

Rothenberg Stud



A Escher

GR *Ishad*

GR Nashad | Shaylah Bint Iman

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 were ready and we moved our horses here... from this time on, having enough space, we looked for the right additions and as we didn’t find most of them in Europe (there were few Egyptians in Germany /

Europe at that time and almost nothing for sale), we travelled several times to the USA to look at studs and horses, driving thousands of miles a week. During this time we found and bought the foundation horses for my new breeding programme, so the mares like them: 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 owned the mare Samara (Ibn Moheba x Safiniya by Ibn Galal), I still own her black great granddaughter GR Samantha who is now pregnant for the first time!

Over the years we have sometimes leased a mare or entered into a breeding co-operation to add foals from interesting dams and dam lines - this is how we bred our “Queen” GR Nashidah (by Classic

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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



Shadwan), who is the dam of the black Gold Premium stallion GR Nashad (exp. Kuwait, by GR Faleeh) and the black mare GR Layla (by GR Faleeh) who is the dam of our young broodmare GR Larissa (in foal to GR Fasin) and our future stallion GR Layad (both by GR Ishad). After moving to Rothenberg Stud we also bought our foundation stallions: Classic Shadwan (Alidaar x Shagia

Bint Shadwan imp. Egypt), who we found in France, was four years old at the time and the black Madallan-Madheen; when we heard about a very special black colt born in 1994 out of special bloodlines, we quickly went to see him and bought him at the age of 6 weeks! He was the very first foundation of our black breeding programme! Madallan-Madheen was not bred to be black, his parents

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GR Aya Malikah

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.
Black colt GR Malish 2023 (by GR Ishad) beside which was
exported to USA



were chestnut (his sire Ansata El Salaam) and bay (the famous mare Madinah, dam of Imperial Madheen), but he turned black “by accident” and was just bred to be a great horse... and later won a rare gold premium ribbon from the German registry at the stallion licensing!

Most of our early blacks came from non-black lines ... blacks were rare and good blacks even rarer and usually impossible to buy! Since I was a child I have always been a big fan of black horses, but Erwin loved the greys the most - in the end we love all colours, so we only had a few blacks in the early 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 out of all our foundation horses... for some of them it took several generations, but now I have a fantastic group of black and black producing broodmares, many of them already in the 4th and 5th generation of our foundation mares!

GR Aya Malaika

black filly 2022, GR Ishad x GR Aya Malikah
(GR Faleeh x GR Aya Mahiba)
goes back to Ansata Aya Maria, Bukra line





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) this year high pregnant goes back to Halims Asmara

But colour was not always the most important thing - we both loved pretty exotic faces, good (proven) straight Egyptian pedigrees and as we were also riders from the beginning we wanted a solid horse with good body, legs and movement to carry us over the fields! The aim was not to lose any of these points over the years ... type, body, movement ... and most importantly, 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 harmonius 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?

GR Bint Asmara

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



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GR Ishad

(GR Nashad x Shaylah Bint Iman)
homozygous black gold premium stallion



AE: Most of our foundation horses were not bred to be black, which means they had a larger gene pool, even though we bought mostly black in the beginning ... there were very few black and black producing lines at that time, which were already often inbred. And over the years we've always been open to using outside stallions, regardless of colour, such as World Champion Al Lahab, if we thought they would bring us something new in blood and look... in my current herd I have great mares from this line! We always used the straight Egyptian bloodlines that we personally liked, not looking for trends and what other breeders preferred... we went our own way for our own taste and what we loved!

UL: *Did you manage to combine your goals of having the bloodlines, the strenght, 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 have shown many of our horses and many of our foundation horses and their offspring have gone on to become Multi-Champions and Gold Premium Stallions. For example, Dalima Shah and

GR Layad

homozygous black colt 2023 (GR Ishad x GR Layla by GR Faleeh)
Abbayan line - future stallion at Rothenberg

**GR Larissa**

black mare 2021 (GR Ishad x GR Layla by GR Faleeh)
Abayyan 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 Aisha**

black filly 2022, GR Ishad x GR Anisha
(GR Faleeh x GR Anastacia)
great granddaughter of Halims Asmara

GR Mahidah

black filly 2022 (GR Ishad x GR Maheeba)
Moniet El Nefous line - the future

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her daughter Shadwanah (by Classic Shadwan) and Halims Asmara and her son GR Amaretto (by Classic Shadwan) won the Egyptian Event Europe Champion Stallion title. 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 that time as there were hardly any black mares successfully shown! Later on, our black stallion GR Faleeh (exported to Kuwait; Madallan-Madheen x Fasinah) was shown successfully at the Egyptian Event Europe as a class winner and top five ... and many more.

We have sold and I still sell my foals all over the world and many of them have won and are winning a lot for their new owners - many championship titles in halter classes as well as endurance races or riding classes.

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



GR Mariyah

black mare 2018, by GR Moneef out of black champion-mare GR Marianah (by Madallan-Madheen) goes back to our black foundation-mare, the Champion Maria Halima

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 by GR Faleeh) goes back to our first SE mare Samara (by 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



GR Nasirah

black-bay filly 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!

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

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 great hopes of continuing this fantastic line in the future with my promising young black colt GR Layad (GR Ishad x GR Layla by GR Faleeh)! He is also homozygous without any white markings and has an extremely dishy head - he is the future of Rothenberg Stud and I can hardly wait to breed the first mares to him next spring!

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GR Shakirah

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

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

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

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

UE: *There is probably no Arabian horse lover in Europe who does not know the photos taken by your husband Erwin, who passed away 8 years ago. Since then you have continued to run the farm on your own with just one helper. Your strength, passion and achievements could be an inspiration to many women or girls who, for various reasons, dream of or run a horse breeding business on their own. It must be hard, emotional but probably also satisfying if you manage to breed a great horse in the end? What would you say and advise to other women-breeders?*

AE: Yes, Erwin's death was certainly the worst time in my life, I thought my life had stopped too. But the horses helped me a lot, because giving up is not the answer, you have to go on day by day, they are waiting for you, they need you!



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 Shatigah

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



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 to 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



In addition, Erwin's second favourite mare GR Asmara (GR Lahab x Halims's Asmara) died a few days after him from problems after giving birth and left her newborn filly GR Bint Asmara (by GR Moneef) alone with me. This baby almost died as well because of the replacement milk, so I had to take milk from other mares to feed this baby... you can imagine that I had almost no time to sleep for months, which was very hard but maybe good for me in this situation. My only aim was that we both survived ... and we did! Meanwhile GR Bint Asmara has given birth to three beautiful black fillies and her black yearling filly by GR Ishad even won a championship for her new owner in France this year ... all this made me very happy and gave me the strength to carry on!

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

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

There are always good times and bad times in our lives ... you have to survive the bad times and grow in the good times and take it into your heart for the future. Like when my home-bred young homozygous black stallion GR Fasin (by Maheeb by Classic Shadwan), the last foal born much too early out of our foundation mare Fasinah (who nearly died several times in the first weeks of his life), got a gold ribbon from the German registry as a breeding stallion with just amazingly high scores in all points. And every birth when both mother and baby are doing well - a miracle every time! Moments like these keep me going and make me happy!!!!

UL: What an amazing story and the best proof of your words of advice, which I would certainly use as the title of this interview! I wish you all the best in achieving your future goals and, of course, with 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 (mother of our black broodmare GR Maryah)





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