

Rothenberg Stud



GR *Fasin*

Maheeb | Fasinah
by Nahaman

Rothenberg

*“Do what you love to do
with all your heart
and force ...
and never give up!”*

*Emotional and inspiring talk with
Annette Escher, the woman
who keep fulfilling her dreams
and reach the success no matter
what comes the way.*

by Urszula Łęczycka
photos by Annette & Erwin Escher



Urszula Łęczycka: *Your farm has been established more than 30 years ago by you and your husband Erwin. Nowadays you run it all by yourself and Straight Egyptian horses with GR prefix are worldwide known. You also run one of the largest Straight Egyptian black coloured herds in the world – that is in high demand nowadays.*

Can you tell us more about the idea of establishing your breeding program? Was it the same from the beginning or it has been changing through the years and following the market?

What were your first horses and where did you get them from?

Annette Escher: We started our Straight Egyptian breeding with a small number of horses several years before we could buy the right place and built “Rothenberg Stud” in 1991. In 1992 the stud and pastures was ready and we moved our horses to here ... from this time, having place enough, we were looking for the right additions and after we haven’t found most of them in Europe (there was only few Egyptians in Germany / Europe at this time and nearly nothing for sale) we went several times

to USA looking at studs and horses driving thousands of miles weekly. During this time we found and bought the foundation horses for my recent breeding, so the mares like: Halims Asmara (Ansata Halim Shah x Lancers Asmara- US National Top Ten and twice World Res. Champion mare), Dalima Shah (Ansata Halim Shah x AK Bint Dalia II), Ansata Aya Maria (Ansata Shah Zaman x Ansata Aya Halima by Ansata Ibn Halima) – Bukra line and the black Champion mare Maria Halima (Haziz Halim x Chelsea), Then we found the black mare Fasinah (Nahaman x Fatima) in Germany and before 1992 we already have owned the mare Samara (Ibn Moheba x Safiniya by Ibn Galal), I still own her black great-granddaughter GR Samantha which meanwhile is mother herself!

Over the years we sometimes leased a mare or made breeding-cooperation to add foals out of interesting mothers and motherlines – this way we bred our „Queen“ GR Nashidah (by Classic Shadwan) which is the mother of black gold-premium stallion GR Nashad (exp. Kuwait, by GR Faleeh) as well as the black mare GR Layla (by GR Faleeh) who is the mother of our young

Interview

Stud



Annette and **GR Anastacia** (Classic Shadwan x Halims Asmara)
full-sister to Multi-Champion & gold premium stallion GR Amaretto



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Dalima Shah Multi - & European Champion Straight Egyptian by Ansata Halim Shah - one of our foundation mares



GR Adelle
black filly 2022, by GR Ishad out of GR Anastacia
(Classic Shadwan x foundation-mare Halim's Asmara by Ansata
Halim Shah). GR Anastacia is a full-sister to our homebred Multi
& European- Champion SE GR Amaretto



GR Shakadah
black mare 2019, GR Ishad x GR Shakirah (Maheeb x Shatigah)
great great granddaughter of Dalima Shah

Classic Shadwan

(Alidaar x Shagia Bint Shadwan)
Multi-Champion, foundation stallion

**GR Aliyah**

(GR Faleeh x GR Anastacia
by Classic Shadwan)
first black out of Halims Asmara line

**GR Faleeh**

(Madallan-Madheen x Fasinah) & Annette,
the day before GR Faleeh left to Kuwait



broodmare GR Larissa (in foal again to GR Fasin) and our young stallion GR Layad (both by GR Ishad). After we moved to Rothenberg Stud we also bought our foundation-stallions: Classic Shadwan (Alidaar x Shagia Bint Shadwan imp. Egypt) which we found in France was four years old at this time and the black Madallan-Madheen; when we heard about a very special black colt being born 1994 out of special

bloodlines we quickly went to see him, and we bought him in age of 6 weeks! He was the very first foundation for our black breeding! Madallan-Madheen was not bred to get black, his parents were chestnut (his father Ansata El Salaam) and bay (the famous mare Madinah, mother of Imperial Madheen) but he got black "by accident" and was just bred to be a great horse ... and got a rare gold premium ribbon from the

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GR Aya Malaika

black mare 2022, GR Ishad x GR Aya Malukah
(GR Faleeh x GR Aya Mahiba)
goes back to Ansata Aya Maria, Bukra line. In foal to GR Fasin



GR Aya Malukah

black mare, by GR Faleeh out of GR Aya Mahiba
(Maheeb x GR Aya Farida) goes back to our foundation-mare
Ansata Aya Maria from the Bukra line. In foal to GR Ishad



GR Aya Malinah

black filly *2025 (GR Ishad x GR Aya Malukah) goes back to
foundation mare Ansata Aya Maria - Bukra line
Full-siblings was exported to Egypt, Kuwait, UAE & USA

German registry later at the stallion licensing show!
Most of our early blacks were out of non black lines ... blacks
were seldom and good blacks even more and usually they
were impossible to buy! Since I was a child I always was a big
fan of black horses but Erwin mostly loved the greys - in the
end we love all colors so we only had a few blacks in the first
years.

Over the years we got more and more black foals (also
Classic Shadwan produced fantastic blacks) and after more
than 30 years I have managed to get fantastic blacks from
all our foundation-horses ... for several I needed generations
but meanwhile I have a fantastic group of black and black
producing broodmares, many are already 4th and 5th
generation of our foundation-mares!

But color was not most important all the time – we both
loved pretty exotic faces, good (proven) Straight Egyptian



GR Moneef

(show-winner GR Faleeh x GR Mona by foundation-stallion Madallan-Madheen) homozygous black stallion



GR Bint Asmara

GR Moneef x GR Asmara (GR Lahab x Halims Asmara).
In foal to GR Layad

pedigrees and as we also were riders since the beginning we wanted to have a solid horse with good body, legs and movements which are able to carry us over the fields! The goal was not to lose any of this points over the years ... type, body, movement ... and most important at all the fantastic, people loving sweet character the Egyptians are famous for.

UE: Straight Egyptian breeding is one of most difficult ones as you must use a very limited gene pool that creates some problems in avoiding inbreeding and breeding overall harmonious and typey horse. Limiting the Straight Egyptian breeding to black colour group only must be even more challenging. How do you find your way to keep breeding beautiful and correct horses with such a limited requirements?

AE: Most of our foundation horses were not bred to get black

GR Bint Asmara

(GR Moneef x GR Asmara by GR Lahab)
13.9.16 - 4 months after Erwins death



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GR Layad

Homozygous black stallion 2023
GR Ishad x GR Layla (exp. UAE by GR Faleeh)
Abayyan line, first foals 2026



GR Lasin

homozygous black colt *2025
GR Fasin x GR Larissa (GR Ishad x GR Layla exp. UAE)
Future stallion at Rothenberg



GR Ishad

GR Nashad x Shaylah Bint Iman by Classic Shadwan
homozygous black gold premium stallion

which means they had a bigger gene-pool as if we would bought mostly blacks in the beginning ... there were only very few black and black producing lines at this time which already often were inbred. And over the years we always were open to use sometimes outside stallions doesn't matter the color like World Champion Al Lahab if we thought they would bring us something new in blood and look ... in my recent herd I have great mares from this line! We always used the Straight Egyptian bloodlines we liked personally not looking for trends and what other breeders prefer ... we went our own way for our own taste and what we loved ourselves!

***UL:** Did you manage to combine your goals of having the bloodlines, the strength, stamina and also the colour and then keep into the fashion to win the show titles? It had to be extremely difficult task..*

***AE:** Over the years we often showed our horses and many of our foundation horses and their offspring got Multi-Champions and gold premium stallions. For example Dalima Shah and her daughter Shadwanah (by Classic Shadwan) as well as Halims Asmara and her son GR Amaretto (by Classic Shadwan) won among other titles the champion titles at the Egyptian Event Europe. Also our first homebred black mares GR Marietta and GR Marianah (both Madallan-Madheen x Maria Halima) won several championships which was very special at this time as nearly no blacks was shown successfully! Also later our black stallion GR Faleeh (exported to Kuwait;*

**GR Larissa**

black mare 2021 (GR Ishad x GR Layla by GR Faleeh)
Abayan line, in foal to GR Fasin

**GR Mahalia**

black filly 2023
(GR Ishad x GR Maheeba by Maheeb)
Moniet El Nefous line - the future

**GR Mahidah**

black mare *2022 (GR Ishad x GR Maheeba by Maheeb)
Moniet el Nefous line. In foal to GR Moneef

**GR Aisha**

black mare 2022, GR Ishad x GR Anisha (GR Faleeh x GR Anastacia)
great granddaughter of foundation mare Halims Asmara. In foal to GR Fasin

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Madallan-Madheen x Fasinah) was shown successfully as class-winner and Topf Five at the Egyptian Event Europe ... and many more.

We sold and I still sell my foals nearly all over the world and many of them won and win a lot for their new owners– many champion titles in halter classes as well as endurance races or riding classes.

Our sold horses live around the world as breeding-horses and produce fantastic foals for their new owners ... or are just best friends and great riding-horses to give their new owners fun and happy hours.

We also bred several gold premium stallions at the stallion registration of the registry, for me one of the most difficult gold to get at all!

We got gold premium titles for GR Amaretto (exported to Iran, Classic Shadwan x Halims Asmara by Ansata Halim Shah), his $\frac{3}{4}$ -brother Maheeb (black; Classic Shadwan x Bint Bint Mahiba by Ansata Halim Shah) and for the other black stallions GR Nashad (exported to Kuwait; GR Faleeh x GR Nashidah by Classic Shadwan), his black son at stud GR Ishad (GR Nashad x Shaylah Bint Iman by Classic Shadwan) and also for our young black stallion GR Fasin (Maheeb x our foundation-mare Fasinah by Nahaman). And I have



GR Ariella

GR Lahab (exp. Kuwait; Al Lahab x GR Nashidah) x GR Anisha (GR Faleeh x GR Anastacia). Great granddaughter of foundation mare Halims Asmara. In foal to GR Loyad



GR Famonah

black mare 2021, GR Moneef x GR Farasha (Maheeb x Fasinah) - in foal to GR Ishad



GR Samantha

Black mare 2019, Maheeb x GR Safiniya (GR Faleeh x GR Sangara by Pasha Farid). In foal to GR Moneef Goes back to our first SE mare Samara Bint Moheba



GR Nashidah

(Classic Shadwan x Nejdshah)
mother of our homebred stallions GR Nashad
(gold premium stallion; father of GR Ishad) and GR Lahab.
Black-bay filly GR Nasinah 2023 (by GR Fasin) beside

big hope to continue this fantastic row with my promising young black stallion GR Layad (GR Ishad x GR Layla by GR Faleeh) in the future! He also is homozygous without any white markings and have an extremely dishy head – he is the future of Rothenberg Stud! Meanwhile the first mares are in foal to him and I eagerly wait to see his first foals next year!

UE: *Did you manage to establish some dam and sire lines of your own that you admire until that day and continue?*

AE: All of my recent breeding-horses come in direct line from our early foundation horses – and all of them carry either the blood of Classic Shadwan or Madallan-Madheen or both of them!

Over the years I managed to breed fantastic blacks from all of the foundation-mares which made me very happy and proud and I love to see that the sold ones make their new owners happy, too.

UE: *here is probably no Arabian horse lover in Europe that would not know the photos made by your husband Erwin who passed away 9 years ago. Since that time you keep running the farm by your own with just one helper. Your strenght, passion and achievements could be an inspiration for many woman or girls who dream or run the horse breeding on their own for different reasons.*



GR Nasirah

black-bay mare 2022, by GR Fasin out of GR Nashidah
(Classic Shadwan x Nejdshah). GR Nasirah was the first foal of
our young homozygous black gold premium stallion GR Fasin!
In foal to GR Layad

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GR Ishadah

black filly 2025, GR Ishad x GR Nashadah
(GR Darwan (Maheeb x Dalimah Shah) x GR Nashadah
by Classic Shadwan) - the future



GR Nashadah

2018, bay mare by GR Darwan (Maheeb x Dalima Shah)
x GR Nashidah (by Classic Shadwan). Granddaughter of our
foundation-mare Dalima Shah



GR Shakirah

2011, black mare (black gold premium stallion Maheeb x
GR Shatigah) & her daughter GR Shakadah (by GR Ishad) as a foal



GR Shatigah

black mare 2003 (Pasha Farid x Shadwanah)
last daughter of GR Shadwanah at stud; granddaughter of Dalima Shah

It must be hard, emotional but probably also satisfying when you manage to breed a great horse at the end? What would you say and advice to the other woman – breeders?

AE: Yes, the death of Erwin for sure was the most terrible time in my life, I thought my life have stopped, too. But the horses helped me a lot because giving up is no solution, you have to go on day by day, they wait for you, they need you! Additionally, Erwins second favorite mare GR Asmara (GR Lahab x Halims's Asmara) died a few days after him because of problems after giving birth and let her newborn filly GR



GR Shaminah

black filly 2024, by black gold premium stallion GR Fasin out of GR Shatigah (Pasha Farid x Multi-Champion mare Shadwanah) goes back to our foundation-mare Dalima Shah - the future



GR Myrella

black filly 2023, GR Fasin x GR Maryah (GR Moneef x black Champion-mare GR Marianah by Madallan-Madheen) goes back to our foundation mare Maria Halima



GR Farasha

(Maheeb x Fasinah by Nahaman) - full-sister to GR Fasin



GR Fasin

2019 (black gold premium stallion Maheeb x foundation mare Fasinah by Nahaman) homozygous black gold premium stallion

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Maheeb

(Classic Shadwan x Bint Bint Mahiba) - black gold premium stallion, sire of many of our breeding-horses



Halims Asmara

(Ansata Halim Shah x Lancer's Asmara, US National Top Ten and World Res. Champion mare). Multi- & European Champion Res. SE one of our foundation mares



Bint Asmara (by GR Moneef) alone with me. This baby nearly died as well because of substitute milk so I needed to take milk from other mares to feed this baby ... you can imagine that I nearly had no time to sleep over months which was very hard but maybe also good for me in this situation. My only aim was that we both need to survive ...and we did! Meanwhile GR Bint Asmara gave birth to already four wonderful black fillies by GR Ishad herself which was sold in and outside Europe and one of her black fillies even won Championships for her new owner ... all this made me very happy and gave me force to continue!

My advice is to do what you love with all your heart and soul... and never give up!

There are always good and bad times in our lifetime... you need to survive the bad time and grow yourself in the good time and take it into your heart for the future. Like when

Madallan-Madheen

(Ansata El Salaam x Madinah) - black gold premium stallion, foundation-stallion



Fasinah

(Nahaman x Fatima); black foundation-mare, mother of homebred black show-winner GR Faleeh (exp. Kuwait) and my young black gold premium stallion GR Fasin



Shadwanah

(Classic Shadwan x Dalima Shah); first daughter of both her parents, Multi- & European Champion Straight Egyptian. Mother of black broodmare GR Shatigah

my homebred young homozygous black stallion GR Fasin (by Maheeb by Classic Shadwan), the much too early born last foal out of our foundation-mare Fasinah (which nearly died several time during the first weeks of his life) got a gold ribbon from the German registry as breeding-stallion with just amazing high scores in all points. And every new birth when mother and baby are well – just a wonder every time! As a breeder you mostly look forward into the future for the next breedings and the next foals, this keep you running, don't look back too much! Just important that you love what you do ... then even the work makes you happy!!!

UE: What an amazing story and the best proof to your words of advice that I would certainly put as a title of this interview! I wish you all the best of luck on reaching your future goals and of course – with mostly those great and happy moments for every breeder.

Maria Halima

(by Haziz Halim by Ansata Ibn Halima) Champion USA, black foundation-mare mother of black Champion-mares GR Marietta & GR Marianah (grandmother of our black filly GR Myrella)





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