

Although he hasn't been raised amongst Arabian horses, they fulfilled his whole life. Nowadays Rory O'Neill is Director of the Arabian Horse Association of Arizona, one of the most recognized Arabian horse trainers in USA getting popular also as a speaker and being often seen outside the country exploring Arabian horse breed, history and culture of other regions. In the talk with Urszula Leczycka he tells about the story of his experience, his passions for the breed and the new, interesting plans for the upcoming months...



RORY O'NEILL

OF LAZY B ARABIANS AT SCOTTSDALE AZ. USA

Interview by: Urszula Łeczycka

Photos by: Javan Photography, Stuart Vesty, Darryl Larson





Tutto Arabi: *Before starting the history of O'Neill Arabians training center located in Arizona you have come a long way and interesting places you worked at...*

Rory O'Neill: *I started in the Arabian horse industry in the early 1980's. I was raised in Northern California's wine country. At the time we were surrounded by numerous Arabian breeders and training centers. Stallions such as Bey Shah, Fame VF, *Padron, *Serafix, *Karadjorge and Fardjur, all standing within 2 hours of my home. My family was not a horse family but I was drawn in by my neighbors Arabians. From the daily experiences at the Arabian horse farm near to my house I spent nearly everyday after school and weekends learning, working and caring for horses! It was dirty, hard work, bad pay and... I wanted more! The horse shows in this era as I reflect back upon were amazing. Huge numbers in each class, less classes then we have now. Each breeder had a certain 'look' to their 'program'. I began showing Arabians at 8 years old and continued thru high school, age 18. After High School, I decided to take a break from full time horses to pursue College, snow skiing and track and field competition. After a 2 year hiatus, I needed to be with the Arabian horse again. I really missed the people and the horses. More or less I have committed to the Arabian horse business as a full time career for over 20 years professionally and nearly 30 years as a caretaker of these great animals.*

TA: *Who was your Arabian horse training master at your beginnings and do you have any now?*

RO: *Over the years I have been privileged to work with or for some truly special Horseman, such as Rob Bick, Murril Lacey, Ray LaCroix and Ted Carson. Each of these 'mentors' pushed me hard daily, but saw potential for me to become a serious horseman. Throughout the years I have out worked many of my peers who I grew up in the 'business' with. This relentless work ethic has allowed doors of opportunity to open. I'm very grateful for the people I have worked under in the past, too many to list, who have gone to great lengths to share with me all their extensive experiences and knowledge.*

TA: *And the most significant horses you had an opportunity to work with before and while O'Neill Arabians has started were...?*

RO: *Amelia B (Magnum Psyche x Amety B) 2002 U.S. National Champion Yearling Filly, is a classic Arabian mare. Each day for the last 10 years I've been lucky to care for her and assist in her breeding decisions. It's been a fun ride and she has produced so well and created wealth for her owner, Lazy B Arabians, LLC. Amelia B is my all-time favorite Arabian! So beautiful.*

TA: *Together with your wife- Suzanne who is a accomplished saddle performance Amateur competitor, you offer what particular services to clients of O'Neill Arabians?*



Standing at Stud
 RHR Heir Of Marwan
 (*Marwan Al Shaqab x LC Psychesheries)
 Las Vegas Champion & Australian National
 Stud Show Champion
 Marketed for Running Horse Ranch, USA
 to KP Arabians QLD.,Australia



NW Mattelyn (Nw Manhattyn x HR Eclairé)
2012 filly sired by Eccentric Valentino
(Da Valentino x Amelia B) breeding back to
*RHR Heir of Marwan (*Marwan Al Shaqab x
LC Psychesheiress).
Marketed for Nicasio Winds, USA



Pyrouette VF (Pyro Thyme SA x Psympatica VF)
U.S. & Scottsdale Top Ten Mare
Marketed for Ventura Farms, USA to Esperanza
Arabians, USA.



MS Amber Afire
(DS Major Afire x Marrissah)
to be bred to Trussardi
(Stival x Precious As Gold)
Marketed for Robin Hood Farms, USA



Vanity Fair LBA (DA Valentino x Amelia B)
 Marketed for Lazy B Arabians, USA to The
 McMahon Family, USA at 3 weeks old

RO: O'Neill Arabians LLC is located in Scottsdale, Arizona. We are 15 minutes from the West World show grounds. We focus on the Arabian halter horse, offering show training, breeding management for both stallion and mare, marketing Arabian horses world-wide and coaching amateur handlers to further their technique. Two new elements O'Neill Arabians, LLC is pleased to offer presentation of Arabians horses at international shows as well as providing speaking and narration of Open Days and Seminars. Our main objective's are : 1) to a present a well prepared product, 2) provide honest advice & evaluations

TA: Can you tell us about your biggest achievements in show ring and marketing in the past and present?

RO: Winning for the 1st time at the World Cup in Las Vegas with a young unshown and unknown 2 year old colt, RHR Heir Of Marwan (*Marwan Al Shaqab x LC Psychesheiress) was special as well as my first time visiting the Scottsdale show as a young boy! Marketing success has been so rewarding to me, my clients and the great people I have met thru the sales. I believe it may be hard to think of just a single special transaction. Each transaction can create unique experience.

TA: What gives you the biggest satisfaction while being Arabian horse trainer and marketer?

RO: I love finding the next 'Great one! Its always a

huge emotional 'high' to discover a 'Special' horse and bring it out the first time! It's happened for me a few times! Isn't that what everyone lives for?

TA: You happen to also be a Board of Director to the Arabian Horse Association of Arizona for the past 2 years and have recently been re-elected to another 2 year term. Congratulations! One of your main responsibilities is a Scottsdale All Arabian Show Commissioner. What are your impressions about this one of the biggest world's shows nowadays, what brings you the biggest satisfaction in being a member on board and what, in your opinion is or should be done there for the future in Scottsdale and in the USA Arabian horse shows field as long as your influence reach?

RO: I'm presently finishing my first two year term as a Director of the Arabian Horse Association of Arizona(AHAA). I feel each of us in the Arabian horse business needs to give back to the greatest breed in the world! The Arabian horse has provided some much fulfillment in life for me. The Scottsdale Show and our Arabian Breeder's Finals Show in October are nothing short of hard work, strategic planning and risk taking. I'm blessed to be involved with a wonderful group of people that work towards a common goal to produce some of the best Horse Show's in the World. Horse shows are harder to organize, produce and fund then in previous years here in the U.S. Our noble breed was much larger in the past decade. We at the AHAA are challenged to create continued interest and generate new people





Azalea LBA (*Marwan Al Shaqab x Amelia B) has E.T coming for Ajman Stud to Valvaldee (Versace x Giavanna) & carrying a Da Valentino (Versace x DA Love)

Amelia B in foal to *Marwan Al Shaqab for 2013. Expecting E.T to Valvaldee for Ajman Stud, UAE in 2012



Anna Bella B (*Monogramm x Amety B) 2012 colt by *Dakar El Jamaal (*Ali Jamaal x Sonoma Lady) being bred back to Da Vinci FM (Versace x Full Moon Astar) & *RHR Heir of Marwan via E.T. Marketed for Lazy B Arabians, USA to Burendah Stud, NSW. Australia

to our shows and most importantly to own and breed Arabian horses. The parent organization in the U.S. has had zero vision on breed development, promotion or unifying the different layers of Arabian horses enthusiasts. We the AHAA, as the largest and oldest Club in the U.S are striving to maintain people's desire to own, show, breed or enjoy Arabian horses in every conceivable facet. As our Club goes forward we hope to reshape the way the Arabian horse shows are produced, promoted and expand the AHAA 'brand' further in the U.S.

TA: You are also very frequent visitor outside USA, in which countries you like to travel the most and why?

RO: The Arabian halter horse today, is a global international horse and business. I would be short sighted if I didn't pursue all that is available to me or my clients thru traveling, networking and searching. In this current market climate my farm needs an aggressive International presence to serve my clientele and stay relevant I thoroughly enjoy traveling. The Arabian Horse Business allows me to visit many International cities and experience

cultures I would not ordinarily be able to enjoy. My goal is to continue to spend time outside of the U.S. For now I really don't have a favorite stop or City.

TA: Anyway, you are planning to make a longer trip across Europe this year focusing on Poland – what is a purpose?

RO: This year I'm finally going to visit Poland and spend some time viewing the special Arabian horses of the Polish State Studs! I can't wait. My trip will be centered around the Polish Arabian Days in August. Since I was a little boy, I have been dreaming of walking thru the clock tower at Janow Podlaski! Visiting the white National Champion mares of Michalow and the kind people of Poland. Now I've been told there are some very serious private breeders in Poland and I'm determined to make time to visit these studs as well. History is a favorite passion of mine and where else is their a blend of Arabian horses and world history as I hope to see in Poland?

TA: We wish you good luck then hoping this new experience will bring you a lot of new enjoyments.



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