

JANICE MCCREA-WIGHT

THE JUDGE AND THE BREEDER

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Janice with partner - Alex Chrys and *Rahere

Tutto Arabi: How and when your judge experience started?

Janice McCrea-Wight: I became interested in judging first as a teenager in 4-H back in Ohio where my family had an Arabian Horse farm.

In 1981 I attended the judging seminar and did some apprentice judging and got my American Horses Shows card right away and my International Arabian Horse judging certification as well. I have studied form to function, and conformation for many years. In the US continuing education is required and seminars are mandatory. I always am interested in learning more, and judging with intelligent breeders and judges is the best way to stay current.

TA: You are recently often seen judging outside USA – in which countries do you like to judge the most and why?

JMW: I enjoy judging internationally. I have had the honor of judging National Halter in 14 different

countries and some of them more than once. I always take the time to visit farms after the show and see the country. I always buy a travel book and make sure I see things and learn about the country where I am a guest. I find learning about other cultures very interesting. My biggest thrill was judging the Polish Nationals. I had never been there. My parents imported mares from there in 1967 and Polish horses have always been part of the McCrea program. I enjoyed going to Russia, too. Some of the best horses I see are in South America. Brazilian Nationals are a pleasure, because of the depth of the quality. Australia has lovely horses as well. I like the correctness of the legs there and the true horsemanship by exhibitors.

TA: Do you see a big difference when judging and breeding the Arabian horse on European and American market considering the difference in preferred type and methods of showing and judgement?

JMW: I see the showing of Arabian Horses becoming



*Rahere (Desperado x Rose Of Sarangani)

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more and more global. Handlers and horses seem to be trotting all over the world these days. Even in Aachen the US bred horses won the breeders award. I have always preferred a horse that is well conformed, exhibiting the most Arabian type, no matter what scoring system is in place, points or comparative. Motion and athletic ability are imperative. Having an eye for quality is the most difficult thing to teach in judging. About twenty five years ago Tom McNair asked me in an interview what quality meant to me. I told him it was the difference between a thirty-five hundred dollar horse and one worth a hundred thousand. He said that was the best answer ever.

TA: *What are your judging plans for this season?*

JMW: *I am being considered for a few international assignments for 2012. I was asked about availability by several international visitors at Scottsdale.*

TA: *You are also the Vice President of Arabian Horse Breeders Association in Arizona. What are*

your nearest plans for the community and Scottsdale show scene development?

JMW: *I am currently Vice President of the Arabian Horses Association of Arizona and have held every office and been on the Board for the past thirty years. The Scottsdale Show showcases the Arabian Horse in the best possible way. As head of the Marketing and Public Relations committee, I want to expose the Arabian Horse to new people. The new show we added in 2011 is the Arabian Breeder Finals. This is a title show that was a huge success and will grow rapidly. I have the pleasure of working with the most talented staff and Board on the planet. I also chair the Scottsdale Signature Stallion Program, the highly successful money futurity, supported by all the best stallion owners in the world. We are looking at taking our futurities global and national.*

TA: *You are also an Arabian horse breeder. Can you tell us what lines you especially admire in your breeding program and why?*

JMW: *The McCrea family has been breeding Arabians for over fifty years. I have a small breeding operation in Scottsdale with my partner Alex Chrys. I have some very select mares that have produced very well. I enjoy the breeding beautiful babies more than anything. I am in their stalls constantly petting and talking to them. There is no other feeling like it when a beautiful head appears and you get what you hoped for. I like the Polish lines mixed with Spanish for temperament, as long as they are typey. We own two Magnum Psyche daughters, a Don El Chall daughter and have a Fame daughter on lease. I have kept back a couple of *Rahere daughters out of my mares for replacement.*

TA: *In the pretty Arizona location you also keep your stallion – Rahere, who seem to be not only quite an versatile horse but also a great sire. Can you tell us about his pedigree and his most significant achievements at the shows?*

JWM: **Rahere is by Australian National Champion Desperado (not the Egyptian one) Desperado is a*

*very good producer from Bremervale Arabians in Australia. He is a Polish and Spanish cross with a little old Crabbet. I saw him at Bremervale and knew I had to have him. I thought he would be a perfect outcross for the mares in the States. He was a beautiful colt with extreme quality. Greg Knowles said when *Rahere was unloaded from his trip from Australia that he would be Scottsdale Junior Champion and nine weeks later in 2004 he was unanimous Junior Champion. He was also Champion 3 year old. He won Region 1 that year. I decided he was too good of a horse to not ride so he went to performance training for Western Pleasure. He is a very good mover and was a champion his first time out. He went on to be Top Ten Open Western both times he went to US Nationals. That is quite hard to do with so many returning Champions.*

TA: *Since a couple of years we are observing Raheres foals as successful show and marketing appearances. Can you tell us about the most entitled Raheres offspring and where are those sold located around the world?*



Rah Silkk (*Rahere x NC Fametasia)

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Darrid Kelly

Rah Rosalia (by *Rahere and out of a Khadraj NA daughter) owned by Dubai Arabian Stud

JMW: **Rahere foals have been very successful worldwide. We are very proud of breeding Raherra. She was Reserve US National Champion as a yearling and Three year old Futurity. She was also unanimous Scottsdale Champion as a Yearling and two year old. She was Scottsdale Junior Champion Filly. She is out of our Don El Chall daughter Dyna HCF. Raherra is an excellent producer for her owners Oakridge Arabians. Her first foal Sultan ORA was Scottsdale Signature Auction Champion, and Arabian Breeder Finals Gold Champion Weanling. He won over \$35,000 US.*

One of our exports Rah Fantasy has had great success in the Middle East. For her owners NK Arabians of Aaman Jordan, she was Jordan National Champion Mare and Middle East Champion Two Year Old filly. She also has proven to be an excellent producer with their Marwan son.

Rahfayel, out of Magnums Caress was Silver Sire Champion Colt, winning over \$10,000 US. He as also top five at Scottsdale and Las Vegas Futurities.

Raheam was Top Ten Auction at Scottsdale this year out of 40 entries.

We leased a grey Fame VF daughter, NC Fametasia and got a lovely grey filly, Rah Silkk. She was also TopTen at Scottsdale out of 88 entries.

Rah Rosalia was the star of the Arabian Breeder Finals at four months old and was Gold Champion Weanling Filly. Bred by my son Dr Justin Wight, and out of a Khadraj NA daughter, she was purchased by Dubai Arabian Stud.

*Maria, a lovely *Rahere daughter bred by Michael Byatt was recently sold to Eyad Abdullah Mashat of Saudi Arabia.*

*Michael Byatt purchased the gorgeous *Rahere colt Rah Rave Review from us for Orrian Farms , but he was unfortunately injured, ending his show career.*

TA: *Considering Rahere's pedigree and your experience with him as a breeding stallion – how do*

you think with which bloodlines he is the most successful cross?

*JMW: *Rahere seems to add length of neck and bend at the poll to his offspring. He has crossed well with the daughters of Marwan Al Shaqab, Gazal Al Shaqab, Magnum Psyche, Bey Shah, Don El Chall, Khadraj, Fame VF and Ali Jamall bred mares..*

Some very astute breeders such as Bob and Janeen Boggs, Oakridge Arabians, Michael Byatt, Lenita Peroy, and Christine Jamar have recognized his value a a breeding stallion. His extreme type, athletic ability and personality are characteristics that he passes on as well. His semen will be available in Brazil through Guzzo- Rivero Worldwide and in Europe through Jadem Arabians in Belgium. We also plan on shipping to Poland.

TA: What are your nearest breeding and promotion plans regarding Rahere?

*JMW: We do not have any immediate plans to show *Rahere. We will be showing the offspring we have and watching and cheering for the lovely *Rahere get and grandget around the world.*Rahere is a very special horse. He will continue to stand at Guzzo-Rivero Worldwide in Scottsdale. He lives around the corner from our small breeding farm in Scottsdale. My Son Preston Wight and his wife Dana have leased a lovely Gazal Al Shaqab daughter and she is already in foal to *Rahere. Son Justin and his wife Sunny are also breeding lovely *Rahere babies. The grandchildren are very into the horses and I am sure will be the fifth generation of Arabian breeders in the McCrea family.*

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Rah Silkk (*Rahere x NC Fametasia)