

Northwest ARABIAN

INTERVIEW OF OLE LARSEN

by Talitha Bakker ■ photos by Glenn Jacobs, Judith, JA

Over the past years, the Scandinavian country Denmark has become a real competitor in the nowadays show ring. One of the farms that have helped putting Denmark on the map is the farm of Ole Larsen named Northwest Arabians.

As the name says, Northwest Arabians is a stud located in the northwestern part of Denmark. Northwest Arabians was started in 2003 with one mare and now has grown into a successful breeding farm of 15 horses. The stud is owned by Ole Larsen, but all of the family takes part in the daily work. Especially Malene Larsen, who trains the horses as well as handling them in the show ring. We had the privilege to ask Ole Larsen some questions.

TA: What was your vision when you created your breeding program?

OL: The vision with the breeding program is to breed typy horses with beauty, elegance and attitude, not only looking at one aspect but try and breed the most correct horses and still have all the criteria mention before.

TA: Who inspired you to create your own breeding program?

OL: Inspired by a photo, the breeding program probably arises from an advertisement of a truly magnificent horse. The Araber Journal magazine from 1994 contained a photo of Padrons Psyche, in a beautiful advertisement from La Cabreah Arabians. That photograph is now framed on my wall, and I guess that says it all. At that time I had Arabian horses, yet it would take another nine years before I could fulfill my dream and take it to the next level.

TA: What is your vision of the ideal Arabian horse?

OL: In my point of view the ideal Arabian horse both strong, elegant and with a size which makes it usable for as many people as possible to ride. In addition I want each horse to have a special strength or ability, an x-factor which makes it the one horse that captivates people's attention. This specific x-factor could be charisma, show attitude, spe-

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cial flying movements, an extraordinary elegance of a kind, or a unique beauty – a quality that distinguishes the horse in a herd.

TA: What was the first mare North West Arabians purchased for the breeding program?

OL: The first horse for the breeding program in 2003 was Soneteena DH by First Cyte. The following year the stud had its first real success, when Soneteena DH took home the Danish national junior mare championship, at the age of two. Soneteena DH is now sold to Saudi Arabia.

TA: Who was the first foal you bred?

OL: The first foal to be born here was Mizz Challenger NWA, she was purchased as an embryo. The recipient mare was a quarter horse, she came here in 2005 and the year after she foaled a wonderful filly foal by Magnum Chall and the lovely Magnum Psyche mare Midnight Pashabn. This foal was the first Arabian embryo foal born in Denmark. We owe a great thanks to Greg and Veronica Cowdrey who made all of this possible.

TA: What is until now the most successful horse you bred?

OL: As of this date we consider our most successful horse to be bred here Anna Nicole NWA (WH Justice x Magnum Silhouette) besides being a National Champion she is Reserve Champion, at the always pleasant international Arabian horse show Tierpark Ströben.

TA: What broodmares do you currently have at your farm?

OL: We reduced the amount of broodmare's so that the only mares that are left are champion makers. Magnum Silhouette by Magnum Psyche, Maggie Lee BA by Magnum Psyche, Mizz Challenger NWA by Magnum Chall and Anna

Nicole NWA by WH Justice. Beyond them we are awaiting with excitement to see what the future holds to come with our future broodmares Magdalena NWA by QR Marc, Rihanna NWA by Marajj, Miss Dior NWA by Marajj and Montezza NWA by Monther al Nasser.

TA: Do you also stand stallions at stud?

OL: Yes all our stallions are available, for the moment we have 3 young stallions at the farm, we have Marshal NWA by the legendary Marwan Al Shaqab and out of our precious mare Magnum Silhouette, we also have her younger son Oasis NWA by Marajj, from both stallions we have a few mares pregnant this year and eagerly awaiting their first babies this season. The third and youngest is a Monther al Nasser colt and out of international champion mare Anna Nicole, this young colt was already named foal champion at the strohen show. All our stallions where shown successfully and brought home championship titles.

TA: Which other stallions have you used for your breeding program?

OL: As earlier mentioned all of our broodmares descents from the elegant stallions of the Padron lineage, Magnum Psyche, Magnum Chall, WH Justice are all names that are written on one or another pedigree of our broodmare assembly. That's why our main objective is to find that same rare elegance within other lines, in order to maintain our high quality foals. Marwan al Shaqab, Marajj, QR Marc, and ZT Marwteyn are all stallions that possess those qualities, which are similar to the unique refined qualities that you can find within the Padron lines. We feel blessed that we are lucky enough to witness a selection of stallions that all fit in to the characteristics that we are looking for in our breeding program. All of these opportunities launched by Gazal al Shaqab and later refined by Marwan al Shaqab, makes our job as breeders so much easier. And we acknowledge the immense breeding power that lies within these two stallions and their range of high quality sons.

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Magdalena NWA
(QR Marc x Maggie Lee BA by Magnum Psyche)



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Miss Dior NWA



Malene Larsen



Anna Nicole NWA
(WH Justice x Magnum Silhouette by Magnum Psyche)

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TA: Can you tell us more about your most recent successes?

OL: Our most recent success has come with Magdalina NWA (QR Marc x Maggie Lee BA) she was top 5 in Abu Dhabi 2012 and class winner and later awarded silver champion at the international A-show in Qatar. Late 2012 Miss Dior NWA (Marajj x Mizz Challenger NWA) leased by al Nasser Stud, In here first outing obtained a great result at the Qatar nationals, being a convincing class winner in the yearling class and later went on to be named bronze

champion. We are planning to bring her to the international show in Qatar, the international show in Sharjah as well as the international show in Dubai.

TA: Can you tell us more about Malene and the work she is doing in Qatar?

OL: At the moment Malene is employed by al Nasser Stud in order to train and prepare horses for the Middle East show season. In 2012 they had a very successful year having the Qatar international champion mare and Qatar



Mizz Challenger NWA
(Magnum Chall x Midnight Pashahn by Magnum Psyche)

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Egyptian event champion stallion, and to finish the year at the Qatar nationals they won many championships and were awarded the title of leading Qatar farm. A great and well deserved honor, that very much is due to a strong and well functioned team. Al Nasser is not characterized by having a lot of horses, rather having a few of a very high quality. This involves both their Straight Egyptian and non-SE horses. But if I had to emphasize something it would be their Straight Egyptian horses, which are famous for being very correct and for having a special beautiful characteristically al Nasser look, which is proof of a safe and steady hand in the breeding program.

TA: How does the future look like for North West Arabians?

OL: The future of North West Arabians shines very bright. We know our breeding program, our strengths, as well as the importance of knowing our weaknesses. The combination of these terminates in a straight path without any detours. The only way to get the straight path is years of experience, lessons that has led us to a point where all of our broodmares are champion makers, and any single one of them are able to produce the next big star to skip ahead and say "hi". □



Magnum Silhouette

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