



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

October 2022

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

CREATED & EDITED BY HEATHER CARDER

The Horseman fighting to preserve Burkina Faso's Equestrian culture

Madi Dermé doesn't want to be the last of the country's legendary cavaliers.

By Claire MacDougall April 2022

When Madi Dermé touches down at Thomas Sankara International Airport in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, he is met by a phalanx of men on horseback with whom he rides through the city streets. Every year, the French-Burkinabè equestrian artist trades the polished arenas of Europe, for the bustling streets and dusty hippodromes of his homeland—where his ancestors, who were blacksmiths and cavaliers, or traditional horsemen, rode steeds into battle and made them dance for kings.

Dermé is one of the few black equestrian artists who has built a name for himself throughout Europe; he honed his skills at an equestrian school in France, where

he now lives with his family, mastering acrobatics, jumping, theater, and dressage. But his grand ambition is to reimagine the equestrian scene he participated in as a child in Burkina Faso, a country now wracked by insecurity, attacks by jihadist groups, and mass displacement of civilians.

In January, Dermé was in the midst of organizing the third edition of his biannual International Festival of Equestrian Arts (known by its French acronym FIDAE) which was scheduled for early February. It would bring together 120 cavaliers from around Burkina Faso to Ouagadougou, a quaint city with Afrofuturist architecture that looks as though it fell from another galaxy, Dermé hoped that others from the region—Mali, Benin, and Ivory Coast—might also join the festivities. But by late January, Dermé was forced to move the festival to October, after soldiers staged a coup d'état in Burkina Faso in response to the ongoing security crisis and rising deaths of civilians and soldiers.

My aim is for Burkina Faso to be the meeting place for all African cavaliers," Dermé says, undeterred. He wants to "shine a light on African cavaliers and promote equestrian arts in Burkina Faso"—despite the ongoing insecurity.

For Dermé the festival is the first step in reviving the old cavalier tradition, rooted in Burkinabè and Sahelian cultures, while also bringing the modern equestrian arts he learned in France to Burkina Faso's riders. During the festival men and boys strut around in leather boots and traditional smocks, with caps and cowrie shells adorning their heads. They ride through the traffic with their horses peeking through colorful fringes that fly open when they pull the reins and rear them in the air. When they arrive at the hippodrome the riders gallop in circles before doing jumps, tricks, and some European-style dressage which Dermé has often taught them.

Weeks before this year's festival was canceled twenty-three-year old Hervé Compaoré, one of Dermé's

Continued on page 11

UNIQUE EQUINE INVENTIONS

The Olympics clothes horses: Bizarre bright-colored suits to cover equine contenders

In striking red, blue and black, they look like superheroes champing at the bit to save the world.

They are, in fact, Olympic Games contenders trying out a new way to wind down after competing. Their suits, which zip up at the front and hind legs, are said to reduce muscle soreness and help horses recover after tough exercise. They also reduce the effect of vibration during travelling.

Olympic gold medalist Stuart Tinney, expected to join the Australian equestrian team, has been testing out the suits. Although the suit is not an official Olympics uniform, his decision to champion it may encourage the Australian team – and others – to use it.

He said: 'I am confident it helps the horses muscles relax and recover after exercise.'

'We are now preparing our Olympic horses for London and incorporating the suits in our management program.'



The compression and recovery suit has been designed by Australian company Hidez, which will officially launch the product in June.

Designer Matthew Spice claims it helps reduce vibration during travel and aids blood flow which in turn reduces muscle soreness and speeds recovery after a big event.

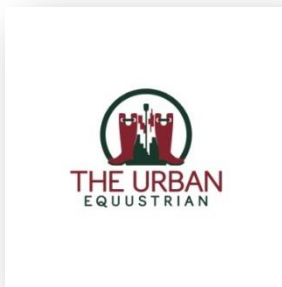
Many athletes from pro golfers to runners routinely wear compression garments, which are breathable and act as a 'second skin'.

An Olympic Games spokesman said: 'This is actually a decision that would be decided by each individual rider and national team.'

Observers have compared them to the costumes worn by the Power Rangers in the 1990s TV show. No doubt the riders hope they will help their mounts put on a truly super show.



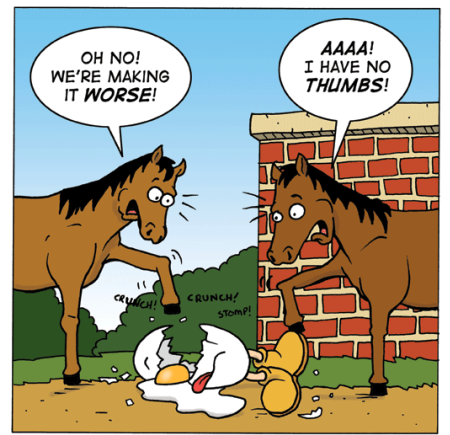
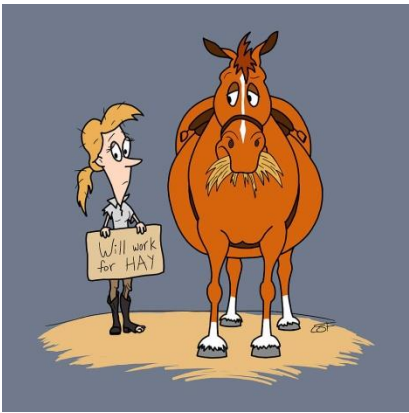
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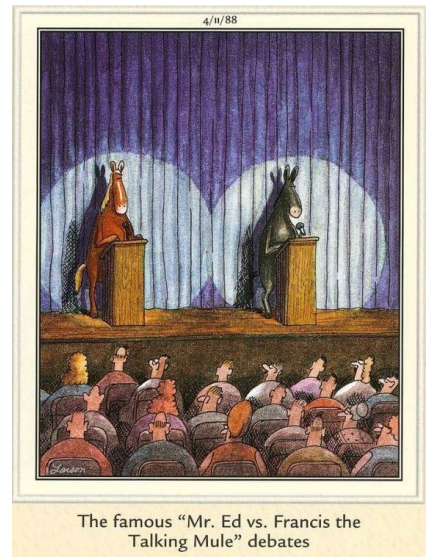
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New Items for October

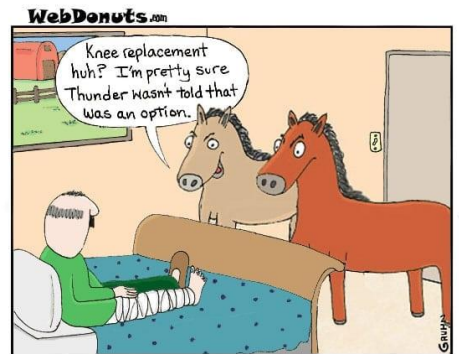
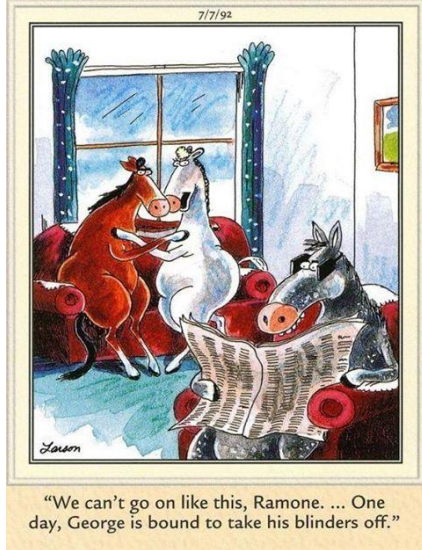




SPUDCOMICS.COM © 2011 LONNIE EASTERLING WHY ALL THE KING'S HORSES WERE USELESS



The famous "Mr. Ed vs. Francis the Talking Mule" debates

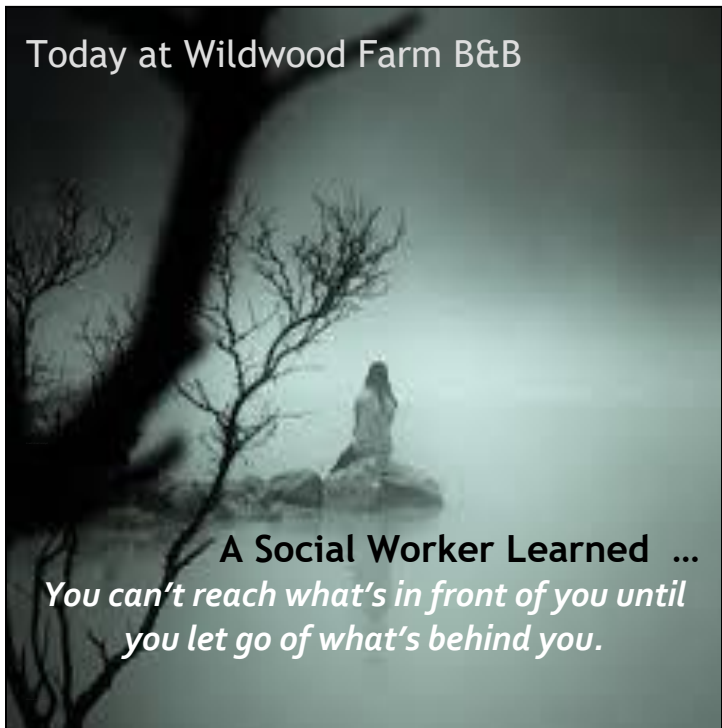


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-Marijke de Jong



"It is the horse's gift to connect us with heaven and our own footsteps."

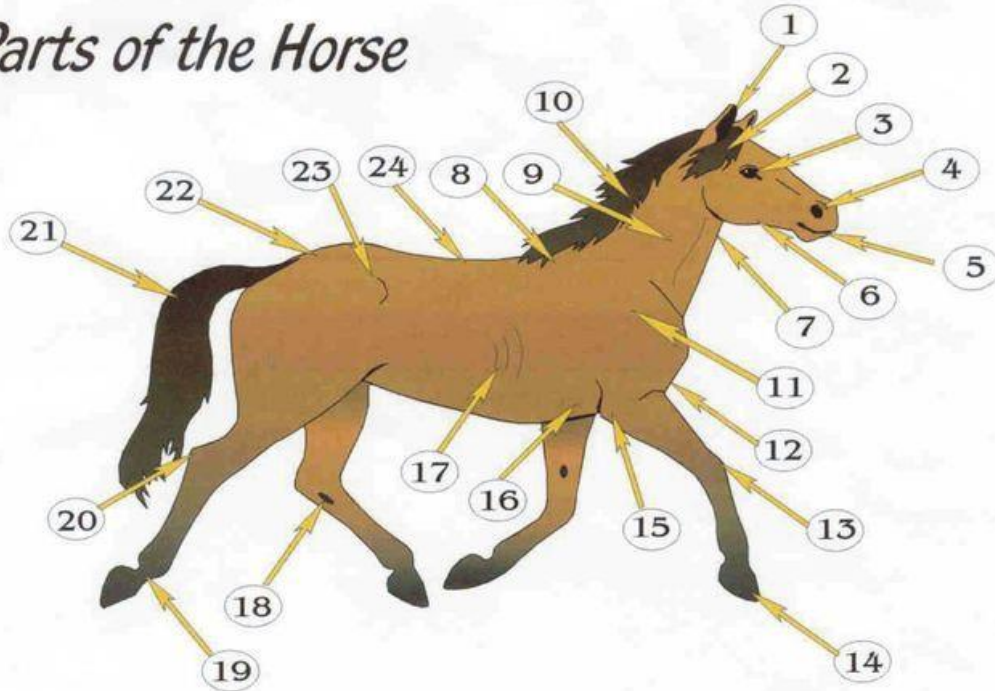
-Ronnie Sweet



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RIDING ACADEMY

Parts of the Horse



Match the number with the part.

- | | | |
|------------|--------------|--------------|
| ___ Ears | ___ Eye | ___ Nostril |
| ___ Neck | ___ Withers | ___ Shoulder |
| ___ Ribs | ___ Girth | ___ Chest |
| ___ Hock | ___ Elbow | ___ Muzzle |
| ___ Throat | ___ Pastern | ___ Hip |
| ___ Jaw | ___ Forelock | ___ Mane |
| ___ Back | ___ Croup | ___ Tail |
| ___ Knee | ___ Hoof | ___ Chestnut |

Nutrition Corner

MINERALS

Minerals are inorganic compounds needed as components of body tissue, and as facilitators of various body processes. The two minerals of largest requirements are calcium and phosphorus, especially when tissues that contain large amounts are actively growing. Thus, relatively large amounts of calcium and phosphorus are required in the diet of growing horses that are building bone. The total dietary supply of minerals should contain more calcium than phosphorus as needs for calcium are greater than phosphorus, and large amounts of phosphorus can interfere with calcium absorption. Diets are recommended to contain about 1.5 to 2.5 times more calcium than phosphorus.

Other minerals with established requirements include sodium, potassium, zinc and copper. Salt, sodium chloride, is a normal addition to grain mixes at about the 0.5 percent level and supplied free choice in the form of blocks.

Some sources of salt contain trace minerals, which are several different minerals needed in trace amounts.

The need for copper and zinc is much less than needs for calcium or phosphorus; however, these are two additional minerals routinely balanced for in rations, especially for diets formulated for growing horses

Many of the minerals needed in small amounts do not have well established requirement levels. Many of the minerals have a wide range of dietary concentration acceptability, as increases in intake above what is actually needed are easily expelled from the body. Others may be toxic at high levels, so care must be taken to account for all sources of minerals before large amounts of mineral supplements are fed.

Commercially prepared feed mixes may include added minerals, so additional sources are not needed. On-farm topdressing of mineral supplements should account for levels in feed. Using a single source of mineral supplement instead of multiple sources will guard against oversupply. With the exception of salt, voluntary mineral intake is not highly correlated with the actual mineral needs of horses. As such, minerals are best provided as part of a formulated mix. The ability of free choice mineral supplements to provide minerals in amounts needed depends on the formulation of the mineral supplements and the intake patterns of horses.

WILDWOOD FARM AND TRIPLE CROWN FEEDS.

Our partnership with Triple Crown began in 2014 through a promotion with the USEF encouraging farm members to compare their current feeding programs with Triple Crown products. We have found the TC products to be superior over other products primarily because of the EquiMix technology and the research support of a leading edge team including independent representatives of Equine Universities, Medical clinics and top level riders and trainers

PENNY'S WORTH OF GOLD (Penny)

In May of this year we received a call from a bereft neighbor who was leaving the state in 24 hours and had failed to find homes for her two Arabian horses and was asking for our help. They had no access to water and had been on pasture for the past few years.

We went down the road and found two fairly fat little Arabian mares, and the owner told us they were 10-12 yrs old ; she owned them for about 5 years, but had not had any opportunity to ride them in the past couple of years due to her health. She was moving to Reno and had to vacate the property within hours. Keyoni was the alpha mare with a shiny bay coat and gentle eyes; Penny was a golden bay with 4 high white socks and a mischievous look in her eye.

We arranged to pick up the mares the next day with the help of her neighbor and, though they had not been out of their pasture in years, they both loaded up and we headed back to the farm. Both had been neglected for a while with unruly manes and over-grown feet, but seemed amazingly healthy otherwise. Penny walked into her stall and immediately relaxed and made herself at home, appreciative of the fresh water and tasty hay.



We soon found out that Penny was decidedly not 10-12, she was probably more like 23-25, but she won us over with her gentle expression and small size – she is just about 13.3. The next few months at our facility has allowed Penny to blossom and we find her eager to learn and please. She is kind, gentle and has found many new friends at Wildwood Farm, including our minis whom she shares an adjacent stall to. She is too green to be a safe addition to our riding program, but she is making progress every day and will soon be ready to find her forever home. Penny was let down by her former humans and we will assure that she has the best outcome with the best home for the remainder of her life.



HORSES CAN UNDERSTAND AND INTERPRET HUMAN EMOTIONS.

A study by the Universities of Sussex and Portsmouth found that horses can read human facial expressions and remember a person's previous emotional state, adapting their behavior accordingly. This ability comes naturally to horses as they have complex facial expressions themselves. Another study by *Smith and colleagues (2016)* detected an increase in heart rate when horses were looking at angry human faces versus happy ones. The study concluded that horses can accurately identify positive and negative human facial expressions and were more stressed when looking at angry faces.

HORSES LIVING IN A HERD ALWAYS HAVE A SENTRY.

Horses greatly increase their chances of survival by sticking together in a herd, but they still have to be vigilant for predators. In a herd, one horse will always be on the lookout for possible dangers while the others are resting, grazing or sleeping. A wild herd is usually made up of one stallion, 8-10 mares, and their foals. Some herds are larger or smaller and can even have two stallions, although this is rare. The role of the stallion is to breed and protect the mares, while a lead mare will guide the herd to new grazing spots and water sources.

HORSES CAN WALK & RUN WITHIN A COUPLE HOURS OF BIRTH.

Being able to keep up with the herd is essential for a newborn foal's survival in the wild. Hence why horses evolved to have long legs and fully formed hooves at birth. Most foals will stand up within 30 minutes to one hour after being born. Just compare that to the abilities of a human baby!

THE SORRAIA IS THE RAREST HORSE BREED WITH FEWER THAN 200 LEFT.

Originating in Portugal, these feral ponies nearly went extinct in the early 20th century. Today, they are the focus of conservation efforts that aim to preserve and recover this endangered horse breed. Sorraias are thought to be the descendants of primitive horses native to southern Iberia. They display primitive markings such as a dorsal line and zebra stripes on the legs. They can be various shades of dun and have a convex profile. These small but sturdy horses are considered to be "at-risk" by the Food and Agriculture Organization. By 2007, fewer than 200 horses remained, including only 80 broodmares. Most existing Sorraias are found in Portugal, with a small number of horses in Germany. What's

more, all members of the breed descend from just one paternal line. Sorraias are especially talented in herding bulls, but also do well as a dressage or light harness horse.

HORSES CAN GROW A MUSTACHE.

Commonly seen on the beautiful Gypsy Vanner horse breed, a horse's mustache is thought to help them differentiate between types of grass and feel objects right in front of them. On most horses, this is the role of long sensory hairs also known as whiskers. Until recently, riders used to trim these hairs before competitions to give the horse's muzzle a tidier look. However, research has shown that trimming these hairs impairs the horse's ability to "see" objects in the blind spot right in front of the nose. As of July 1, 2021, it is illegal to trim a horse's whiskers on FEI (International Equestrian Federation) competitions. According to the new rule, any horse that has its sensory hairs removed will be disqualified from competition.

HORSES HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CLONED

In 2003, a Haflinger filly called Prometea was born to a genetically identical mother in Italy. She was the first horse to be successfully cloned, following the birth of a mule clone earlier in 2003. There's still a lot of controversy surrounding the cloning of horses and other animals. However, some equine experts suggest the technology could be used to clone successful geldings and use them as breeding stallions.

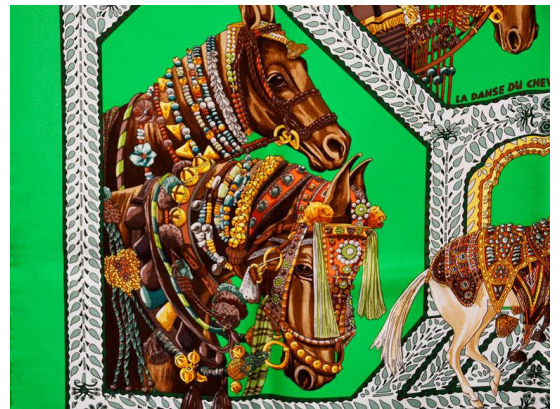
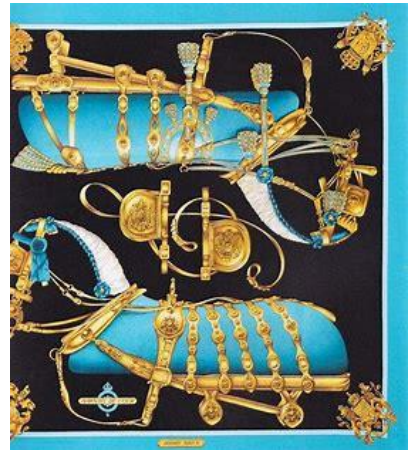
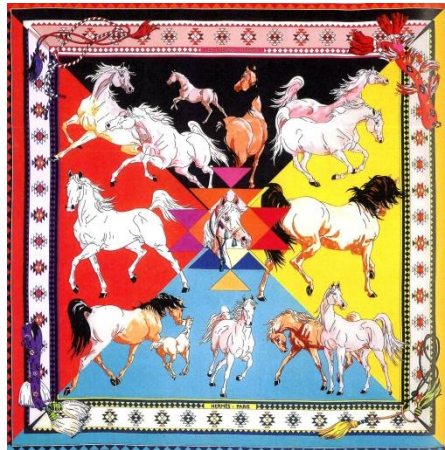
THE SMALLEST HORSE ON RECORD WAS A TINY 17.5 INCHES TALL.

Thumbelina (2001-2018) was a dwarf miniature horse who became an international sensation due to her incredibly small height. Standing a mere 17.5 inches (44.5 cm) tall with a weight of 57 pounds (26 kg), Thumbelina became the world's smallest horse ever. The tiny chestnut mare was born on a miniature horse farm in St. Louis, Missouri. After making it into the Guinness World Records, Thumbelina even toured the United States to meet her fans. After Thumbelina passed away, Einstein became the smallest living horse in the world, standing only 2 feet (61 cm) tall. He is a miniature pinto stallion from New Hampshire. Einstein has also been recorded as the smallest foal in history, with a tiny height of 14 inches (35.6cm) and weight of 6 pounds (2.7kg) at birth.

HORSES CAN ONLY BREATHE THROUGH THEIR NOSE.

Horses are obligatory nasal breathers and therefore cannot breathe through their mouths. The reason for this is the position of their epiglottis, which forms an airtight seal with the soft palate. While food can easily pass from the horse's mouth to the esophagus, the passage of the trachea into the mouth is permanently blocked. In certain conditions such as the dorsal displacement of the soft palate, the airtight seal is broken and air is able to pass from the trachea to the horse's mouth. This often results in audible respiratory noises and poor athletic performance.

The Most Stunning Hermès Equestrian Scarves!



'Lobey Dosser'

Glasgow, Scotland

This two-legged horse statue celebrates a beloved cartoonist and his quirky characters.



TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT this statue of a two-legged horse, and you'll notice two passengers sitting on its back. One is Lobey Dosser, a much-loved cartoon character from the '40s and '50s. The other is Rank Bajin, his nemesis.

Lobey Dosser was the sheriff of Calton Creek, a fictitious place in Arizona that's full of Scottish immigrants. He and his trusty two-legged steed El Fideldo (Elfie) protect Calton Creek from the nefarious wrongdoings of Rank Bajin. Speaking entirely in the Glasgow dialect, the cartoon was probably lost in meaning to anyone outside Scotland.

The curious trio are characters created by William "Bud" Neill, who turned to cartoon work after being injured during World War II. Their adventures were published in Glasgow's Evening Times from 1949 through 1956 and also in the Sunday Mail.

Due to the cartoon's cult status, after Neill's death, public funds were raised to erect a statue in his honor. The artwork was created by Tony Morrow and Nick Gillan, two art students. It was erected in 1992 and is believed to be the world's only two-legged horse statue.

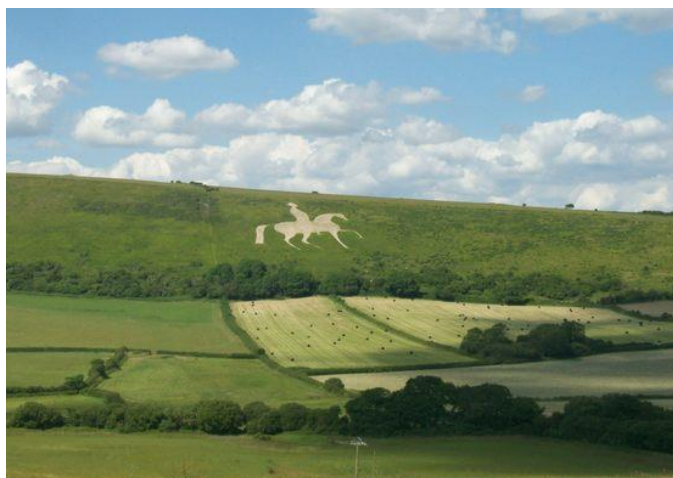
Know Before You Go

The statue is along Woodlands Road in Glasgow, next to the Free Presbyterian Church. The annual Glasgow West End Festival has its own Lobey Dosser Day.

Osmington White Horse

Osmington, England

Want to properly offend a king? Sculpt a giant hill figure in chalk of him riding out of town.



The 280 FT. long and 323 ft. high hill figure of King George III riding his horse away from the Weymouth area was most likely created as a compliment, but legend has it that the king saw it as an offense, and never returned to the area again after viewing it.

Despite the misunderstanding between the royal and his subjects, the Osmington White Horse remains just to the north of Weymouth, and can be seen for miles. Sculpted in 1808 into the limestone of Osmington hill, this horse and rider are unique, serving as the only example of both leucippotomy and gigantotomy, leucippotomy being the art of carving horses, and gigantotomy the art of carving humans, in the ancient craft of creating hill figures.

It's hard to say how far back hill figures date, but it's been practiced since prehistory, and is common in England. A type of geoglyph made by cutting into a hillside to create a visual representation that can be seen from afar, hill figures need to be maintained if they are to be enjoyed for centuries to come.

The Osmington White Horse was restored for a television show in 1989, but haste led to mistakes, and errors were made. In August 2011, the horse was given a prank makeover and donned a unicorn horn made of plastic sheeting for a time. It finally got a proper restoration in March, 2012 to prepare for the 2012 Olympics and has been brought back to the original 1808 shape by volunteers who spent two years carrying out the labor intensive overhaul.

Know Before You Go

Best viewed from the A353 road

(Cont'd from page 1)

protégés, raced around a concrete football field on his horse named Heart of a Lion, alongside another rider. They jump from horse to horse, flipping their bodies and throwing their legs in the air before building up speed again. “The difficulty for the cavaliers is we don’t have materials, enough horses and it’s difficult to make money—but we manage,” Compaoré said, adding that they share three horses between a group of eight cavaliers. They perform at baptisms, marriages, events, and cultural festivals and practice with one another when Dermé is out of town, but these events were for a while curtailed by Covid-19 and then the security crisis. Like Dermé, Compaoré hopes to travel overseas and would like to see other cavaliers come to Burkina Faso to exchange techniques and ideas. He will continue to train in the weeks leading up to October.

Throughout the Sahel region, a vast stretch of land between the Sahara Desert and the southern savannahs of Africa, many ethnic groups have strong connections with horses, which are seen as noble and mystical creatures with protective powers. The story of Yennenga, a warrior princess, is the founding myth of the Mossi people who make up the largest ethnic group in Burkina Faso. Defying her father, the king, who didn’t want her to marry, Yennenga is said to have escaped dressed up as a man, with her horse guiding her to her lover, an elephant hunter named Rialé. Together, they had a child named Ouédraogo, which means “stallion” in Mooré. Burkina Faso’s coat of arms is of two standing horses bracketing two crossed spears and the national flag, and the nation’s beloved football team are known as the “Étalons” or “stallions” in French. (Despite the legend of Princess Yennenga, few women ride horses, something that Dermé hopes to change through workshops and the festival and teaching a handful of girls during his stays.)

Dermé’s own family traces its roots back to Timbuktu and Gao and the ethnic Songhai in northern Mali. They were blacksmiths who were called on by the Mogho Naaba, the Mossi king, to make swords and spears for battle and bronze jewelry for his wives and provide him with horses. Chiefs are expected to be able to ride horses that both dance to drumbeats and bound into battle and are seen to possess almost human-like noblesse. But with urbanization and movement from villages to cities, equestrian traditions in the region have faded. Dermé, who is of the fifth generation of cavaliers in his family, learned these fading ways from his grandfather in his old neighborhood of Ouagadougou.

In the family home in the cobblestoned corner of Nonsin, not far from Dapoya one of Ouagadougou’s oldest neighborhoods, Dermé’s uncle, also named Madi Dermé is chain-smoking and tending to horses—getting them fit for his nephew’s festival. The elder Madi Dermé is known as “Big Madi,” and the younger Madi Dermé, is known as “Small Madi,” in part because of his diminutive form. Both live in France, with the younger Dermé performing in equestrian shows, and the elder training horses to race and appear in films, while he himself also boasts of a host of minor roles in films by legendary Burkinabè filmmakers like Idrissa Ouédraogo and the French director Charles Berling.

Dressed in a yellow pork pie hat, with a brown leather vest, and black skinny jeans, Big Madi makes often makes crude jokes about women and horses, but one comment takes on a more melancholic tenor. “A horse is like a woman, if you don’t caress it, it cannot look you in the eye,” he said, alluding to the current lack of care for horses in Burkina Faso. Big Madi shows me the two horses he saved from the abattoir—one now a muscular, dark stallion with a luminous coat and the other listlessly facing the wall with its ribs showing. “They are not as I expected they would be—they are skinny,” he said.

Both men say that the millet, sorghum, and maize used to both feed people and horses are becoming more and more expensive, and many breeders, especially those who have been displaced from cities in the north that have been attacked or occupied by jihadists, can’t afford the feed costs.

Many years ago, this courtyard in Nonsin was filled with horses and tourists wanting to go out for a trot. Sahelian countries like Mali and Burkina Faso were known for their horseback safaris which are now halted after more than a decade of kidnappings of foreigners by armed groups.

For the younger Dermé, a major goal of the festival, now in its third edition, is to garner potential interest and support for an equestrian school he hopes to create, where young cavaliers like Compaoré, who are often “passionate,” but lacking in means, can be educated in both the cavalier traditions and modern equestrian arts, and become professionals who might one day tour beyond the nation’s borders.

Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

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For now, Dermé’s dream remains a circle of tires in a large patch of land that sits around 20 miles outside of Ouagadougou. With growing violence in the country, few foreigners, particularly those from France, who might offer interest or funding for a future school are expected to come to the festival in October. But the show must gallop on. “We need for this equestrian culture to develop so that it can be transmitted to the youth, so that we will not lose this tradition, that’s the aim of the festival,” says Dermé.



(left) Madi Dermé performs dressage with his horse Toubab at the equestrian club Cheval Mandingue in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Dermé hopes to revive cavalier traditions in the country and introduce modern European equestrian arts. ALL PHOTOS: CLAIR MACDOUGALL (right) Madi Dermé rides at the hippodrome in Ouagadougou during the International Equestrian Arts Festival in 2020. The 2022 edition of the biannual event was postponed following a coup in the country.



“The difficulty for the cavaliers is we don’t have materials, enough horses, and it’s difficult to make money—but we manage,” says Hervé Compaoré, pictured (right) atop his horse during the International Equestrian Arts Festival in 2020.