



Gideon Reisel, Vivian Reisel-Van Erten and Rony Vos



[design: arabhorsepromotion.com]



Daniel & Pamela Moëll, Sweden (breeders of Jumilla)



Nina Suskevicova, Czech Republic



Swedish Visitors

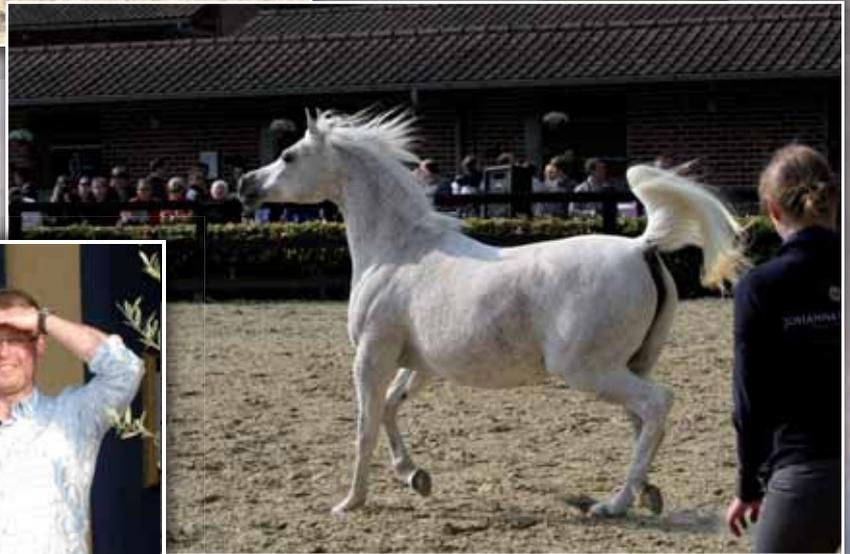
An Open Barn day
at

Johanna Ullström

text by: A. d'Ursel | photos by: J. Ullström, G. Jacobs, J. Kools, N. Lacoste, M. Jaworski



Psynselino by Borsalino K



Euskara by Ararat



Abdullah Al-Mesal, Kuwait, Johanna Ullström, Mateusz Jaworski, Poland

As every year, the last Sunday of March, Johanna Ullström opens up her beautiful Training Centre in Belgium to the general public and breeders alike. It is the one and only day of the year one gets access, without appointment, to some of the world's most beautiful Arabian Horses and the paradise she lives in and shares with them.

At her place, because it is a Training Centre, one meets the best among the best, all in a row. Often we judge a horse in comparison to the ones we see around at that particular moment. Therefore, seeing horses at a training stable is tough on the horses, and tough on us as well, but it makes for a fantastic experience in refining our taste. We have the chance and difficult task of comparing the best to the best.

The weather forecast predicts a sunny day for this 2011 Open Barn, so the choice is quite obvious. No backing out, here we go! When we arrive, the streets bordering the farm are already full of cars, including many foreign plates. We are welcomed at the

entrance gate with red carpets and stroll in, beautiful classical music being played. The place displays flowers already, which is quite early for Belgium at this time of the year. Spring got an early start, and it makes us feel light and happy!

We meet 2 stallions walking calmly under saddle, Kadar's Echoo and Afrikhan Shah. It is a joy for the eye to see those 2 stallions being ridden amid the public, calm and proud. It immediately sets the tune for the place. This is not only about beauty, but also character. The focus is set on a complete horse. Proof that Champions are ridden every day here...

We spot with delight the 2 huge black Friesians in front of their old styled carriage. It has become a tradition now, for the guests wanting to visit the farm without having to walk all the tracks. The farm is surprising by its unusually large size for a training centre, 34 ha of fields, a racetrack, a forest and a large number of stables! Taking the carriage ride is an experience in itself! The place is so romantic, so full of history, old stones, an old castle, a



JB Psynderella



Nag Olla Bez



Ansata Mouna

few old farm houses, century old trees and old wooden fences. Here and there are ponds, filled with ducks, swans, geese and other birds living life to the fullest. We hear fish splashing...

The forest we drive through is awash with yellow flowers, making for a breathtaking view. We see roedeers, pheasants, squirrels and birds. It is a world full of life and yet so quiet. Everything here is calmness, harmony, beauty and refinement. No wonder Johanna keeps relaxed and balanced horses at this place. The carriage transports us back to the 18th or 19th century, like if time has stood still. The farm runs a 2 meter high fence all around, and adds to the feeling of isolation and security we get when we pass through the entrance gate. It is very safe for horses and people and one thing we rarely think about when building a farm, I ponder.

At 2.30 PM, with only 30 minutes delay on the program to allow for late guests to arrive from surrounding airports, the presentation starts. We see known faces, some of them flying all

over from the American continent, others from the Middle East. The presentation starts fast and runs efficiently, very Swedish. Johanna has difficult to hide her Nordic origins!

In the next coming hours we are served with wonderful horses and sights, along with music ranging from the classic to the new age, all in soft tones, adding to the serenity of the place.

This training centre is a paradise for mares I tell myself while watching. In a succession of horses, some catch my eye for reasons that are personal. Johanna shows us the most incredible collection of Straight Egyptian Mares I have ever seen so far at one and the same farm: Suhalia Al Saba (Saba Arabians, Australia), Ansata Mouna (Al Naif Stud, Qatar), Johara Al Naif (Al Naif Stud, Qatar), Ramses Minx (Agmal Arabians, South-Africa) and TF Shahraaz (GT Arabians, Sweden) are all very high class and stun us with their beauty and refinement. Together they represent many cups and titles! On the Polish side we have the chance to admire the promising Psyche



Kreuz who is a tribute to the breeding skills of her owners, Chrcynno Palace Stud, Poland. WW Indih is also a highlight of the presentation, and is probably one of the best daughters of QR Marc out there. There is something supernatural about her that is difficult to translate into words. She is bred and owned by W-Arabians, UK. Rohara Rebecca demonstrates the taste of her owner Naples Arabians, Sweden. She is a power house of energy and refinement. Bought as a weanling in the USA by Naples Arabians, she gets regularly rained with 20's across the board!

The mare Irinah K (Shael Dream Desert) just arrived from Brazil, and we can see her breeder Murilo Kammer who flew all the way for the weekend to attend her arrival. He smiles, rightly so! Her new owners, Pamela and Daniel Moëll, from Moëll & Moëll Arabians, Sweden, smile as well, I guess for the same good reasons. We also have the pleasure to meet 2 Sanadik daughters, SF Shaklina and El Nadika Rose. The pure Polish Euskara is in foal to Ekstern, and we look forward to see the foal.

During the pause, I wander again amid the pastures and meet unexpectedly with the famous stallion Ghazal Sakr, grazing peacefully, unaware of all the activity of the day. Magic moment again! It's time to head back to the presentation, although I would love to share a few more moments with him.

Two mares storm our emotions. ZT Sharuby, owned by Al Shaqab Stud, is shown by Johanna without any halter, just flowers around the neck. Rarely can one see, especially at a Halter Training Center, such horsemanship skills. Sharuby follows Johanna on the run, changes direction, circles, gets back, all to remain in pace with Johanna's movement. 2 young boys enter the paddock and Sharuby changes course to follow them towards the exit, where Johanna is waiting for her. We then see the pair run to the barn, Sharuby still free of any rope or halter, until they both disappear to clear the way for the next horse. Emotions ...

(YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_KkkaPUNjY or search "Johanna Ullström & ZT Sharuby")

Right after, the speaker announces CA Leena (WH Justice). While explaining the story behind her arrival at Johanna Ullström's training centre, the speaker's voice breaks into tears. The public is quiet, many cry, some are breathless, the farm is filled with emotion. Leena, from Denmark, Calbar Arabians, arrived at the farm very shortly after Margit, her owner, left this world. It was her wish to show this horse, and to entrust Johanna with her. While the speaker desperately tries to control her voice and continues to introduce Leena, the filly appears, along with music that touches our souls. Those moments connect us with the real life, the suffering, the joys, the courage, the beauty and the refinement that characterizes Arabian Horses, and adds one reason to why we are all here.

We need a few moments to recollect ourselves after those emotional moments and I taste one of the wines served, from the Ernie Els collection. This place is all about style and refinement I have to tell myself again. Wonderful!

We slowly move towards the end of the presentation with the stallions. Mambo and Kadar's Echoo are shown, representing a fine combination of performance and balanced physics as well as character.

Finally, the long awaited TF Afrikhan Shah, owned and bred by Curtis Westley, USA arrives. One of the most beautifully faced stallions in the world, he looks even better in real than on the pictures! His head is unbelievable! Some of his first daughters will be shown this season, and I am very excited. Teddy, as he is affectionately called by the staff, is a personality in itself! He is demanding constant attention in the gentlest way.

The afternoon is slowly coming to an end, and we go home with the feeling that a true Arabian Horse is not only beautiful, but deserves gentle care, close contact with humans, and that peace and harmony are essential to Johanna's style of showing. She demonstrates true horsemanship behind the scenes of which we have a chance to see a glimpse during her Open Barn. No wonder some in the profession are raining compliments on her style, her skills and her horsemanship! Congratulations, well done Johanna and thank you for this Open Barn 2011! We look forward to 2012!

Belgian National Champion SF Shaklina



Johanna & ZT Sharuby



Rohara Rebecca

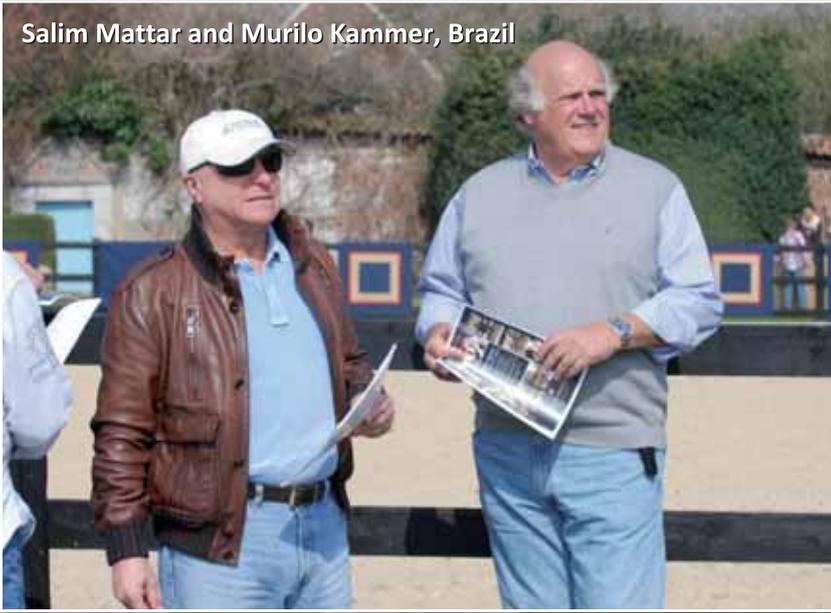


LVA Nirvana by Enzo



Kadars Echo and TF Afrikhan Shah

Salim Mattar and Murilo Kammer, Brazil



Ingela Gyllenkrok, Sweden (owner of Egyptian Event champion TF Shahrkaz)



Niels Ismer, Germany



Barbara Schwarz, Germany



Johanna Ullström
International Arabian Horse Management

Training - Sourcing - Breeding - Marketing - Consulting

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