

# PERISCOPE ON ALI AL RUMAIHI

Nada H. Abdelmoniem



Country: Qatar  
Date of birth: August 26 1981  
Full profession: Show Jumper  
Horses: Nagano, Ravena,  
Charmeur Z & Romy

A MEMBER OF THE QATARI SHOW JUMPING TEAM, ALI AL RUMAIHI IS A PILLAR IN THE SQUAD AS HE IS A RIDER WITH PLENTY OF MILEAGE AND RING CRAFT. AFTER A CERTAIN LEVEL OF INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE, ONE TENDS TO REALISE THAT THE LESS ONE SEE'S A RIDER DOING, THE MORE EFFECTIVE HE ACTUALLY IS. ALI HAS SHOWN SKILL WITH SEVERAL HORSES ESPECIALLY RAVENA WHO TANGOS ALONG WITH HIM, THROUGH WHICH IT IS EVIDENT THEY ARE IN TUNE; A TRUE REFLECTION OF "REFINEMENT" AS THE GREAT COACH, THE LATE PAUL DHARRAGH WOULD SAY.

WE WORK EVERY DAY WITH THE HORSES ON SOME FORM OF ROUTINE AND WE REFINE THAT COMMUNICATION EVERY DAY; THIS IS WHAT YOU SEE WITH ALI AND RAVENA IN THE RING. SIMULTANEOUSLY, HE IS ALL HORSEMAN, A GOOD FRIEND, A GENUINE HUMAN BEING, AND A VERY WORTHY OPPONENT.





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▲ Ali & Ravena during the 2007 Pan Arab Equestrian Games in Cairo

**Tell us about your riding history and who had the most influence on you?**

My father had a stud in Syria where he bred Arabian horses and where I started to ride when I was six years old. He later became the President of the Qatar Equestrian and Racing Club, and then the President of the Qatar and Arab Equestrian Federation. I started my show jumping career in Qatar and things grew from there.

**Who have you trained with? And, has the federation shared in your total experience as a show jumper?**

I have trained with many riders including Jos Lansik, Eric Lanen and most recently Jan Tops. The federation has made it all possible for the Qatari show jumping team.

**As a show jumper, what is your plan for 2011 and what are your plans for the next five years?**

To try my best to stay in touch with high levels of top show jumping and stay competitive as much as possible. I hope to achieve more results and make my country proud.

**Do you see yourself as just a professional rider? If not, do you have a side job? If yes, how do you accommodate between both?**

I do not have a side job, just the riding.

**Do you see the equestrian sport developing in the Middle East? Can you continue doing what you are already doing as a show jumper for the next ten years?**

The sport has developed tremendously especially over the last few years in our region. The Arab League has become very competitive with many Arab riders winning big shows on an international scale. We have had three Global Champions Tour shows in Qatar including a final, and Abu Dhabi is hosting this year's final in November. Certainly this is an indication that the region is moving in the right track.

**Tell us about some of your best wins?**

Winning the Asian games in 2006 with Nagano was very special. In 2007 I won the Sharjah Grand Prix World Cup Qualifier, and then in 2008 I won the World Cup Qualifier in Tripoli also with Nagano. I also came first in the Army World Championships in 2008 in Fontainebleau in France, and in 2009, I won the World Cup Qualifier with Ravena in Bahrain. So, I do have some "close to my heart" wins.

**Tell us about your horses and training programme?**

All my horses are top horses and are very special to me. I will be in Europe soon to start my summer training where a big part of it is competing in shows. I hope to achieve good results and have a good time in the process.

I would like to thank you for this interview and the continuing support that you give to all the Arab riders and the show jumping sport. 