



MINDY PETERS ARABIANS



NATE©

Berlin MP (S.M.A. Magic One x Baraka MP)



## THE PAYOFF OF PERSISTENCE

### A New Chapter for Mindy Peters Arabians

by Evie Tubbs Sweeney

*“It is good to love many things, for therein lies the true strength. And whosoever loves much performs much and can accomplish much, and what is done in love is well done.” | Vincent van Gogh*

Mindy sat in her breakfast nook in Santa Ynez, California, feeling anxious anticipation. She kept a watchful eye on the show’s live feed, while prepping the next bottle for a newborn foal born two nights earlier to a first-time mother.

It was difficult not being there. The Arabian Breeders World Cup is a show that has quickly risen to the ranks of international significance, and the young colt sensation Berlin MP, led by trainer Steve Heathcott, had already made a stirring impression at the show. That morning, Berlin bounded confidently into the Junior Stallion championship, after having won his age class by an extraordinary seven points. Next to being there in person, Mindy’s best option was watching a less-than-desirable live feed,

as her son Jordan filled in the blanks over the phone. But breeders are like mothers, in that they never leave a child’s side when in need. Therefore, leaving that foal to attend the show, regardless of its importance to her program, was never a question. Mindy was that foal’s mother figure, hand feeding the newborn every two hours.

She sat in front of her laptop consumed with a nervous energy, the kind that is an undetectable combination of butterflies and thrills. Berlin was going up against other breeders who are colossal giants in the industry, and who chose only the best of a large foal crop to send to the show. Compare that to Mindy’s 12-mare boutique program, and it was obvious the odds were not in her favor.

Yet, here they were, waiting for the champion to be called. Mindy's phone had been blowing up with texts, calls, and messages on how Berlin stole the show, regardless of the outcome hanging in the balance.

"And the winner of the 2021 Arabian Breeders World Cup Junior Stallion Championship is..." the announcer began, then trailed off as the live feed glitched. She couldn't discern the remainder, on the phone with Jordan.

"He won, Mom," said Jordan, rather deadpan in light of the moment. He himself was in disbelief.

"Are you serious? How do you know?" Mindy impatiently pressed, confused by Jordan's pokerfaced tone.

"Mom, he won," Jordan repeated assuredly, his voice escalating in exuberance. "He won!" Mindy let out a euphoric shriek and began dancing around the room, alarming her house cleaner who was caught off guard by the outburst. Years of admiring those gorgeous Moroccan saddles given to each World Cup champion, but never believing one would be hers, Mindy was in a daze. Time slowed to a standstill, as memories materialized from her long journey with Arabian horses. The successes. The difficulties.



*Berlin MP (S.M.A. Magic One x Baraka MP)*



*Berlin MP - 2021 ABWC Supreme GOLD Champion Junior Colt*

Every foal's wonderous first breath. Every heartbreaking last breath. Decades of dogged determination appeared to have led to this moment.

She took a long breath, casting a knowing glance at her barn. The fact that Berlin MP— not even three years old – had just staked his claim at one of the most significant shows on earth, was not even the grandest part. The ace in her pocket still lived in the barn. 2021 gave Mindy Peters Arabians its finest foal crop yet. The fact that it happened in the same year as her home-bred colt took the World Cup made one thing crystal clear: Her breeding program had reached a long-awaited zenith, a cementing of ideals, a payoff backed by generations before her.

## The Wisdoms

On first glance, Mindy embodies the prominent look of a Hollywood starlight. Yet, her soul remains grounded in humble, industrious Midwestern roots, as does her passion for breeding Arabian horses. Mindy's late grandfather, Ed Brinkert, began MaRoSh Arabians (short for each of his daughters: Margie, Roxie, and Shelley) in 1957 in the cornfields of Hartley, Iowa. By the 1980s, MaRoSh Arabians had developed into one of the largest, most active breeding programs in the state.

His daughter, Shelley took the reins and continued the farm largely through her own individual toil. It wasn't until her





Baraka MP (Alfabia Ajib x Om El Belinda Estopa)

niece, Mindy, was an early teen when Shelley finally had a true sidekick. The two formed a close bond as they worked the farm together, traveled to horse shows, and divvied up the gamut of barn chores. At the same time, Mindy poured herself into absorbing pedigrees, aligned with her aunt and grandfather.

Mindy's daring journey eventually took her from the farm land of Iowa to the sparkling California coast, where she has remained since. Mindy has stayed actively involved in every aspect of Arabian horses, taking her to Santa Ynez, a long stint in Hollywood, travels to Europe, the Middle East, and Brazil, and now back to Santa Ynez, her true home.

In a nod to her hardworking, Midwestern roots, Mindy approaches her breeding program decisions fastidiously, painstakingly, studiously, and eager to learn more. Quick decisions are not an option. Trends are not followed. Like a mad scientist, Mindy pours over pedigrees, studies bloodlines, and travels the world, digging hard to uncover precise stallions for her mares.

"After hours of research, when I have this 'aha moment,' I know I've made the right choice," she said. "It feels like uncovering a hidden truth."

But she is quick to lay whatever success she's accomplished at the feet of three mentors –





© *Signature*

Om El Exquisit (Sanadik El Shaklan x Om El Bint Shaiha)



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Nikita PF (Eden C x Desiree BHF)



*Veruscka MP - 2019 Scottsdale Champion 2 Year Old Filly*

all women – who laid the foundation for her life of breeding Arabian horses.

From Sheila Varian, it was creating a predictable outcome.

From Lenita Perroy, it was patience – being willing to wait as foals mature through their natural stages of growth, while resisting the urge for immediate satisfaction.

And from, Sigi Siller, it was believing in the style of horse that you love, regardless of other opinions.

“I learned so many things from Sigi,” she said, gratefulness still audible in her voice. “Many people breed for trends. Yet, Sigi stayed true to what she loved even when it challenged the trend. She always looked down the road of her own program. She was a torchbearer.”

### The Ace

It is rather ironic to say that the breeding program of Mindy Peters Arabians is just now realizing its peak given the fact that horses she’s bred are sprinkled around the



world, winning at the highest levels of competition – both halter and performance. Take Bettina MP, an Arabian Breeders World Cup Bronze Champion Filly, now owned by Linjawi Arabians. Sateen LNJ, second at the Prince Sultan Arabian Horse Show for owner Al Khashab Stud, is out of another home-bred mare, Sateen La Rouge MP. Another example is Elegant Moon MP, who unceasingly carries the torch of Mindy Peters Arabians as a brilliant producer of multiple Middle Eastern champions. Of course, we would be remiss to not mention the beautiful Sweira Aljassimya, who was named Unanimous Gold Champion Filly in Menton as well as World Champion Top Ten Yearling Filly in Paris. Sweira is out of Mindy's homebred mare, Baraka MP. And the list could go on and on.

But this year, the foal crop is a definitive standout for Mindy Peters Arabians, half of them showing genuine signs of super stardom.

Om El Belinda Estopa (Om El Shahmaan x Om El Beneera), dam of Baraka MP, gave birth to a beguiling filly by Ajman Stud's AJ Portofino, torchbearer to the Vervaldee legacy. This special filly boasts the claim as the only AJ Portofino filly born this year in America. She's a striking liver chestnut with flaxen mane and tail.

"I don't know how to adequately explain her," Mindy said. "She's just different... beautiful and highly unique. You must see her to understand it. Even for people who don't know horses, it is obvious that she is special."



*Om El Belinda Estopa (Om El Shahmaan x Om El Beneera)*



*Bettina MP (WH Justice x Om El Belinda Estopa)*



Veruschka MP (Marwan Al Shaqab x Veronica GA)



Vonia Rose MP (Marwan Al Shaqab x Veronica GA)



Unforgettable MA (Harjeet MA x Legacy's Treasure)

Veruschka MP (Marwan Al Shaqab x Veronica GA) gave the program two foals this year, both of which are otherworldly. The first is a colt by the prominent Dominic M, who intriguingly is another liver chestnut with flaxen mane and tail.

“I didn’t know what to expect from this cross,” said Mindy. “But he is the epitome of all I was hoping for: Fantastic body, tiny face, and the craziest long neck I’ve ever seen. The night he was born, I walked into the dark barn and flashed my light into the stall. It shone his silhouette, and I exclaimed, ‘Oh my god, he looks like a *giraffe*... but with a gorgeous tiny face!’ I’m thinking he’s our next breeding stallion. He’s that good.”

Veruschka also delivered a leggy, black-bay filly this year by El Rey Magnum, the stallion with arguably the most exotic face on the planet.

“This filly is the ideal combination of the two parents,” Mindy said. “and is precisely what I’d hoped for. She has El Rey’s face and Veruschka’s neck and body. She has carriage and motion that never quits. I’m beyond thrilled with her.”

One of the most special foals born this year is a maternal half-brother to Berlin MP and Sweira Aljassimya through their mother, Baraka MP (Alfabia Aljib x Om El Belinda Estopa).

“Baraka MP is an unreal producer,” she said. “She’s produced two horses – representing both genders – that have unanimously won Menton in France and now the World Cup in America. And this colt is just as good as his older maternal siblings, if not better. Baraka knocks it out of the park every time, and





*Baraka MP (Alfabia Ajb x Om El Belinda Estopa)*



*Sweira Al Jassimya ( S..M.A. Magic One x Baraka MP)*

she's only nine years old! She's a treasure.

This little guy has a short, exotic face and great neck. Plus, he's huge like Berlin. He'll probably grow to be 17hh!"

Noted halter trainer, Steve Heathcott, recently walked through the barn to see the babies.

"You know, most people wait a lifetime to get a Berlin of their own," he said. "But Mindy already has four in one foal crop. How do you get four superstars in one breeding season when you have only eight

babies coming?"

Mindy smiled and concurred. "I've never had anything close to this before. But this year, all the stars aligned. I'm pinching myself."

## The Apex

In 2011, Mindy leased her mares to Aljassimya Farm while she moved back to Los Angeles for a short time. Magnificent foals resulted for Aljassimya; the partnership was a win-win for all involved.





*Om El Sariyana (Al Lahab GASB x Om El Saari)*

One of the decided crosses took Baraka MP to S.M.A. Magic One. Baraka was a maiden mare, just four years old. The resulting filly, Sweira Aljassimya, exceeded expectations. Sweira went on to sweep Europe, having won four unanimous Gold Championships, including the crowning title, Gold Champion Filly, in Menton.

When Mindy returned from L.A. to continue her breeding program, it seemed only logical to duplicate the S.M.A. Magic One/ Baraka MP cross. Baraka struck gold once again, and she named him Berlin MP. Even as a young

foal, the stardom qualities of Berlin shone bright.

Berlin stands out in a crowd as “A horseman’s horse,” displaying beautiful balance in every upright inch of his imposing 16.1hh frame. His commanding stature is even more arresting with his mighty movement ... akin to the levels of an English horse. And most of all, Berlin drips of exotic type, from his haunting face and neck to his fountain of a tail. Eventually, Mindy plans to ride him, possibly pointing him toward the western pleasure ring, despite his impressive motion.

Ever careful to not impart her own biases





Wajtek

Om El Belinda Estopa (Om El Shahmaan x Om El Beneera)



Om El Exquisit (Sanadik El Shaklan x Om El Bint Shaina)

A stylized, handwritten signature logo in the bottom right corner, likely belonging to the breeder or photographer.



*Berlin MP (S.M.A. Magic One x Baraka MP)*

regarding him, Mindy prefers to give others the space to form their own opinions on Berlin ... and they undoubtedly have. Even void of any significant stallion promotion, Berlin enjoys a worldwide fan base and has amassed a staggering 30 breedings ... all before he turns three. In fact, his fan base has even established a sort of camaraderie, cheering for him at shows and supporting him on social media.

“He’s quite a character in the barn,” Mindy said, describing Berlin. “He’s kind, a real gentleman. But he’s also a character.” She cited comical stall antics with his ball, and

also younger colts that mimic his every move, like a big brother showing the way. Despite the success Mindy’s accomplished using outside stallions on her broodmare band, she is boldly breeding every possible mare to Berlin in 2021.

“He will remain home the rest of this year to concentrate on breeding and enjoying pasture life,” she said. No more shows are in his future, at least for this year.

Berlin will likely return to the show ring as a pure white stallion. American shows are a strong possibility. Europe is also on the table.





But one destination is loudly calling: *Paris*.

“I’d love to see him go to Paris because, to me, he is a World Champion stallion,” Mindy said confidently. “I’ll let him tell me when he’s ready, but that would be the end game for him.”

The problem with Paris is that she never stops calling. And Berlin MP is poised to answer her call when the time is right.

### The Payoff

“As a kid, I used to hide my Arabian horse magazines inside my school books during study hall,” Mindy said. “When a story moved me emotionally, it captivated me and inspired more creativity inside me. It made me dream of a lifetime with these horses because I never wanted to stop feeling that feeling.”

Those dreams gave way to goals. Goals led to a lifestyle rooted in the wisdoms, courage, and bold creativity of her female mentors... mentors who, no doubt, are smiling down in harmonized celebration of this grand culmination.

“You’ve created a program that offers predictable outcomes and ‘Horseman’s horses,’” Sheila would likely say. “Well done.”

“You’ve learned deep patience in allowing your babies to grow and evolve, while remaining steadfast in your belief for them,” Lenita might say.

“You remained committed to the style of Arabian horse that you believe in, and you’ve stayed true to it,” Sigi would conceivably whisper.





*Al Ayanna MP (Al Ayal AA x Om El Elegance)*

Her late grandfather Ed is most assuredly sharing in Mindy's success from above, as well.

“I want this program to be known as a breeding farm where people can come enjoy and purchase truly top quality horses,” said Mindy, “because that’s our only focus. We are a boutique breeding program founded on a dozen incomparable broodmares, a feat that took decades of time, effort and hard work to arrive at. I’m proud of where we are today.”

And what of the Moroccan saddle from the World Cup? It’s displayed in her formal breakfast room where she received the call that Berlin won. The saddle’s colorful golden threads glimmer each day in the morning sunlight, standing as a pillar of inspiration for all the girls who read their horse magazines in school and dream big dreams.

But reveling in the moment is short-lived. Time for another bottle feeding. Who knows if that colt is the next Berlin? Or, perhaps even greater?





*“Quality is never an accident, it is always the result of great effort.”*

*~John Ruskin*



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