

EQUUS UK

Film & Arts Fest

helmsley
artscentre



February 7, 2026
Doors Open 11:30 am
Films 12 pm – 9:45 pm

Old Meeting House
YO62 5DW Helmsley,
United Kingdom



A meeting place for creative people and a hive of opportunities to experience arts & culture.

Helmsley Arts Centre

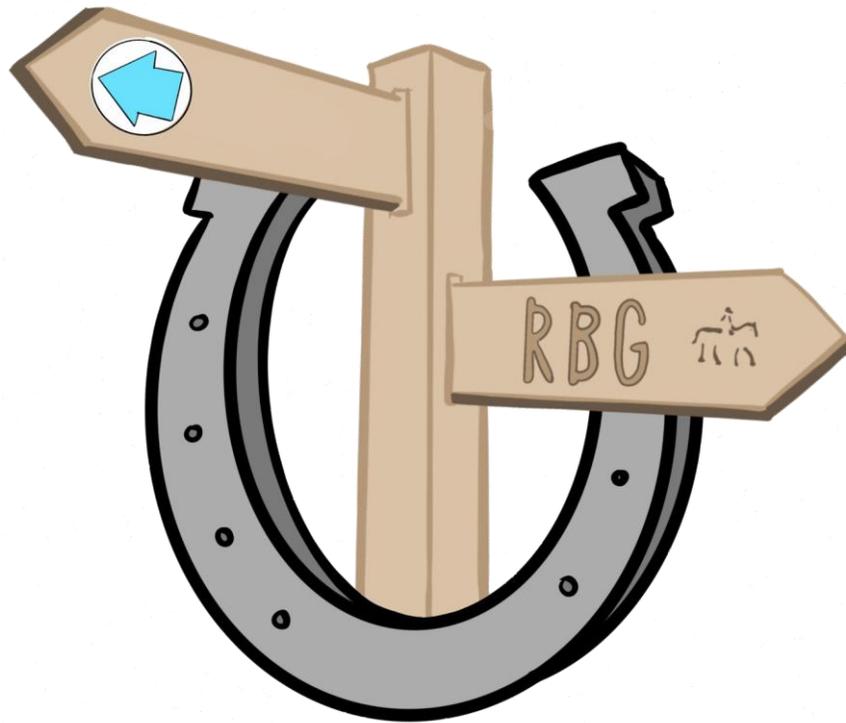
Meeting House Ct, Helmsley, York, YO62 5DW

01439 771700

mail@helmsleyarts.co.uk

www.helmsleyarts.co.uk

Ryedale Bridleways Group



Welcome to the Ryedale Bridleways Group Facebook page. We work to maintain and extend the network of bridleways in Ryedale, North Yorkshire and to promote its safe use by local and visiting riders.

Info: ryedalebridlewaysgroup@gmail.com



About the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit

The EQUUS Film & Arts Fest is the first event of its kind to offer a home to the storytellers of the horse world, with films, documentaries, videos, commercials, and shorts from around the world and cultural elements of fine equestrian art and literature. In 2025 EQUUS will host 20+ events from the Yukon to the UK!

The Mustang Summit has been added to the program as an educational platform to raise awareness and understanding about the American Mustangs in holding pens and available for adoption. A horse who has a safe and quiet start can be trainable and become a good partner. It is our mission to bring awareness to American Mustangs who need homes. Focusing on and highlighting the work taking place in the healing and equine assisted learning fields with Mustangs. Providing resources for all who want to learn about the Off-Range Mustang horse.

Founded in 2013 by Lisa Diersen, Director/Organizer, an equestrian, who has spent her life in the company of horses. Lisa's mission is to show the world how horses can bring everyone together regardless of race, age, gender, abilities or disabilities. She resides in Saint Charles, Illinois, with her Jack Russell, Amore and her Lusitano, Urano.

Julianne Neal, with JA Media Productions, joined the team in 2016. As the EQUUS Film and Arts Fest Director of Production and Education.

Every horse has a story, it's our mission at the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest to share those stories, through film, art and literature.

The EQUUS Film Fest [Channel You-Tube](#), streaming to all your devices.
Visit our website at: www.equusfilmfest.com and our [FaceBook](#) page.
www.mustangsummit.com

PR AND/OR SPONSOR CONTACT:

Lisa Diersen lisa@equusfilmfestival.net +1-630-272-3077

Additional Info: Julianne Neal julianneneal@me.com +1-803-351-0223

Assistant to the Director: Julie Martin

SOCIAL MEDIA

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/EquusFilmFestival>

You-Tube - <https://www.youtube.com/@equusfilmfestival772/featured>



Schedule of Films



Time Block	Selected Films
<p>Horse & Human Connection</p> <p>12:00 pm Start</p>	<p>*Wings of Angels 18 min</p> <p>*Healing Horses in Mongolia – 14 mins</p> <p>*Heart of Compton -18 mins</p> <p>*My Life Between The Reins - 80 mins</p>
<p>Wild Horse Collection</p> <p>3:30 pm Start</p>	<p>*American Mustang Music Video – 5 mins</p> <p>*Wild Heart Mustang Book Project - 10 mins</p> <p>*Wild Horse Refuge “Dahtetse” – 13 mins</p> <p>*A Mustang Story” Promo” – 10 mins</p> <p>*Okanagan Wild – 17 mins</p> <p>*Hellbent – 14 mins</p> <p>*Evoke – 21 mins</p> <p>*Renegade – 24 mins</p>
<p>Big Star Collection</p> <p>7:00 pm Start</p>	<p>*Healing In The Open – 30 mins</p> <p>*Inside The In Gate – 22 min</p> <p>*Unstable – 2 mins</p> <p>*Big Star: The Nick Skelton Story – 96 mins</p>

Local Equine Photographer Valerie Mather

Valerie Mather is a portrait, documentary and travel photographer. Following a successful career in law she retired early to pursue a lifelong passion for photography.

Valerie learned to ride (English style) as a child but was brought up watching Western movies on television and longed to see for herself the real cowboys and cowgirls of the American West. That dream came true in 2025 when she visited the US and spent time at the McCullough Peaks wild horse area and the ranchlands in the Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming. For more of Valerie's photographs of horses visit her website page The American West-details below.

The words of Paul Caponigro inspire her interest in documentary photography: 'It's one thing to make a picture of what a person looks like, it's another thing to make a portrait of who they are'.

In 2020 Valerie was awarded the prestigious honour of Associateship by the Royal Photographic Society.

In 23/24 her solo exhibition, *Fields, Folds & Farming Life*, exploring the importance of balance between Farming and Nature, was hosted by the National Trust in North Yorkshire and received almost 27,000 visitors. In 2025 it was on display for six months at National Trust property Hardcastle Crags, near Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire.

Valerie's images have been featured in amongst others Country Life, The Yorkshire Post, Yorkshire Life and the Royal Photographic Society's Journal.

Visit www.valeriematherphotography.co.uk. For workshops and print sales.

Follow her on Instagram and Facebook: [@valeriematherphotography](https://www.instagram.com/valeriematherphotography)

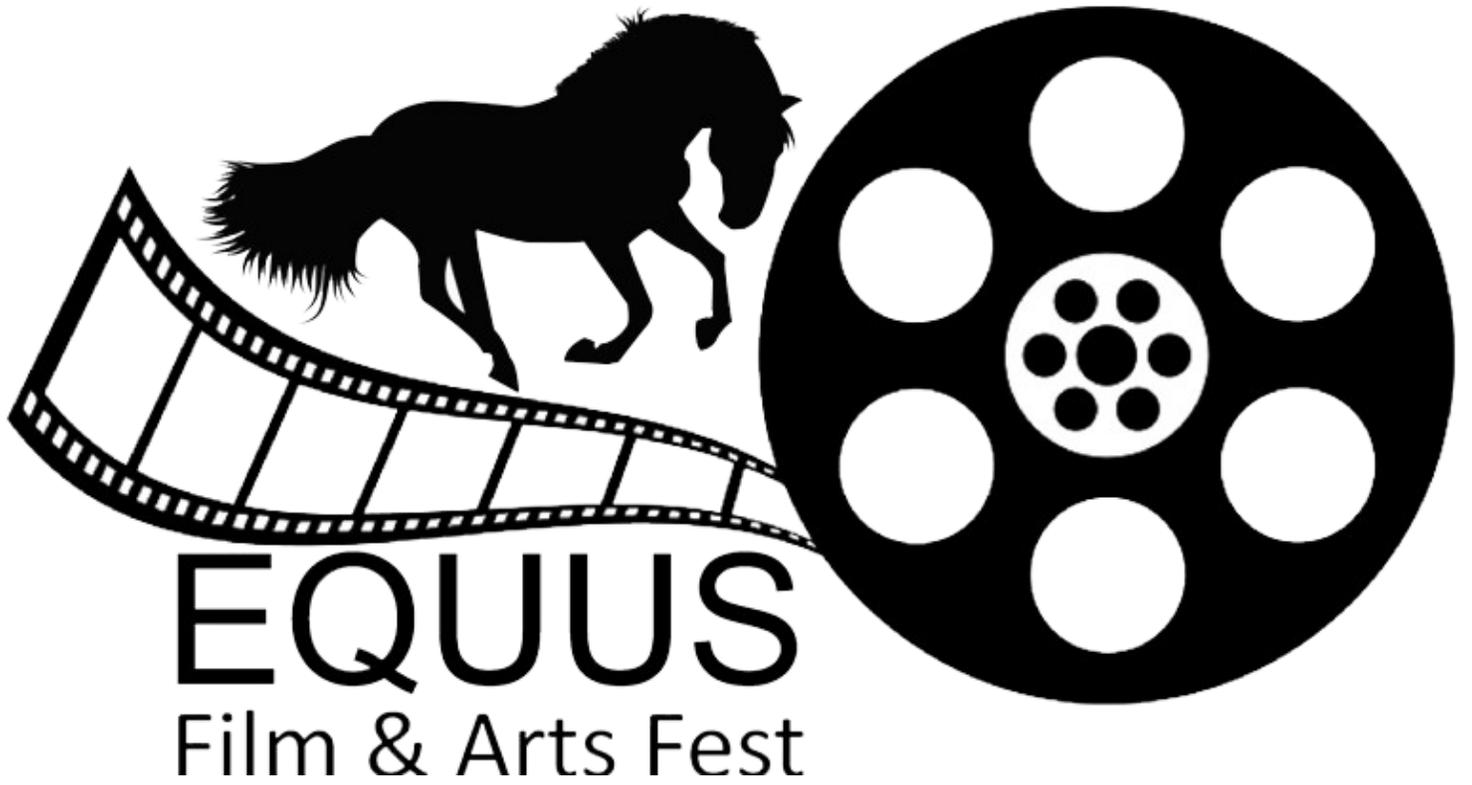


Valerie Mather
PHOTOGRAPHY



THE RPS
ROYAL
PHOTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY

ASSOCIATE
ARPS



The Team

Lisa Diersen

EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit Founder / Director

Lisa Diersen is an equestrian; riding since she could sit in a saddle, Diersen has a great appreciation for all types of equestrian disciplines. She is the Founder and Director of the EQUUS Film Festival, now in its 12th season. The EFF empowers storytellers to show horses' rich history and diverse tapestry in human culture through equestrian content, film, art, and literature. The EQUUS Film Festival is the first film festival oriented around equestrian-themed content from all over the world that also travels the world. Screening feature films, documentaries, shorts, music videos, commercials, training educational materials, art, and literature, covering all equestrian disciplines, creating a home for the storytellers of the horse world.

Created for Horse Lovers... by Horse Lovers!

Her mission is to show the world how horses can bring everyone together regardless of race, age, gender, abilities, or disabilities. Lisa is passionate about the education and enlightenment of others to the wonderful world of horses and everything they can do to enrich our lives.

Producer and writer credits on the DOWN Syndrome equine documentary "A Pony And His Boy: The Story Of Berry & Josh" for the EQUUS Film Festival in New York City and the National DOWN Syndrome Congress 2019 with SPOTLIGHT Rescue Series partner and film director Julianne Neal. Working on additional SRS documentaries to add to the series she and Neal started in 2017. The Mustang Discovery Ride Project is now in production. Lisa is the Executive Director of the Mustang Discovery Foundation. Adding "The Mustang Summit" to the programming in 2022. With a focus on educating the general public about the American Mustang Horse and its importance in the world today.

She is a published equine author with many articles to her credit. Diersen spent the early part of her career with General Motors in engineering, then moving into the subdivision development and home/barn building market, winning an Illinois Home Builder Award, before returning to her first love..... working with horses! She spends her time, when not promoting equestrian film, having fun promoting Classical Dressage, Lusitano, and Mustang horses, and spending time with her faithful Jack Russell Terrier, Amore, and her Lusitano, Urano.

www.equusfilmfestival.net

lisa@equusfilmfestival.net

+1-630-272-3077



Julianne Neal

JA Media, Productions

South Carolina



Podcast Producer/Editor/Host Documentary Filmmaker

EQUUS Film and Arts Fest Director of Programming

CAMDEN, SC EQUUS Tour Stop Organizer

WEBSITES: www.jamediaconnections.com www.naturesview.us

www.amustangstory.com

<https://themarleyproject.org>

www.equusfilmfestivalcamden.com

Julianne is the owner of JA Media Connections, LLC and the Producer/Director of A Mustang Story, the documentary/docuseries covering The Mustang Discovery Ride and other Mustang-related stories. She works in partnership with Bruce Anderson to provide Equine Assisted Services through Nature's View, Inc. and The Marley Project, Inc, a non-profit 501(c)(3) with a mission of providing equine education and public service. The organization connects horses with individuals, educational groups, law enforcement officers and management training professionals through Anderson's Natural Humanship™ work.

Julianne retired in 2022 after a 35-year career in Arts Education and K-12 Administration. A life-long horse lover, she owns and operates Thorrfield LLC, a boarding and training facility in South Carolina. She combines her love of all things equine, educational experience and arts focus to bring clients and projects together through the boutique creative production company, JA Media Connections LLC. Julianne attended the Manhattan Film Institute in 2016 and began working with film production through a partnership with The Art of Storytelling (AOS), an international agency specializing in well-crafted, engaging stories designed to transform and inspire. Their first collaborative project, "THE EDGE: Bruce Anderson - Natural Humanship," is an award-winning documentary providing insight into Anderson's work.

JA Media Connections LLC produces a catalogue of podcasts. Julianne hosts Whinny Tales, featuring Anderson's work as a horse trainer and clinician. From "Horse stories and pony legends to unicorn yarns," the podcast has featured such organizations as the EQUUS Film and Arts Fest, Equitana USA, Horses and Humans Research Foundation and Creative Spirits Unleashed. As a member of the EQUUS Film and Arts Fest Team, Julianne serves as Director of Production and Education, creating the Spotlight Rescue Series and the documentary film, A Pony and His Boy, as well as the festival podcast and WebChats. She recently produced a bi-weekly podcast for Brooke USA, On The Road, as well as Tiny Horse Talk and the Mustang Discovery Ride Podcast.

In her spare time, Julianne loves to ride her Warmblood/Shire cross, Winston.

EQUUS Film & Arts Fest Podcast: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/equus-film-and-arts-fest/id1494713109>

America's Horse on America's Trail: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-mustang-discovery-ride-americas-horse-on-americas/id1591933653>

Whinny-Tales Podcast: <https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/julianne-neal/whinny-tales>





The Wild Horse Refuge is a private sanctuary that was created entirely for rescued Wild Mustangs that were taken from BLM Herd Management Areas (HMA) located within Colorado. The Wild Horses living on this special property are now protected and have regained the freedom and independence they had prior to government interference.

With more than 30,000 square miles of contiguous land to run free, their wild and free spirit has been restored. With the Refuge being located just 30 miles from the Sand Wash Basin, the horses feel right at home as they roam freely across the vast open spaces of the Refuge!

There are no paddocks, stock pens, fenced pastures, or other smaller and more restrictive spaces in use here. Instead of being relegated to pens or smaller pastures where they might have an occasional opportunity to run one or two hundred yards - or possibly even a few thousand feet... the wild horses living at the Refuge continue to run until they choose to stop.

It is truly a beautiful sight to see when these wild horses are able to regain control of where they go and what they do completely on their own!

The Wild Horse Refuge is a completely new facility that was acquired in order to create a special home for Colorado's native Wild Horses.

Wild horses (Mustangs) are allowed to roam freely within the Refuge - which has more than 22,500 acres of land for the horses to roam freely.

<https://www.wildhorserefuge.org/>





www.wildhorserefuge.org





The Films

A Mustang Story The Docuseries

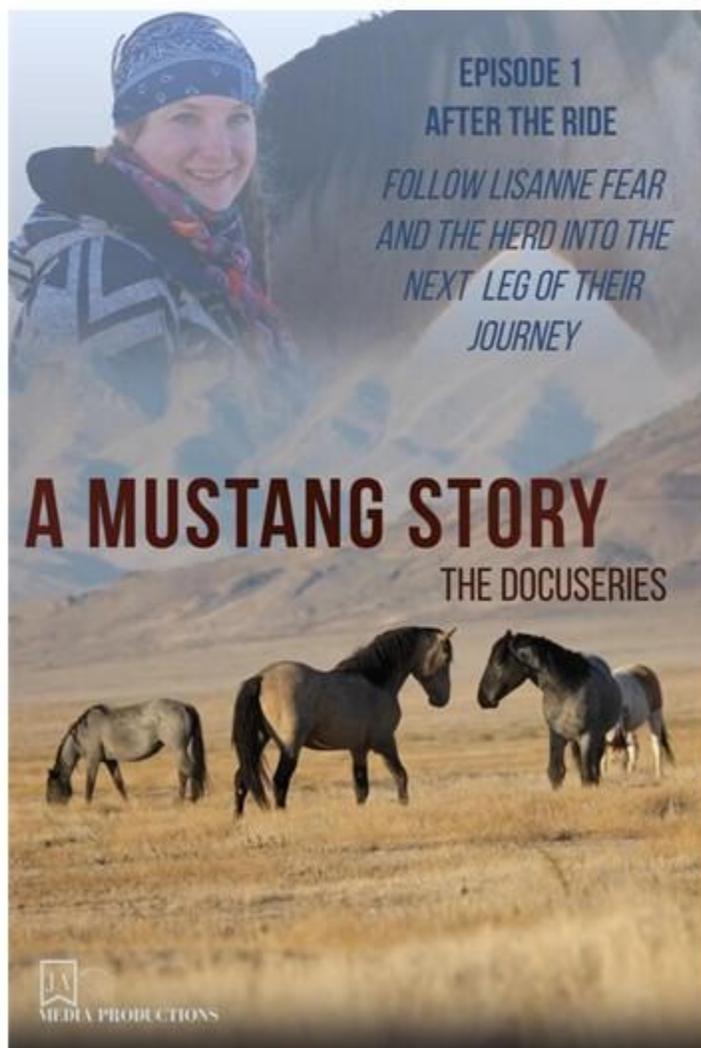
Directed by: **Julianne Neal**

9 mins

Take a young woman with a passion for horses looking for a grand adventure, add American Mustangs and a host of guest riders and you have the ingredients for the “Mustang Discovery Ride.” This documentary project tells the story of a journey across the United States on the American Discovery Trail (ADT) featuring Mustang trainer, Lisanne Fear, along with her Mustangs, dogs and (sometimes) a small support team. While the documentary film tells the story of the 14 month cross country adventure, the docuseries follows up on some of the struggles and triumphs that Lisanne and the Mustangs encountered on the trail, most attributed to the kindness of strangers met along the journey. Each 12-episode season features aspects of the ADT in each state, Mustang adoptions inspired by the project, equine programs utilizing Mustangs, Veterans Programs in existence and other Mustang-related stories.

<https://amustangstory.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/jamediaconnectionsllc>



Directed by: **Julianne Neal**

Julianne is the owner of JA Media Connections, LLC and the Producer/Director of A Mustang Story, the documentary and docuseries covering The Mustang Discovery Ride and other Mustang related stories. She works in partnership with Bruce Anderson to provide Equine Assisted Services through Nature's View, Inc. and The Marley Project, Inc, a non-profit 501(c)(3) with a mission of providing equine education and public service. The organization connects horses with individuals, educational groups, law enforcement officers and management training professionals through Anderson's Natural Humanship™ work.

AMERICAN MUSTANG Music Video

Directed by: Julianne Neal

4:10 mins - USA



The song "AMERICAN MUSTANG (I'm An American Too)," written and performed by Buddy Celman, speaks to the plight of these living legends. Featuring footage from A Mustang Story, Lisanne Fear with The Mustang Discovery Ride, and Brooke Miller Mustangs, the video shows the power of Mustangs, both on and off the range. "AMERICAN MUSTANG" is one of the songs featured in the upcoming documentary, "5000 MILES 5000 MUSTANGS."

<https://jamediaconnections.com/>



Director – Julianne Neal

Julianne is the owner of JA Media Connections, LLC and the Producer/Director of A Mustang Story, the documentary and docuseries covering The Mustang Discovery Ride and other Mustang related stories.

Julianne retired in 2022 after a 35 year career in Arts Education and K-12 Administration. A lifelong horse lover, she owns and operates Thornfield LLC, a boarding and training facility in South Carolina. She combines her love of all things equine, educational experience and arts focus to bring clients and projects together through the boutique creative production company, JA Media Connections LLC.

Evoke

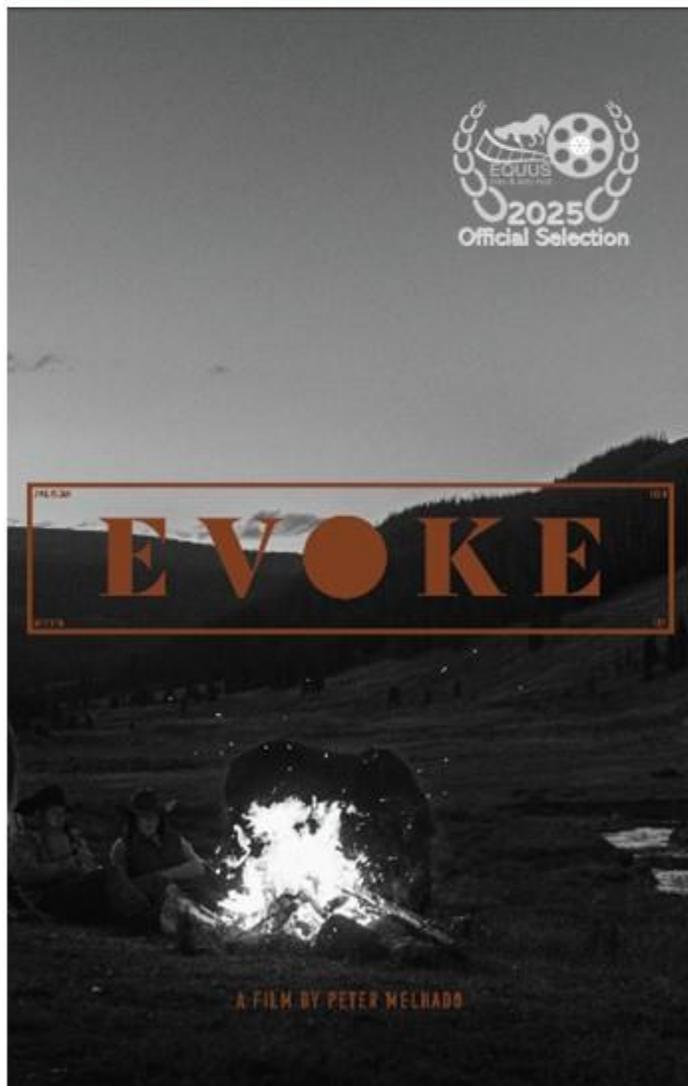
Directed by: Peter Melhado

21:00 mins – USA



This film explores the challenges faced by modern-day mustangs, from overpopulation and starvation to mistreatment and slaughter. Filmmaker Peter Melhado follows Great Escape Mustang Collaborative through Colorado and New Mexico as they work to integrate these iconic horses into domestic life. Great Escape Mustang Collaborative is an organization dedicated to training, rehabilitating and rehoming mustangs the film captures the resilience of these horses and the trainers who work to give them a domestic life where they are thriving. It celebrates perseverance while addressing the complex issues surrounding mustang management and conservation. The journey showcases the Mustang's resilience and individuality, shedding light on the complexities of managing wild horse populations in the U.S. while striving to preserve their legacy as a symbol of the American West.

<https://www.greatescapemustangs.org/evoke>



Director - Peter Melhado

Peter Melhado is a Charleston based photographer and filmmaker. While Peter shoots a broad spectrum of subjects, his passion projects tend to revolve around the relationship between humans and nature. I was drawn to the story of the mustang as I believe it speaks to the broader societal shift away from nature and our tendency to be a throw away culture. As a solo filmmaker with limited budget and time, getting this project completed was tricky to say the least, but I was honored to be able to tell this story.

Healing Horses in Mongolia

Directed by: Julie Veloo

14:00 mins - Mongolia

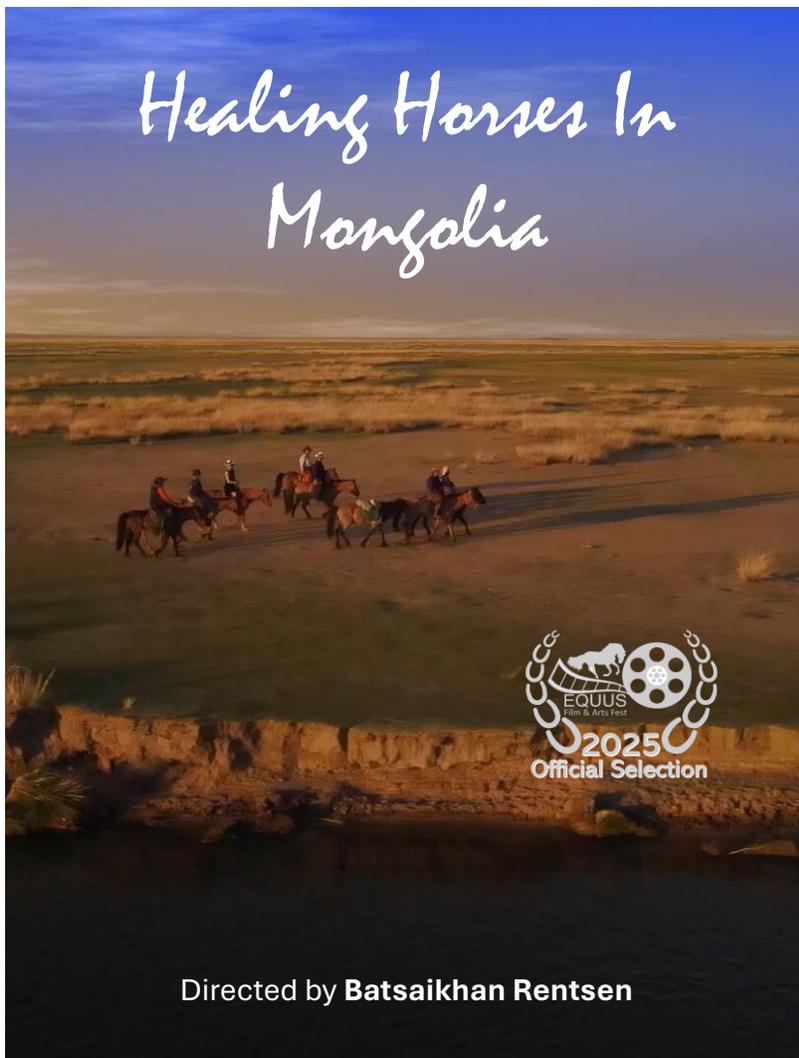


When Julie arrived in the land of the steppe riders, she didn't just meet a people bound to horses—she met a rhythm, a way of life shaped by wind, horizon, and hoofbeats. Amid the children living near the landfill, she found a quiet strength in the Mongolian horse: resilient, graceful, and deeply rooted in the soul of the steppe.

With that strength, she built a kindergarten—not just of bricks and wood, but of hope. And in doing so, she uncovered peace, stillness, and a deeper meaning within herself.

Now, the children of the saddle grow up in joy, their laughter echoing across the plains. They learn, they flourish, and they rise—carried not only by the legacy of the horse, but by the spirit of a land that never forgets its riders.

<https://www.veloofoundation.com/>



Director – Julie Veloo

Healing In The Open

Directed by: Dewi Marquis

31:00 mins - USA

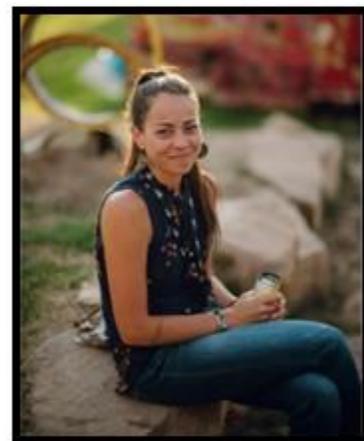


Healing in the Open is a documentary short capturing the power of incorporating horses for the mental health treatment of people.

Gateway HorseWorks' vision is to make the incorporation of horses for the mental health treatment of people accessible to all by prioritizing access for our most marginalized and vulnerable communities. Through the development of groundbreaking programs, education, and a community-driven approach, Gateway HorseWorks aims to further research in this field of practice and be a leader in innovative mental health solutions.

As individuals, we maintain a deep curiosity about ourselves. We cannot expect to help others on their journey of self-discovery, growth, and learning unless we are committed to knowing ourselves and owning our stories, choices, and actions. This requires vulnerability, courage, and accountability.

www.gatewayhorseworks.org



Directors: Dewi Marquis

Déwi (dae-wee) is a mixed-race Native Bornean and independent film director, and editor based in Louisville, Colorado.

Déwi has directed, cast, produced, filmed, and edited for a wide range of clients, including the BBC, The Discovery Channel, Exposure Labs, ProPublica, and nonprofit organizations like Rare. She is a proud member of the Asian American Documentary Network, Brown Girls Doc Mafia, Cine Fe, Film Fatales, and Kin Theory. She loves collaborating on Indigenous-led film projects that uphold sovereignty both on and off camera, and push the creative boundaries of documentary.

<https://amymarquis.com/pages/about>

Heart of Compton

Directed by: Isabel Rose Soloaga

17:45 mins – USA



Streets raised us. Horses saved us. Amid the concrete of Compton, a young rider and the Compton Cowboys are rewriting what it means to belong—reclaiming space, identity, and community through horses.

<https://www.isabelsoloaga.com/film>



Director – Isabel Rose Soloaga

Award-winning filmmaker and communications strategist with over a decade of experience in multimedia production, strategic advocacy, and documentary storytelling. My work has been featured in *Frontiers in Human Dynamics*, *Freedom House*, *Migrant Voice*, *The Sacramento Bee*, *KTVU FOX 2 News*, *Culture and Capitalism*, and the *San Francisco International Film Awards*. A *Film Independent + CNN Documentary Series Fellow*, I am currently directing my independent feature-length documentary *Growing Up in America: Life After the Taliban*.

I hold a B.A. in Journalism and History of Art from UC Berkeley and an M.A. with Distinction in Migration and Global Development from the University of Sussex. Learn more about my work at www.isabelsoloaga.com

Hellbent

Directed by: Brooklyn Phillips,
Sarah Stewart

14:00 mins – USA



Unknown to many Americans, the U.S. is in the midst of a highly politicized crisis surrounding its wild horse populations. Vérité short doc HELLBENT follows a woman at the frontlines of that debate, whose story challenges Americans to set their differences aside and talk to each other.



Director – Brooklyn Phillips,
Sarah Stewart

Director Sarah Stewart's projects include the multi-award winning '109 Below', the Academy Award-winning short 'Queen of Basketball', the Academy Award-nominated short 'A Concerto is a Conversation', the Emmy-nominated series 'Almost Famous' and the Emmy-nominated series 'Cause of Life'.

Director Brooklyn Phillips is a director and storyteller with a deep-rooted connection to Western culture and a sharp eye for cinematic storytelling. She immerses herself in the worlds of her characters, bringing their stories to life with clear intention and an authentic voice that resonates with audiences. Her work is driven by a passion for real stories and the people who live them, crafting narratives that are both emotionally compelling and visually striking. Brooklyn has led a diverse range of creative projects, from high-profile campaigns and magazine editorials to high-end TV commercials and documentary work.

Inside The Ingate

Directed by: Kelly Berry

22:00 mins – USA



What sets Inside the Ingate apart is its raw honesty and real connection to the equestrian world. Unlike polished highlight reels, our docuseries doesn't shy away from the tough moments—the nerves, the setbacks, the mental game. It's a true reflection of what riders actually experience at a horse show.

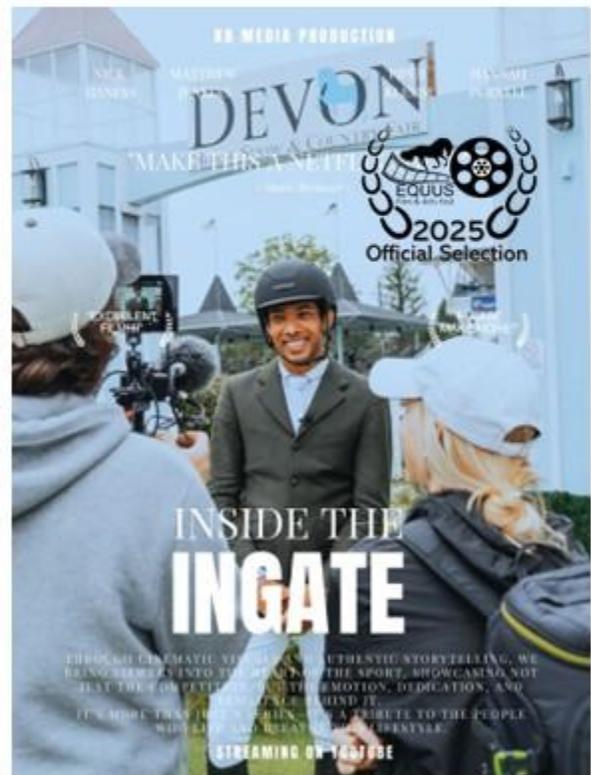
Through cinematic visuals and authentic storytelling, we bring viewers into the heart of the sport, showcasing not just the competition, but the emotion, dedication, and resilience behind it. It's more than just a series—it's a tribute to the people who live and breathe this lifestyle.

<https://www.kbmediaequine.com/inside-the-ingate>

<https://www.facebook.com/KAnneBerry>



Director – Kelly Berry



Meet Kelly Berry, the visionary entrepreneur behind KB Media, a brand recognized for its captivating visual storytelling. With a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography and a passion for equestrian life, she expertly captures her clients' unique narratives while empowering them to achieve their goals.

What sets Inside the Ingate apart is its raw honesty and real connection to the equestrian world. Unlike polished highlight reels, our docuseries doesn't shy away from the tough moments—the nerves, the setbacks, the mental game. It's a true reflection of what riders actually experience at a horse show.

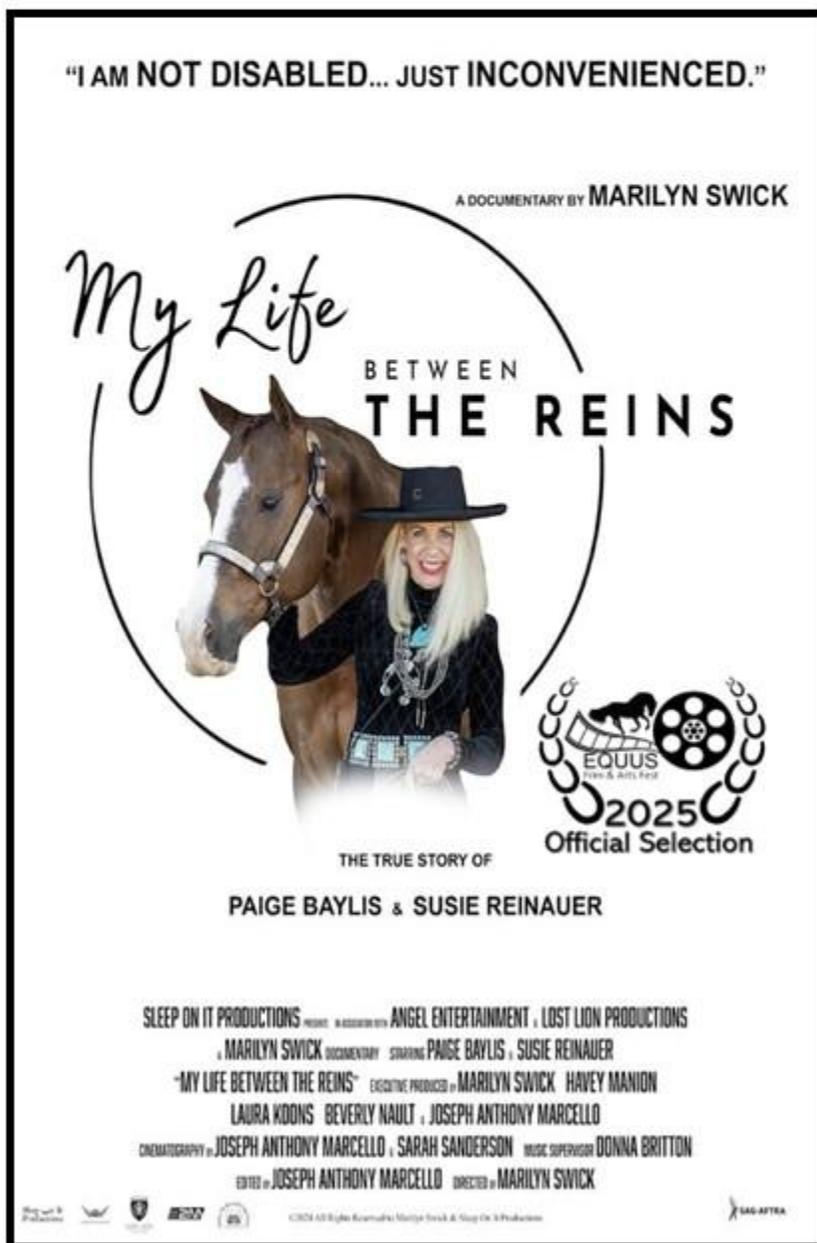
My Life Between The Reins

Directed by: Marilyn Lee Swick

78:20 mins – USA



My Life Between The Reins, an inspirational true-story feature documentary of a young girl with cerebral palsy and her equestrian journey through adulthood as she faces challenges with the help of her family, faith, persistence, and determination to follow her goals & dreams.



Director:
Marilyn Lee Swick

Marilyn Swick's creativity and passion for the film industry have been a fundamental drive in every avenue of her life since she began acting in high school. Today she is an accomplished award-winning Screenwriter, Director, Producer, SAG-AFTRA Actor, ASCAP Songwriter & ASCAP Publisher under Sleep On It Productions. She attended the New York Film Academy and earned her Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts from Georgetown University, in Washington, DC.

Kelly Sigler's

RIDE, WINE, & DINE DREAM TRIPS



Discover, Experience, and Cherish Memories That Last a Lifetime!

PONTE DE LIMA, PORTUGAL NOV 2026

- Portuguese working equitation, traditional riding, and dressage lessons on a Lusitano school master
- Golegã Horse Fair
- Trail riding in Serra D'Arga
- Daily Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner included
- Authentic Portuguese cultural experiences and wine!

**COST TO BE
RELEASED IN
NOV**

/Person

SANTIAGO, PORTUGAL OCT 19-25, 2026

- Trail riding on the Camino de Santiago to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela
- Daily Breakfast & Dinner included
- Experience Spanish countrysides and wine!

\$5800

/Person

MENORCA, SPAIN APR 10-17, 2026

- Authentic Menorcan experiences
- Riding lessons at Son Marorellet
- Trail riding on the Camí de Cavalls and the coastline of Albufera Natural Park
- Swimming, snorkeling, cave bar, farm tour, shopping, and wine!
- Daily Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner included

\$4350

/Person

ADVENTURE AWAITS!

<https://ridewineanddinedreamtrips.com/>

Okanagan Wild

Directed by: Lucas Margetson

17:28 mins - Canada



There are wild horses that still roam free in Oliver British Columbia. Friendships that surround the Okanagan Wild horse uncover a different perspective about where they came from.

<https://www.facebook.com/Littlepine/>



Director - Lucas Margetson

Lucas Margetson began working in the Vancouver film industry as an actor when he was 10 years old. After more than a decade of experience as a film technician, he started directing his own projects. He co-founded Little Pine Productions with his wife Sara Turner and their friend Aaron Stelkia of the Osoyoos Indian Band. Their aim is to shed light on the compelling history of the Okanagan from a new perspective.

Renegade Born to be Wild

Directed by: Adam Ben Cohen

23:23 mins - USA



The 23-minute documentary follows renowned Mustang trainer Jeff Cook as he takes on the challenge of earning Renegade's trust. Through quiet observation, patience, and respect, Jeff attempts to bridge the vast gap between untamed spirit and human connection. Renegade is a story of transformation—for both horse and trainer—and a meditation on what it truly means to protect something wild.



Director – Adam Ben Cohen

Adam Cohen (b. 1976) discovered his passion for photography in 9th grade while attending a professional photography school in Tel Aviv, Israel. He honed his skills working at a commercial photography studio before moving to New York to specialize in portrait photography. In 2010, his creativity expanded into video production when he co-produced and shot a stop-motion music video, igniting a love for storytelling through motion.

Unstable: A Ponytale

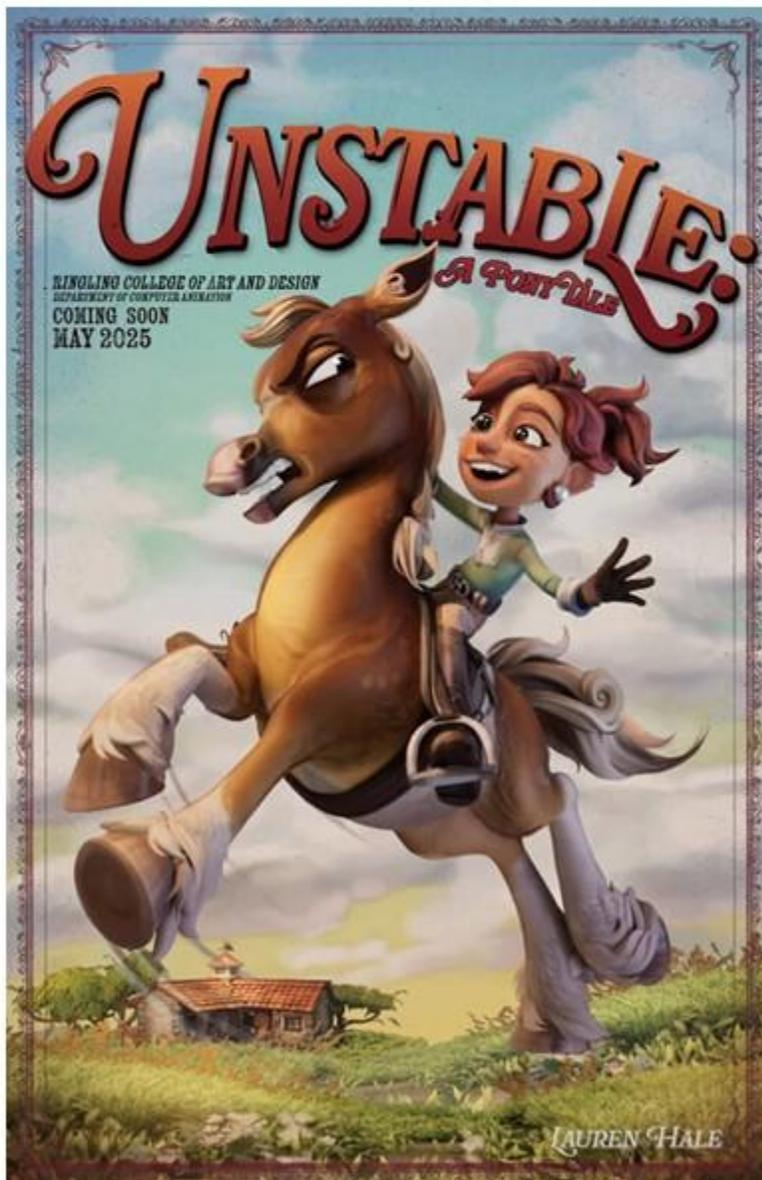
Directed by: Lauren Hale

02:00 mins - USA



In *Unstable: A Ponytale*, a girl named Sydney is looking at ponies for sale. Instead of the fancy show ponies, she enthusiastically picks a crazed pony with a mean streak. The insane pony tries everything to shake her determination; however, through the bucking, biting, and crashing, the little girl's smile never wanes. When the pony finally pushes her over the edge, they are surprised to make an unlikely team.

<https://www.laurenhaletale.com/>



Director - Lauren Hale

I grew up in rural Maryland, where I spent the majority of my time with a pencil in my hand or out in the fields with the horses. On my artist journey I was able to combine these two to inspire my senior thesis film. The question of if I would become an artist had never crossed my mind, more so what kind of art I wanted to pursue.

Wild Heart

Directed by: Ronda Gregorio

10:00 mins – USA



Wild Heart: The Mustang Book Project brings to light the profound partnerships forged between humans and previously wild mustangs. This project has been a labor of love, capturing moments of connection to showcase how these horses—once untamed and overlooked—can do anything when given a chance.

<https://www.gregoriophotography.com/wild-heart>



Director – Ronda Gregorio

Wings Of Angels

Directed by: Benjamin Connell

18:00 mins – USA



Follows Ken Roche', the founder of Equestrian Angel, a non-profit ministry whose mission is to bring the proven benefits of equine therapy to the disabled and mentally challenged.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064740803136#>

<https://datrollinranch.com/>



Director – Benjamin Connell

Benjamin Connell is a Louisiana independent filmmaker who has pursued his dream of filmmaking since the age of 12.



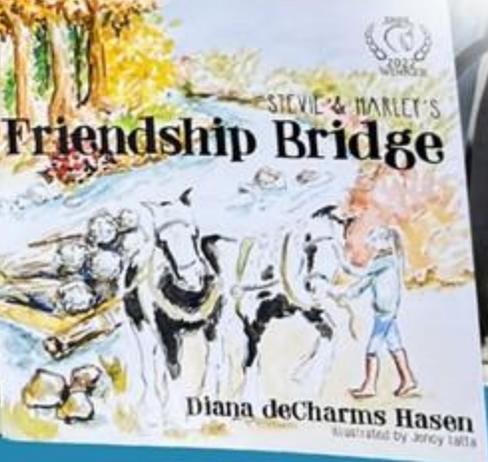
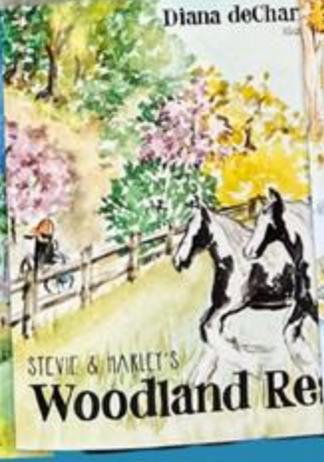
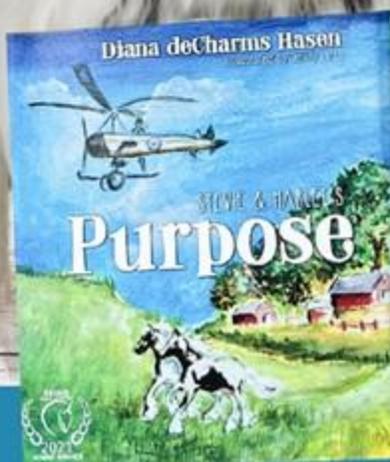
STEVIE & HARLEY

THE REAL LIFE HORSES BEHIND THE BOOKS & CARTOON



NEW BOOK &
CARTOON
COMING SOON!!!

FOLLOW US
FOR UPDATES!



FOLLOW ON



2025
Official
Selection

EQUUS

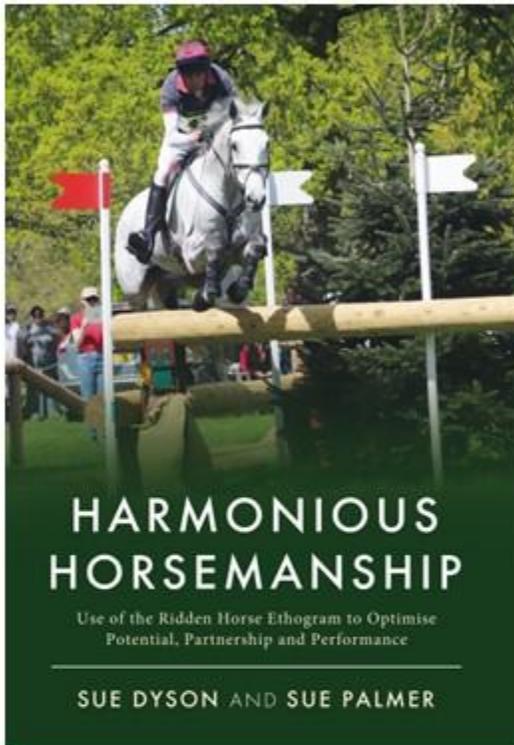
Literary Corral



www.equusfilmfest.com

Harmonious Horsemanship: Use of the Ridden Horse Ethogram to Optimize Potential, Partnership and Performance

Author: Sue Dyson | Sue Palmer
UK



All too often, the result of pain in ridden horses is labelled as 'bad' behaviour. An apparently 'sound' horse is 'naughty', 'lazy', 'difficult', 'explosive', 'spooky', 'nappy', and more. These labels are wrong. Pain impacts all aspects of a horse's performance, including its partnership with the rider, and its potential to progress. It does not always create lameness. Relieving pain can lead to greater potential, a deeper partnership, and improved performance. In 'Harmonious Horsemanship: Use of the Ridden Horse Ethogram to Optimise Potential, Partnership and Performance', Sue Dyson and Sue Palmer share their professional knowledge and experience.

This book is unique in asking why there are problem horses and providing an approach to recognising and resolving these problems that is supported by rigorous scientific studies. It crosses many disciplines, harnessing expert opinions, and taking an holistic approach to the horse-tack-rider triad. The factual background is supported by real life case studies, contributions from riders who have experienced problems with their horses. It follows their emotional and sometimes frustrating journeys while they sought solutions. This will resonate with many riders and equestrian professionals and help them to know how to proceed. Only by first recognising pain can we then address it through accurate assessment, diagnosis, and treatment.

<https://www.amazon.com/Harmonious-Horsemanship-Sue-Dyson/dp/1805140078>

Author: Sue Dyson & Sue Palmer.



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Takhin is the Mongolian word for the wild horse – it means “honored one” or “revered one”. The Takhin program honors the horse’s need for play, herd socialization, purpose, and bodily and mental development.

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Takhin is a program that will enable you to teach your clients with trauma, depression and related conditions to work with equine play, lunging, in hand work and long reins, to not only ensure the horses’s well-being but to also empower themselves.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Nbr0aQf1cI>

<https://ntl.s.co/takhin/>



**HORSES FOR
MENTAL HEALTH**

Who We Are

Horses for Mental Health is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to increase awareness, public engagement, funds, and access to programs incorporating horses for mental health and personal growth.

We partner with nonprofit organizations, philanthropists, celebrities, influencers, and companies to realize our collective vision of a world where all mental health needs are met – together.

We seek to strengthen engagement to create a community of inclusivity and diversity while increasing access to quality mental health programs incorporating horses that serve all groups of people..

Our Team

Our team consists of world-class thought leaders with expertise in varying disciplines ranging from: mental health, horsemanship, brand development and strategy, fundraising and awareness modeling, talent acquisition, sponsorship consulting, creative scripting and design, program management, impact reporting and analysis, among other engagements in the social impact realm.

Our team involves and engages with experts and leaders in the equine-assisted services industry, and specifically with psychotherapy and counseling incorporating horses, who help advise our work.

Horses for Mental Health (HMH) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to expand the role horses play in mental health and well-being to realize our vision of a world where all mental health needs are met.

At our foundation is our heart for the welfare of both horses and humans, and how they can impact each other to heal and thrive in incredible ways.

<https://horsesformentalhealth.org/>



Lynn Thomas, Co-Founder/President

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