

HEART of the HORSE

A Conference Celebrating the Art of Community & the Equine Spirit

Aiken Center for the Arts
Aiken, South Carolina
APRIL 23 - 26, 2020
CONFERENCE AGENDA

International Equine Films
Art Exhibitions
Panels & Presenters
Workshops & Demonstrations
Impacting Human Lives Through Horses



AIKEN
CENTER
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ARTS



Horse, Human and nature
William Kriegel Foundation

THURSDAY, APRIL 23:

Welcome and Special Presentation by Kate Tweedy

10:00am-6:00pm: Registration & Galleries Open

Aiken Center For The Arts, Main Gallery

Day & Evening Special Events for all Registered Delegates:

- Main Gallery Exhibition – **American Academy of Equine Art**, Juried Exhibition
- Brooks Gallery Exhibition - *Silent Witness* photographic essay of Saratoga Warhorse experience by Shelly Marshall Schmidt
- Self-guided and guided Bike Tours on Pedego Bikes available upon inquiry
- Walking Tours of Hitchcock Woods available upon inquiry
- Other events TBA

6:00-7:00pm: Welcome Reception & Celebration

Aiken Center For The Arts, Main Gallery

On the 50th anniversary of the birth of the most famous racehorse of all time, Secretariat, we honor the horse and Kate Tweedy, daughter of his owner Penny Chenery. It takes real “heart” for a racehorse to accomplish Secretariat’s achievements in racing history, and it seems only fitting that we open this conference to remember such a horse, with real “heart.” Browse the Main Gallery and Brooks Gallery exhibitions, mingle with participants, filmmakers, artists and speakers before Kate Tweedy’s presentation.

7:00-8:30pm: Keynote Speaker Kate Tweedy

Aiken Center for the Arts, Brown Pavilion

Come and meet Kate Tweedy as she talks about having a ring-side seat during Secretariat’s remarkable career. We will also have a special screening of the documentary of “Penny and Red” the life of Penny Chenery, the First Lady of Racing, by her son John Tweedy. Kate will share personal stories, anecdotes about filming the Disney movie Secretariat, and excerpts from her book “Secretariat’s Meadow.”



8:30-10:00pm: Special “Art & Equine” Film Screenings & Presentations
Aiken Center for the Arts, Brown Pavilion

A Cavallo del Tempo – 8:00 minutes

Riding through Time, the Art of Horse Riding from Antiquity to the Middle Ages is a multi-vision exhibition conceived and directed by Italian filmmaker, Gianmarco D'Agostino. The visual correspondence between the exhibits on display at the Uffizi Gallery in Florence and images from equine life paired with an immersive soundtrack enriches the audience exploration of the friendship between human and horse through the centuries.



Rainslide – 5:00 minutes

Presented by French artist and filmmaker Ariel Neo (Tentative)

A beautifully inspiring artistic presentation of music, art and the magnificence of the horse, “Rainslide” is nominated for Best Art Horse Film of EQUUS INTERNATIONAL Film Festival 2020, by French artist and filmmaker Ariel Neo.

Cobra: Wild to World Champion – 6:40 minutes

Introduced by Ashley Mancuso

Ashley Mancuso-Gold Medalist, Film Producer, Trainer and Yoga/Horse Expert Cobra – Wild to World Champion is the story of Cobra, the “three-strikes” mustang, adopted at a BLM auction by Florida-based trainer, Marsha Hartford-Sapp for \$125. Cobra went on to become a national western dressage champion and Breyer horse model. This short film also won top awards at the EQUUS INTERNATIONAL Film Festival 2019



FRIDAY, APRIL 24:

Stories of Healing and Hope Inspired by the Horse-Human Bond

9:00-9:30am: Registration, Coffee and Conversation

Aiken Center for the Arts, Brown Pavilion

9:30am-12:00pm: Films and Panel Discussions

Aiken Center for the Arts, Brown Pavilion

9:30-10:30am: Film

Special screening of the award-winning film, “**Riding with thisAbilities**” introduced by Alicia Kershaw, PATH-certified instructor, equestrian and co-founder of Gallop NYC



10:30-11:30am: Panel Discussion

Therapeutic Riding, Partnership of Body and Mind

A Special Video Introduction from Paralympian, Sydney Collier

Panelists: Eva Finnan-PATH Certified, Great Oak Therapeutic Riding Center

Alicia Kershaw, Gallop NYC/PATH Certified

Anja Cain – PATH Certified Instructor

Julie Robins - Therapeutic Riding Instructor

12:00-4:30pm: Great Oak Therapeutic Riding Center Tours & Workshops Great Oak Therapeutic Riding Center

Great Oak provides equine assisted programs that are the catalyst for unbridled personal growth and awareness within our expanding community. The Center strives to empower individuals with special needs and their families. Great Oak Equine Assisted Programs are located on a picturesque 40-acre farm, five minutes from downtown Aiken. The program aims to help students discover a new relationship with horses through thoughtful programs that guide and nurture the riders.

12:00pm: Shuttle to Great Oak Therapeutic Riding Center

12:30-1:00pm: Hosted Lunch at Great Oak

1:00pm: Tour/Demonstrations/Workshops at Great Oak Therapeutic Riding Center

- Observe a therapeutic riding lesson facilitated by PATH International Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor, Eva Finnan

2:00-4:00pm: Workshops (*pre-registration required*)

- Plein-Air and Photography Workshops
- Yoga on Horseback Workshop – Introduction to Yoga on Horseback with Ashley Mancuso
- Guided walking tour of Great Oak riding path

4:30pm: Shuttle returns to Aiken Center for the Arts

5:00-7:00pm: Explore historic Aiken/Dinner on your own

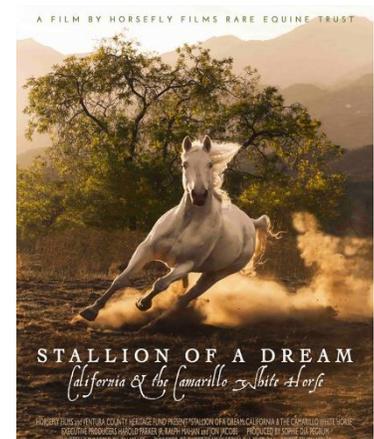
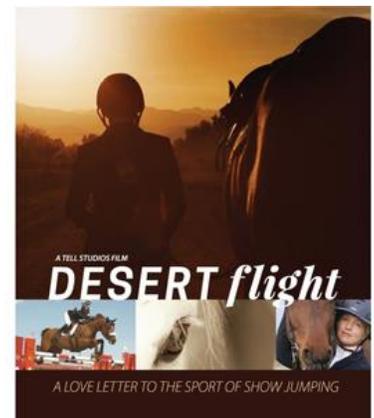
**7:00-10:00pm: Wine & Dessert Reception and Award-Winning Equine Films
Aiken Center for the Arts, Brown Pavilion**

7:00-8:00pm: Film

“Desert Flight” – Premier Aiken Film Screening & Q&A with the filmmakers. An inside look at the only Olympic sport to involve male, female and animal participants. The sport of show jumping relies on the unique relationship between horse and rider. In *Desert Flight* we see why people dedicate so much time, energy and resources to the equestrian life.

8:15-9:30pm: Film

Special Premier – EIFF 2020 Official Selection **“Stallion of a Dream”** - California and the Camarillo White Horse are the quintessential California story. From the 19th Century, Californians have sought a slicker means of locomotion, but before lowriders, hotrods and freeways, California was the birthplace of an endangered and rare horse breed that set it apart: The Camarillo White Horse. For a century, these horses, a vision of one man, have embodied the California dream to spectators worldwide. Today these living vessels of history battle time itself. Can these endangered horses survive the next decade, let alone the next century? *Stallion of a Dream* searches for answers.



SATURDAY, APRIL 25:
New Beginnings for Horse and Human

8:00-9:00am: Second Chance Horseback on Yoga Session with Ashley Mancuso

Great Oak Therapeutic Riding Center (*Limited Attendance, Pre-Registration Required*)

Ashley Mancuso is a horse trainer, USDF Gold Medalist, filmmaker and certified yoga instructor who uses yoga to facilitate a better, more natural connection between horse and rider. Ashley's documentary short and music video, "Cobra", received Best Festival Short Award at EQUUS INTERNATIONAL Film Festival 2019 and other top awards. The short doc is based on the transformation of a 3-strikes wild mustang to becoming a World Champion. Ashley hopes to continue her education in gentling, dressage, and remedial horse training in coordination with yoga practices.

10am-12:30pm: Films and Panel Discussions

Aiken Center for the Arts, Brown Pavilion

Day-long presentations of films, speakers, personal stories and panel discussions that explore the journey of people and horses, *on the trail* to better lives. For some, it's survival, for others, second, sometimes third chances, leading to new chapters and fresh beginnings. We open this day with a look into the world of wild horses – mustangs, icons of the west. In many parts of the horse world, they are little understood. Yet they are changing lives across the nation and around the world. They are in many ways, our champions, and there are as many people, becoming the *champions* of these incredible creatures.

10:00-10:45am: Film

"In the Wild, I Am Free"

America's Mustangs, a photographic presentation

Antonia Wolf has traveled the world in search of unforgettable imagery but it is her love of wild horses that has taken her for days on end across the western states in search of the wild bands of mustangs. Through her solo journeys, Antonia has learned what few others know of the mustangs – their lives, their loves, their battles and their will to survive.



11:00am-12:30pm: Round Table Discussion

What happens once the mustangs are rounded up and taken out of the wild by the Bureau of Land Management? America's wild mustangs are changing human lives and there are many individuals, who are changing theirs. Men and women who have felt the impacts of war, incarceration, emotional challenge and pain, are finding new paths forward through the horse. Many are rebuilding their lives. In this special roundtable, are woven stories of pain, healing, often redemption and most importantly, new beginnings.

Moderated by Janet Rose, Horse Haven Montana & EQUUS INTERNATIONAL Film Festival

- * Clare Staples, Founder of Skydog Sanctuary
- * Joe Misner, founder of Wild2Ride, working with inmates, veterans and wild horses
- * Melinda Corso, co-founder of Reins of Hope
- * Julie Robins - Saratoga Warhorse Project
- * Kriss Titus, Cathy Huddleston & Mark Miller, Michael's Foundation
- * Marsha Hartford-Sapp & Ashley Mancuso - Trainers



12:30-1pm: Lunch Break

1:00-5:00pm: Films and Panel Discussions

1:00-2:00pm: Film

“Wild: Goliath & Red Lady Reunited,”

Presented by Clare Staples, Skydog Sanctuary

Clare Staples left a life in Hollywood on a mission to save America’s wild mustangs. In this role, she founded Skydog Sanctuary, two rescue ranches (one in Oregon and one in California) for wild horses, where America’s captured mustangs live out their lives in near-freedom. Clare’s personal story of self-discovery and inner healing, offers new hope for the many hundreds of horses she and her team have saved and continue providing refuge to.



2:15-3:30pm: Film

“A Horse, A Convict, A Chance for Change”

Presented by Joe Misner

Joe can best be described as “partner” to America’s wild mustangs - He is an exceptional mustang a trainer who has helped to save and train many of our American treasures, the wild mustangs of the western U.S. But Joe has another distinction - giving many a man whose life has been broken by years of crime and incarceration the opportunity for a second chance to start a new and more hopeful chapter. Joe helped to establish a successful wild horse and inmate training program in California. Longing to return to Montana training mustangs, Joe has joined a new organization, *Reins of Hope*, headquartered in Missoula, Montana with Melinda and Rob Corso, co-founders. *Reins of Hope* is dedicated to adopting wild mustangs, training them and offering them for sale and adoption.



3:45-5:00pm: Film

“Honoring Veterans, Honoring Mustangs”

Many military veterans are suffering the effects of war. The suicide rate among veterans is high and thousands suffer in silence. Through the relationship that veterans develop with horses, however, a new world is opening for America's dedicated men and women.



Panel Co-Chairs: Joe Misner & Melinda Corso

Panelists: Julie Robins, Saratoga Warhorse Project

Kriss Titus, Michael’s Foundation

Cathy Huddleston, Michael’s Foundation

Mark Miller, Foundation supporting veterans’ programs

Shelley Marshall Schmidt

Time TBA: Evening Celebration and Special Presentation

Location TBA

Presenting Cobra, World Champion Mustang & Breyer Model with owner and trainer Marsha Hartford-Sapp. Marsha Hartford Sapp-Owner and Head Trainer at Southern Oaks Equestrian Center, Tallahassee, FL. USDF Gold Medalist, Multiple Time Winner of the Extreme Mustang Makeover Competition. Coach of the Florida State University Dressage Team.



SUNDAY, APRIL 26:

All day film screenings and presentation by Lex Hames

Award-Winning Film Screenings from EQUUS INTERNATIONAL*

* Titles may be subject to change and additional films may be scheduled

All are noted as to age-appropriateness/generally suitable for all ages

11:00am-8:00pm Films and Presentation by Lex Hames
Aiken Center for the Arts, Brown Pavilion

SPECIAL: Work in Progress: A Cowboy in China

Presented by Filmmaker, Author and former Montana working cowboy, Lex Hames (*pictured right*)

Don't Shoot the Zebra Pony – all ages

Gobi Gallop (Aiken Premier) – all ages

Talking to the Air (Aiken Premier) – all ages

Untrammled – all ages

Riding with thisAbilities – all ages

Cobra – Wild to World Champion - all ages

Wild: Goliath & Red Lady – all ages

A Horse, A Convict, a Chance for Change – all ages

Honoring Veterans, Honoring Mustangs – all ages

A Cavallo Del Tempo – all ages

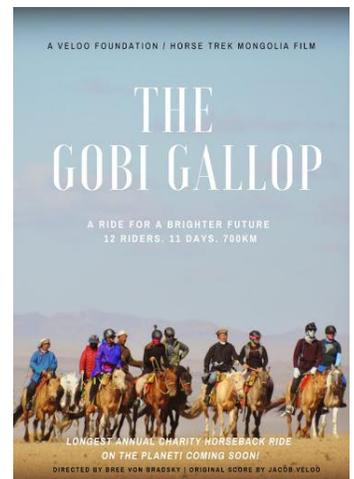
Boy Nomad – all ages

Dear Wild One featuring Mustang Maddie – all ages

Freedom Tracks, A Journey Guided by Horses – all ages

Penny & Red – all ages

500 Miles (Aiken Premier & EIFF 2020 Official Selection) – Adult



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