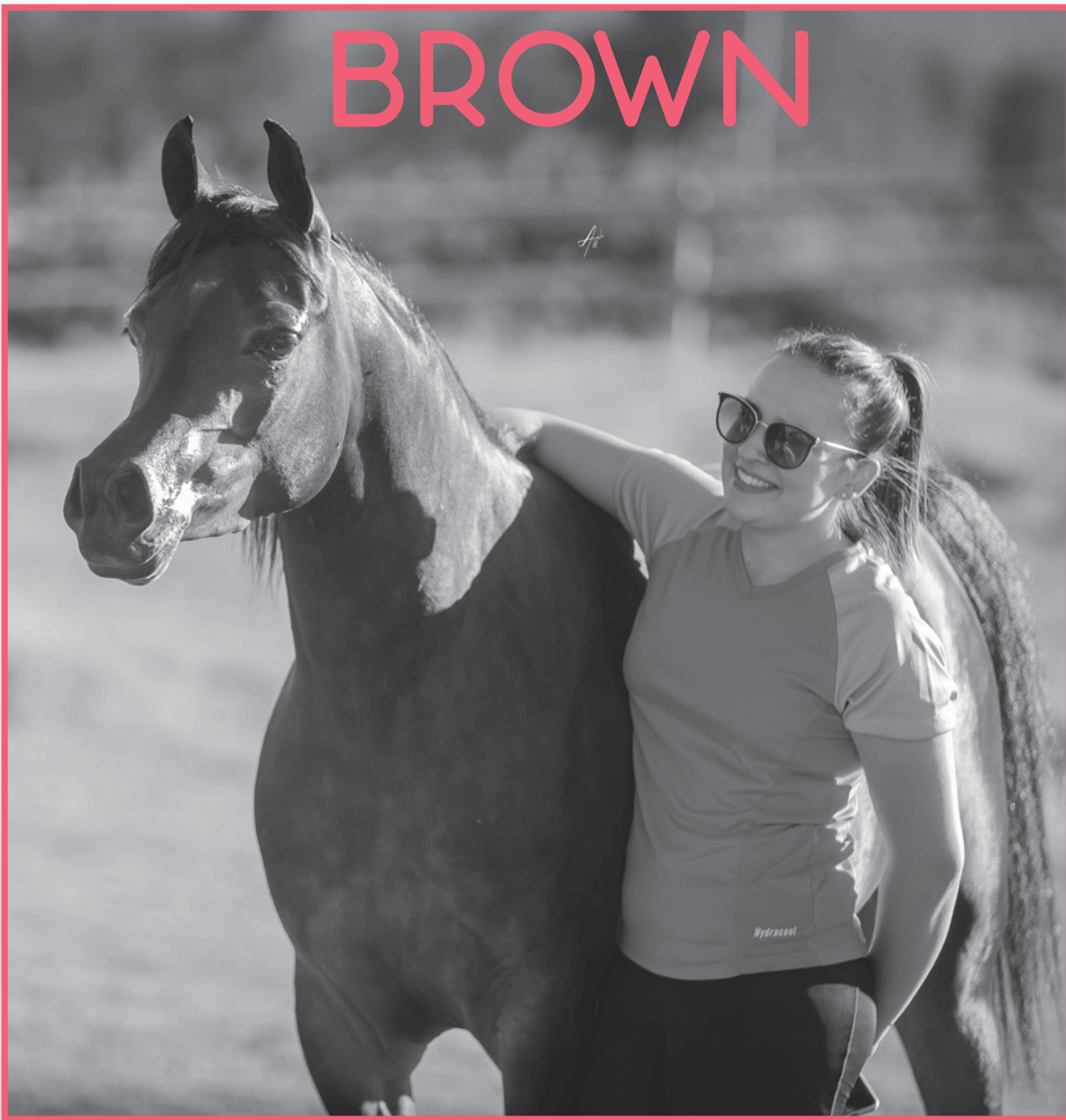
I never had any negative experience working as a woman in the Arabian horse world. My impression is that I'm always treated with respect. I guess the reason for my positive experience is that the people that I work with, or I share my passion with, are like-minded.

Every time I look at my horses, I realise what a lucky person I am, because I still love what I'm doing.

MY ADVICE FOR YOU IS TO BELIEVE IN YOUR IDEA, BE BOLD ENOUGH TO MAKE IT COME TRUE AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL: DO IT FOR YOURSELF!

LISA

BROWN



Endurance Rider, Breeder, PR/Design Businesswoman

My name is Lisa Brown. Wife to Willie Brown, founder of Elkasun Arabian Stud (EKS) in South Africa. As of 2015, I have been actively involved in the Stud with day-to-day management and riding/exercising of the horses. I also take care of all administrative and PR-related duties. I started riding at the age of 6 and competed in Endurance rides for 8 years before I met Willie. After this, my focus shifted towards the world of showing, and I now ride for my own pleasure and enjoyment.

As mentioned above, I started riding at a young age and was introduced to Arabians through Endurance riding. As a teenager I owned 3 Endurance horses and competed in various races across the country. I was always fascinated by the breed and started researching bloodlines from a young age. I became very passionate about the breed very quickly. Whilst I was still in school, for example, I designed a website where I advertised selected Arabians for sale from around South Africa and assisted buyers in finding their ideal Arabian horse. As of recent, I started my own (very small) PR/Design business, since this has also been one of my interests/hobbies from a young age.

In my case, I think that my intense passion and love for the breed plays a part in the way our Stud is run, since I can give Willie valuable support and input. I think it is one of the greatest honours in life to find a partner that shares your passion – especially when it comes to horses, since it is a very all-consuming job/hobby!

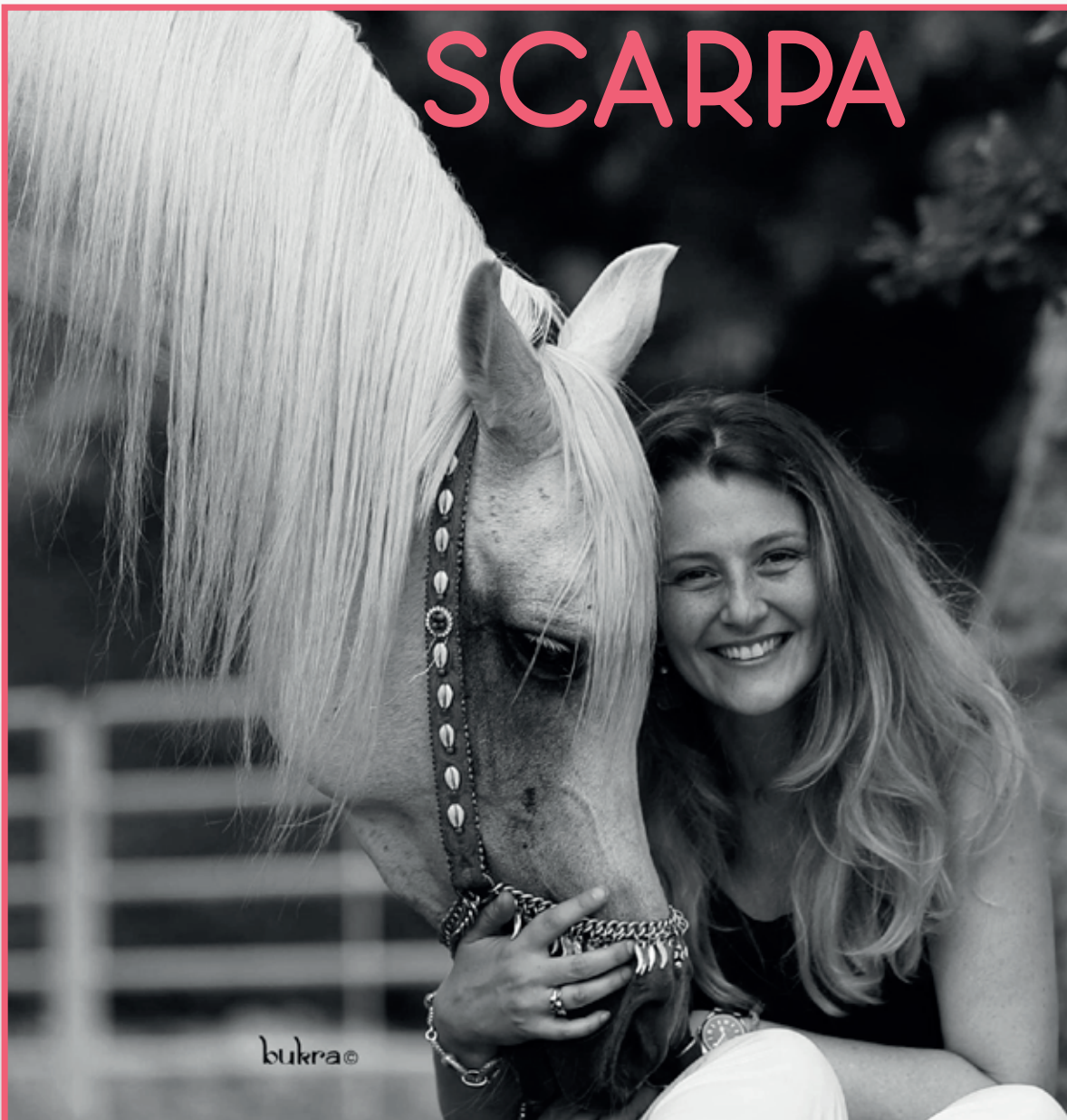
I haven't found any difficulty in proposing myself to this world, not as of yet, since my role is more "behind the scenes".

Personally, without ambition, vision, dedication and passion it will be hard to realize your dream in any line of work, but especially in the industry Arabian horses. You need to have a deep love for what you do. I feel blessed that my (our) greatest love and passion is our everyday job!

I think that many times it is overlooked when young girls say they wish to work with horses for a living – but just by looking at the many talented women in our Arabian Horse "world", it is very clear that it CAN be done! And, that there is a place for everyone – we all have a role to play.

MY MESSAGE TO YOUNG GENERATIONS IS: NEVER STOP DREAMING. WORK HARD, INNOVATE AND BE PASSIONATE ABOUT WHAT YOU DO!

ANNA SCARPA



Breeder, Rider, Show Organizer, Journalist, Translator and Speaker

My name is Anna Scarpa. I live in Pordenone, a busy industrial town in North East Italy. My father is Italian and my mother is from the UK. I guess this is the part of the family where my love of horses comes from!

I am an Arabian horse breeder, rider, show organizer, journalist, translator and speaker. I have travelled to many different countries and have been able to meet many wonderful people who I always keep in touch with and exchange opinions about any new developments in the Arabian horse world. I had the pleasure of being part of the Tutto Arabi magazine team for some years and working alongside such a professional team widened my knowledge considerably - an experience I will always treasure.

I started riding in 1985 and fell in love with Arabian horses as a little girl. I was only physically introduced to the Arabian horse world and to this wonderful breed in 2003 when I bought my first Arabian stallion. He soon turned out to be not only an amazingly beautiful horse but also an excellent riding companion. He was my friend and little did I know we would be taking part in the European Championship for Arabian Sports Horses in Stadl Paura (AT) just a few months later.

The elegance, the beauty and pride of an Arabian cannot be compared to any other breed. Their eyes reach the deepest part of your soul and without even realizing it you are captured and hypnotized for life.

I spent many years out of the saddle and just attending some of the most important Arabian horse shows worldwide for both work and pleasure. I must admit that, as a woman, I have always been very welcomed and helped a lot by everyone I met. Many successful breeders around the world always made my stays very enjoyable, answered all my questions and satisfied my curiosities. They taught me a lot about bloodlines and history.

When I met my partner in 2014 - who happens to be a very popular quarter horse breeder and trainer at an international level - I was reminded how important it is to ride one's horses, so I started riding again and suddenly it all made sense.

Today my 13 year old daughter Giulia rides our Arabian mare Yuma (a successful show horse and a wonderful broodmare), in show jumping and dressage. Yuma is also the most enjoyable trail ride horse.

ONE OF THE MESSAGES I WILL BE TRYING TO PASS ON TO PRESENT AND FUTURE BREEDERS IS .. 'WE NEED TO GIVE A FUTURE TO THE HORSES WE BREED. IF THEY CANNOT SUCCEED IN THE SHOW RINGS FOR THEIR BEAUTY (AND WE ALL KNOW VERY FEW WILL), WE NEED TO MAKE SURE WE PRODUCE A GOOD RIDING HORSE: VERY WELL STRUCTURED, STRONG AND MOST OF ALL WITH A GOOD MINDSET AND A GOOD HEART.

BE VERY CAREFUL WITH YOUR RESEARCH INTO BLOODLINES AND HOW YOU CROSS THEM, AND DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK THE SAME QUESTIONS OVER AND OVER AGAIN TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE. ALWAYS CHECK PERSONALLY AND DON'T RELY ON PHOTOS AND VIDEOS.'

I think in the Arabian horse world, like with any other breed, there are mainly two different kinds of people: breeders and loving owners. So, the first question one should ask oneself is: "Which do I want to be?" If the answer is a breeder, then you must be prepared to go through a lot as this is going to take up a lot of energy, time and money. Breeding means research, knowledge, experience, patience, love, devotion and sometimes disappointment and sadness as you are dealing with mother nature and she is not always fair. It is not something you become overnight; it takes years and years of commitment; it requires a knowledge of horses from many different aspects.

Today, I think it is very difficult to become a successful breeder as the standards have risen considerably. There has been an incredible selection and there has been a very large increase in the number of breeders, especially show wise.

What I always reply when asked what I think of shows and breeding is that we need to create a market for all those horses that, although very nice, will never be approaching the show ring or be used in breeding. These horses need a future and loving owners who enjoy them or they will just be sitting in breeders stables.

Organizers and major breeders should take example from the USA and seriously start putting their energy into creating and opening a new market and new opportunities.

Trusts have been created for other things, why not create one for ridden horses? After all it is in everybody's interest to create such an option.

I know there are a lot of people willing to do this. Owners of ridden horses should also make an effort to attend these venues when organized. I personally organized a Festival a few years ago in Italy offering free accommodation for the ridden horses and very few horses registered..... funnily enough, they were all from abroad!

We are living in difficult times. COVID has done a lot of damage worldwide. I am sure many breeders are struggling to hang on to everything they have worked hard for all these years.

There is something called humanity that is sometimes forgotten by many, and I feel that breeders and above all to today's buyers when going to buy a horse - whether for your stud or for leisure - should respect the hard work, the commitment and the sacrifices that some breeders go through. A lot of breeders do this for a living, not as a hobby. They make a living out of this and today, under all these sad circumstances, it is most important not to take advantage of other people's difficulties.

We must all focus on working together on something that can put us all back on track and encourage the Arabian Horse World to grow.

'PURSUE YOUR GOALS, TRY AS HARD AS YOU CAN TO ACHIEVE YOUR DREAMS, BUT ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU ARE CREATING LIFE AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT. IF YOU CAN'T FEED IT, DON'T BREED IT!'

WE, WOMEN

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