

Horses & Celebrities

By Nada H. Abdelmoniem

Doesn't Hollywood have many trends? Yesterday it was Clark Gable owning a state-of-the-art automobile, today the trend is a fascination with horses, and tomorrow it will be trying to own an Alien (smile). Today, celebrities are demonstrating a love for horses and many own and ride these magnificent animals.



Patrick Swayze

As rich, and powerful as these people are in their own right, it's the animals that make them who they are... it's this connection to nature, and the true respect for the power and grace a horse represents, that can bring any person to his knees. These are a few celebrities you probably never knew had such an interest in these graceful beasts.

Patrick Swayze is a huge Egyptian-Arabian horse lover. At his ranch in California he and his wife Lisa keep several mares and foals. His first straight Egyptian horse was the mare Aleenah (Ruminaja Majed x Talgana). Others followed. Patrick Swayze chose Egyptian Arabians in particular because he grew up with horses. His father was a cowboy in Texas and they lived in Houston. At the age of eight, he visited the Gleannloch Farm and from then on he was lost in the beauty of the horses! He dreamt of nothing but Arabians, and when he imagined Arabians, they were Egyptians.

"I like the form of the head, the proud trot, and the harmonious physique of the Egyptian Arabian. Everything fits together and is in accord. There is a natural balance in everything. I am a dancer, and I can tell when a body is made with function in mind. A healthy Arabian is built for function! And that fascinates me."

Shania Twain the striking pop/country

singer is a proud owner of five horses. She featured one of her show horses in the video that was considered to have launched her career, 'Any Man of Mine'. She also featured a man dressed in the traditional Arabian costume riding an Arabian horse in her famous video 'That don't impress me much.' The video impressed many fans.

Christy Brinkley; one may also be surprised to find out that the sexy star is a champion cutting horse rider. Cutting horses are generally quarter horses, but they can also be paints, Morgans, Appaloosas and even Arabians. Cutting horses are generally smaller horses, with the top height of a good cutter being 15.1 hands. Cutting horses have also been used to herd cattle. Brinkley became interested in the sport in the early '90s and has even put together her own cutting horse show.

Richard Gere the heart throb is passionate about the Appaloosas horses that are bred by the Nez Perce tribes of the Northwest. The Appaloosas is probably the first selectively bred horse in America. Gere and his wife who own four Appaloosas are also actively involved in horse cultural preservation



Legendary Horse Stories

By Sandra Adams

"The Hips of a Gazelle, the Legs of an Ostrich, the Trot of a Wolf, the Spring of a Young Fox, the Wings of an Eagle, and the Head of a Man"

Throughout the ages, amazing collections of myths about horses have had an honoured place in human history. There has been a mystique surrounding them in cultures around the globe. The lore of horses has always held a magical sway over the human imagination; no other creature has inspired the same reverence or cross-cultural fascination. Legends say:

Queen Nefertiti, renowned for the gorgeous portrait sculpture with elegant neck and classic features, the wife of the Pharaoh Akhenaton, was accorded the high status of driving her team of Egyptian horses in her own chariot during ceremonial parades. She drove her chariot, drawn by a team of chestnut horses, whip in hand, and without the usual driver.



Poseidon, the Greek God of horses, often adopted the shape of a steed. It is not certain that he was in this form when he wooed Medusa. Poseidon sometimes granted the shape-shifting power to others. One of the most notorious love affairs of Poseidon involves his sister, Demeter. Poseidon pursued Demeter and to avoid him she turned herself into a mare. In his lust for her, Poseidon transformed himself into a stallion and captured her. Their procreation resulted in a horse, Arion.

Pegasus is a mighty winged horse according to Greek myth. He was fathered by Poseidon (The Greek God of horses) and Medusa (A monstrous female character whose gaze could turn people into stone). When Medusa's head was cut off in the sea by a Greek hero Peruses, Pegasus the horse sprang forth from her drops of blood. The horse master