



## Horse of the Americas Newsletter

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### “Spirit” Due To Open Memorial Day



### Preserving Is Promoting

by John Fusco, screenwriter of Spirit, Stallion of the Cimarron

The epiphany came to me in the round pen. I had been in there for hours with my young foundation stallion, when it hit me: this is not the best way for me to "do my bit" for the Spanish Mustang (or as my Grandpa Redbow preferred, "Ind'n Pony.") Earlier that morning--try 4 A.M.--my mare band busted out a gate when coyotes came calling and then busted IN the gate to the stallion, herding up behind him. So after hours of mending fence, coaxing Spanish mares, and keeping up the training of all, I realized that I wasn't where I was supposed to be: sitting at the typewriter, telling stories.

As a writer of movies, I have had the wonderful opportunity to see stories come to life on the big screen and reach millions of people. Not that film is literature (especially Hollywood), but there is no denying the influence movies have on our society. In 1992, my movie "Thunderheart" brought the story of the modern-day Indian wars to an audience fresh off the safe historical distance of "Dances with Wolves." The movie found its way to Capitol Hill and was used by Native American lobbyists to pass legislation protecting sacred sites. It raised money for the impoverished Pine Ridge Reservation and exposed many to the Third World within our own country. It was only a movie, but it made some things happen; movies--good or bad-- are the widest-reaching medium in the world.

So that day in the round pen, I called on my friend Vik and asked her to inherit the then-defunct HOA that I had purchased along with some fine Brislawn horses. Some of us, like Vik, have the talent to work with the horses and to show them at their best while some of us have

other ways to promote the breed, but, at the end of the day, we're all conservators.

With my movie "SPIRIT: Stallion of the Cimarron" already in the can at Dreamworks and set for a Memorial Day 2002 release, I hope to bring the story of a pure Spanish Mustang to a young and wide audience. Steven Spielberg is so pleased with the film that he is premiering it the same night as the new Star Wars. Don't worry: I think our Kiger boy will give Luke a run for his money.



Nothing if not mustang-obsessive, I decided to keep the push going and sat down to write the story of Frank T. Hopkins and his little Spanish Mustang who won the 3,000 mile endurance race across the Arabian Desert in 1890. I had wanted to bring this amazing story to the screen for years, but it was while telling the account as a conservator that I realized what an impact it might have.

I am excited to report that Walt Disney's "HIDALGO" begins filming in Morocco this coming Spring.

Spanish Mustangs will also be featured in my upcoming Hallmark/ABC mini-series "DREAMKEEPER", a two night dramatic special based on legends from Native America. Original American Indian Horses have been written into nearly all of the legends to be portrayed (The Legend of the Dun Horse, High Horse's Courting, and The Vision Quest being a few examples).

As a member of the HOA publicity board, I hope to connect all three of these high-profile productions with our efforts to promote and preserve America's first horse. As a spokesperson, interviews that I give will be angled toward that goal. It is also my hope that all fellow conservators will be proud enough of the films to say "those are our horses" and will take advantage of any heat the movies generate. Because whether in the round pen, on the trail, or at the typewriter and movie camera, we're all conservators.

*Those are our horses. Long may they run.*



### Currently approved HOA strains include:

- 1) Brislawn foundation
- 2) Bookcliff foundation
- 3) Original Horse of the Americas foundation
- 4) Jones foundation
- 5) Tribal strains: Choctaw/Cherokee/Huasteca
- 6) Painter Barbs
- 7) Wilbur-Cruce,
- 8) Romero/McKinley
- 9) Yates
- 10) Belsky
- 11) Havapai Pony (Grand Canyon)
- 12) Bankers (Ocrakoke, Shackleford, Currituck, Corolla, and Hatteras)
- 13) Florida Crackers and Marsh Tackies
- 14) Pryor Mountains
- 15) Sulphur
- 16) Kiger
- 17) Cerbat
- 18) Sorraia Mustang

### Horse of the Americas Officers

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Publicity Committee: **Carol Stone, Tom Hebert, John Fusco, and Shiela Cochron.**

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**Strain Club representatives as of**

**2/1/2002:**

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**Tally Johnson**, Yates.

**Nanci Falley**, Tribal strains

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**Sharron Scheikofsky**, Sorraia

***We need more Strain Reps! Volunteer to represent your Strain. You'll be helping HOA promote YOUR favorite Spanish Colonial.***

Karma Farms, Ironhorse Ranch, Caballos De Destino and, owners of sons and daughters of the REAL **Espèranza** want to thank John Fusco for using "Hope's" name for the dam of Spirit! It is our hope that "Spirit, Stallion of the Cimarron" will bring a new awareness of America's First Horse to the land our horses helped to build. Espèranza's *non-animated* offspring include:

**Cactus Jack**, grullo stallion by Jack Slade. Owned by Ironhorse Ranch; **Dakota Blue**, grullo stallion by Jack Slade. Owned by Jim Dildine. **Pretty Foxy**, red dun roan mare by Lonesome. Owned by Caballos de Destino. **My Sunshine**, dun roan mare (by El Tigre Segundo). Owned by Karma Farms, Dorene Scanlon and Paul V. Gabel. **Magneto**, sorrel stallion by Broom. Owned by Karma Farms and Rockin' B Ranch. **Rowdy Yates**, grullo roan stallion by Jack Slade. **Doctor Wu**, grullo stallion by Chato's Shadow. **Dreamgiver**, grulla mare by Jack Slade; **Xena**--grulla appaloosa filly by X-Files, all owned by Karma Farms.