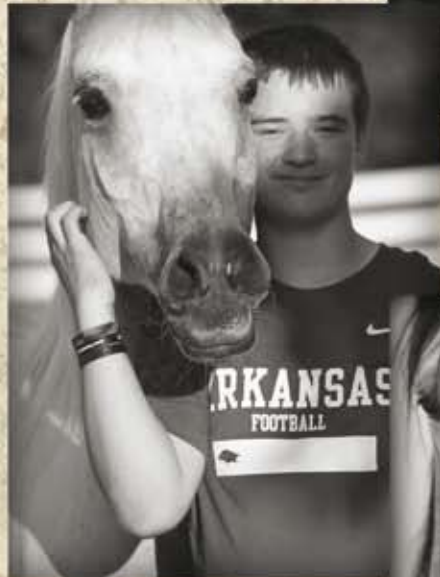


Capturing the love
of the Arabian Horse
Around the World



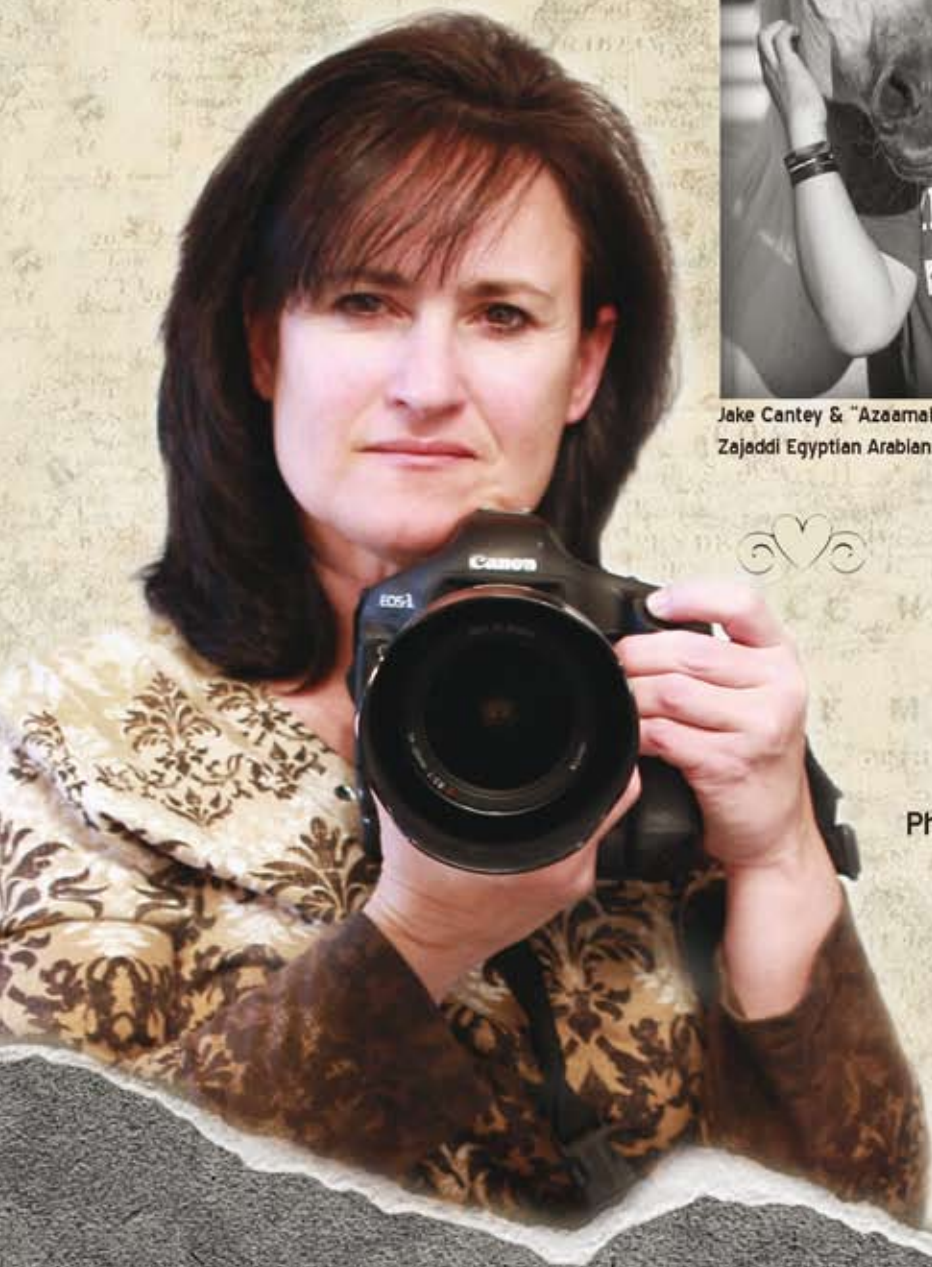
HH Sheikh Amaar Bin Humaid Al Numaimi
& "Bess Fa'izah"
Arabian World Championships
Paris, France



Jake Cantey & "Azaamah"
Zajeddi Egyptian Arabians, USA



Mariana Eriksson
& "Zaarakh"
Al-Jenan Stud,
Kuwait



Featured Equine photographer and US Photojournalist Diana Cantey shares her passion for shooting images that capture the unconditional love and passion we share with the Arabian Horse all around the world.

Woke up this morning to my normal routine and while checking the latest news on Facebook (yes, I am an addict!), I came across a quote which contained the answer to the question that I have been asking myself: What defines you as a photographer? "Great photography is about depth of feeling, not depth of field." by Peter Adams. Peter's quote spoke to my heart and it fit. I have been a photographer for over ten years, starting out with a decent camera to shoot pics of my boys while they played sports. After a few years of shooting and building a diverse portfolio, I was invited to shoot for a group of exclusive "sports shooters" covering high school sports and also to work for a local newspaper as a "free" free-lancer. This meant an upgrade of camera and new lenses of course! Thank goodness I have a very patient and loving husband who supports my passion as the financial investment plus time, and travel have been fairly substantial. Wally Jarrett, a local photographer and mentor, was very kind to believe in my abilities. With his help I found myself on the sidelines of many football fields and basketball courts in central Arkansas with camera in hand, confident and ready to capture the action.

There are lots of great photographers who specialize in different subjects and take breathtaking images. however I found myself focused on capturing the emotion of the subject while shooting. I think back to the ABC's *Wide World of Sports* TV program introduction "the thrill of victory and agony of defeat, capturing the human drama of athletic competition." This is what I strive for in my work - taking photos that immortalize the love, the joy, the sweat and the tears.

Regarding Equine photography, it was Scott Trees who most inspired me. He came highly recommended, as well as with his big bus, birds, dogs, mom, wife and all the newest gear! We invited Scott to our farm in central Arkansas for our annual family photo with our horses. We also organized photoshoots for area horse owners who otherwise did not have access to a professional photographer with his notoriety and level of experience. I had no idea that taking photos of horses was such an involved process but I had to admit, Scott was an artist and I knew I had a lot to learn! ♥

With Carol Maginn with Simeon Sochain, Imp. AU



Capturing the love in the USA
With Liz Salmon with "Hassen SA"





Capturing love in Jordan

Pictured above: Champion stallion Salvio getting a kiss from his proud owner HRH Prince Abdullah Bin Fahd Al Saud

*T*raveling to the Middle East for the first time in 2008 was an absolutely amazing experience, and my first time going abroad as an official photographer working with Elizabeth Salmon, International judge, and journalist. Together we represented two on-line Arabian horse websites covering the Middle East Championships in Amman, Jordan. After many equine photoshoots, I was ready for the challenge. I was tasked to shoot the photos to accompany Liz's article about the show.. Afterward we had a 3 day trip planned to Petra to see the Treasury, the Dead Sea and Mt. Nebo so there was much to look forward to on our trip. Princess Alia was such a gracious host and made us feel very welcome. Also on the trip was Carol Maginn and her friend Nancy Rybeck. It was such a fun time hanging out, meeting new friends and doing what I loved- taking photos of beautiful horses! It would be the beginning of many more exciting adventures with Liz and Carol! Have camera ... will travel!

"Diana has developed a great sense of perspective of other cultures and their Arabian horses through her camera lens. I love her photos and she has been so successful in capturing not only the exquisite beauty of the horses but also the culture and scenery abroad." - Liz Salmon



Pictured above: HRH Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein Al Saleh with her lovely stallion "Al Arabi"



Left: Liz Salmon, Diana Cantey, tour guide and Carol Maginn astride camels at one of Petra's most famous sights, the awe-inspiring "Treasury".



Capturing love in Paris

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Paris is no doubt one of the world's most romantic cities and such a perfect location for the Salon Du Cheval World Arabian Championship show. Another incredible photo opportunity presented itself thanks to Carol Maginn and I found myself in the arena in Paris shooting for the Arabian Horse World Magazine. Amongst all the beautiful horses, excitement and pageantry was one particular horse and handler who commanded everyone's attention - Michael Byatt with the fabulous stallion Baanderos. I had heard Michael had a rough start to the week getting horses to the show grounds due to the inclement weather but all was coming together for team MBA. Michael and Baanderos paraded in front of a very enthusiastic crowd and it was such a magical moment to watch as they won the Gold Medal for Senior Stallions. I found myself caught up in the moment, tears welling in my eyes as I tried to hold my camera steady to capture them together in center ring. Their bond was so special and you could feel their joy as they looked at each other. Of the hundreds of photos I took at the show, this one was one of my favorites.



Above: Jennifer Dhombré of Kalliste Arabians, France sharing a kiss with her beautiful stallion BS Specific. Right: Tom Schoukens shares a victory hug with Gold Medal Jr. Stallion and Classic Head winner Aja Justified, bred & owned by Aja Arabians, UK



"Diana's photos are not only extremely beautiful, but they are unique in that each one tells a story. She takes photos that convey what she sees not only with her mind but with her heart and the heart of her subject. She has a knack for capturing the emotions felt by the people and horses she photographs. I see a beautiful horse, a triumphant handler, and the joy of winning a very competitive class all wrapped up in one priceless photo." What a passionate perspective! - Carol Maginn



Capturing the love in Kuwait

I feel so lucky to have had the opportunities to travel and see some of the world's most beautiful and famous Arabian horses such as those I saw during a recent trip to Kuwait. It seems that no matter where I go, one thing is consistent there is a special bond with the Arabian horse! Once again traveling with Elizabeth Salmon, we attended the 1st International Arabian Horse Festival organized by Bait El Arab. The festival hosted two international championships, one for purebred Arabians who competed on the first two days followed by Straight Egyptian Arabians on the second two days. There were 407 entries from around the globe including many US bred horses. The quality of the horses was outstanding and the event well organized and very enjoyable. We also had the opportunity to visit several area farms during our visit to Kuwait, one of which had the most beautiful and gentle Arabian stallion named Ajmal Juman. He had suffered an injury at some point in his life which sadly left him blind. He and Johanna Ulstrom shared a tender moment during their visit. Their interaction melted my heart. He epitomized the Arabian in every way and what a gentle soul he was!

"Horses do try to connect with us and it is up to us to be open and sensitive enough to realize it. We have a special unspoken bond with them" Thanks for this lovely photo!" - Johanna Ulstrom

It was a trip of a lifetime for this photographer as we departed with lots of photos, great memories and many new friends. Looking forward to the next adventure!



Above: Elizabeth Salmon and Diana Cantey at the 2012 International Arabian Horse Festival, Kuwait.
Left: Mohammad Al-Qenaei and his father Abdulal Al-Qenaei with their lovely mare JE Bella Noorah.



Pictured above: Reem Al-Qenaai
with her beautiful Straight Egyptian Mare
"Maheebah KA", Al- Jenan Stud, Kuwait

It is always an honor and privilege to be asked to take photos since there are so many talented photographers from which horse owners can choose to use. I have been fortunate to make many friends here in the USA and overseas who have had confidence in my abilities. I strive to meet and exceed the needs and expectations of my clients and whenever possible, create something memorable and different. This is what I would want from any photographer I would hire. On a parting note, it is important to remember: "Photography is not about cameras, gadgets and gizmos. Photography is about Photographers".

"Diana Cantey is not only a wonderful photographer and breeder, she is a true friend. She has helped Al-Jenan immensely in the selection of our herd but also continues to be a contributor to our success" - Reem Al-Qenaai, Al Jenan Stud, Kuwait

"Diana is a fantastic photographer with a great eye for detail. She worked relentlessly all day to provide a fine portfolio of our horses. Her photos made all the difference in marketing our horses when we retired. These beautiful and professional images were used in magazine ads and on our website. We received many compliments on the photos. She is the best!" - Ronald & Lorraine Bond, Chaswyck Stud, Australia



Zach and Jake Cantey welcome their newborn twin colt "Zaahir Star" by Imperial Mistaar x Azaamah at Zajaddi Egyptian Arabians, Arkansas

Special thanks to Tutto Arabi Magazine for affording me this opportunity to share my images and promote me as a featured photographer.