



*Leaders Of The Times—
November Calendar Feature:*

the COLOR of Fame

by Colleen Scott

Remember the old children's nursery rhyme, "One of these things is not like the other ..." Such musings can be made about the stallion featured this month in your *Arabian Horse Times* calendar. He is not like the others. He does stand out in a crowd. Not only is he not like the others because of his looks, but he is also not like the others because of his proven success as a breeding stallion.

The Color Of Fame (Colour Me Hot x Baroness Reverie) is not like the others. In a world of Arabian stallions, all producing fine, desirable get, The Color Of Fame stands out in the crowd. First, he is a Saddlebred stallion. Second, he is blessed with beautiful brown and white spots, the kind that accent his stunning swan-like neck and highlights his conformation as opposed to detracting from it. Then, there is his towering, yet elegant, size. Color stands at 17.3 hands, nearly guaranteeing the babies he throws will have the size many are looking for when breeding to a Saddlebred. Lastly, his get have achieved phenomenal success in the show ring. As of this year's U.S. Nationals, The Color Of Fame offspring have accumulated 154 National Top Ten awards in halter and performance, 29 National Championships and 17 Reserve National Championships. This is quite an achievement considering he has just 172 registered foals on the ground.

So, how did this Saddlebred come to be such an influential sire in the Arabian industry? As it turns out, it happened by accident. Rhonda Baptiste-Tanner and John Tanner weren't looking for a Saddlebred stallion, nor were they particularly

interested in owning one. "I think Rhonda and I were pretty committed to purebred Arabians when we first started out," says John Tanner. The two founded Serr'Raa Arabians (named for their first horse) in 2000, focusing their subsequent breeding efforts on Zimbolic PGN. "He was our first stallion and is wonderful," says Tanner. They continue to breed him to their own broodmares, sell breedings and campaign his get. Yet, in the midst of promoting Zimbolic, something else attracted their attention.

"In our first year of showing I kept seeing some wonderful Half-Arabians," says Tanner. "We had a Half-Arabian western horse and Larry Hoffman was showing a The Color Of Fame get that was beautiful. They were always competing against each other. I wanted a horse like that one, and every time I saw a Half-Arabian I really liked, it was the offspring of The Color Of Fame offspring," he says.

Coincidentally, others, including the judges, were noticing those show ring appearances. At the age of 8, The Color Of Fame was the leading sire of national-winning Half-Arabian halter horses. By the age of 10, his get, particularly the daughters, were making a statement to the Arabian community. At the 2004 U.S. Nationals, Fames Serenade (The Color Of Fame x Sunhi Ddancer) solidified Color's place in the Arabian community when she captured three major championships in a row. Serenade wore the roses in Half-Arabian Mares Stock/Hunter Type Open and Amateur, as well as in the Half-Arabian Futurity Fillies class. In an amazing



The Color Of Fame (Colour Me Hot x Baroness Reverie).

virtual sweep of the big prizes, The Color Of Fame get were also named to the Reserve Champion titles in all three classes, with DR Gilty Pleasures (x Alovale) taking Reserve in the Half-Arabian Mare Halter Stock/Hunter Amateur class and the Half-Arabian Futurity Filly class, and The Heiress To Fame (x DR Fostoria Doll) going Reserve Champion in the Half-Arabian Halter Open Mare Stock/Hunter Type class. The 2004 Nationals was also memorable as the first of The Color Of Fame's performance horses captured Top Ten awards, including MR Nice Guy, AW Fames Ovation and SP Fortune Five Hundred. Clearly, the Arabian community learned, this horse could produce winners in both halter and performance. He was different from the others.

Fate intervened later in 2004 when Tanner delivered a horse for training to Shada, Inc., and learned The Color Of Fame was in the barn. "It was a huge 'wow' factor when I first saw him. It is hard to find the words to describe what it feels like when you first see him—huge, gorgeous, and he has such a presence about him that it stops you in your tracks," he says. "A few months later, The Color Of Fame became available for purchase and we were able to make the arrangements to purchase him. It has been an exciting ride since then," he says.

The offspring of The Color Of Fame have continued their unparalleled success at the national level. In 2005, four of the Top Ten in the Half-Arabian Stock/Hunter Type Open class were sired by The Color Of Fame. In 2006, at Youth Nationals, The Color Of Fame offspring captured Top Ten awards in halter, western pleasure, hunter pleasure and walk/trot. DR Gilty Pleasures was named Champion Mare Stock/Hunter Type JTH 17 & Under.

His get and their owners continued enjoying being in the winner's circle at the 2006 Canadian Nationals where The Color Of Fame get won Top Ten titles in eight performance classes and six halter classes. DR Gilty Pleasures was named Reserve Champion Mare Stock/Hunter Type in the amateur class, and Fames Reflection (x Dancing Inthedark) captured the Championship title in the Open class. At the recent U.S. Nationals, The Color Of Fame get were in the Top Ten 17 times with PKH Touch of Fame wearing the Reserve Championship garland in the Half-Arabian Gelding Halter Stock/Hunter Type Amateur class.

Has all the success gone to his head? Not according to Tanner, who describes the stallion as being a gentle giant. "The Color Of Fame loves to be scratched," he says. "If I am in his stall scratching him and stop, he curls his neck around my body trying to get me to start up again. Everyone loves him. We have had tons of offers from people to keep him for free. They just want him around because he is so delightful in the barn."

Clearly, The Color Of Fame has rapidly become a well-liked and well-respected household name in the Arabian industry, *consistently* producing what is most sought-after by many in breeding Half-Arabians: beauty, size, good conformation and, most importantly, good temperament.

Consistency, as well as trainability, is key to The Color Of Fame's popularity as a breeding stallion. At the 2004 Scottsdale Show, the Tanners took Fames Reflection. As Tanner recalls, "In her class, Senior Half-Arabian Stock/Hunter Type Mares, there were seven national champions competing and all were his get. DR Gilty Pleasures won the class and Reflection took Reserve. During that class, Rhonda looked at me and said, 'All The Color Of Fame get look the same.' That's the point—he is a consistent producer of correct, athletic and beautiful Half-Arabians."

As for the trainability aspect, Tanner says, "We are delighted that The Color Of Fame's offspring have done so well in the show ring. We are even happier that the people who own these horses and the trainers that work with them are happy as well. His offspring seem to have his easy-going manners and have the right kind of mindset to be trained. I think he is to the Half-Arabian industry what Magnum Psyche is to the purebreds. He produces wonderful foals that are extremely correct in their conformation, and they often have color, which makes them stand out in a crowd. Spots or not, he's producing nothing but winners."

What does the future hold for The Color Of Fame and Serr'Raa Arabians? The Tanners plan to continue sharing The Color Of Fame with clients and fellow Half-Arabian enthusiasts, trying to help them produce the horses of their dreams. As Tanner says, "I get so excited when our clients realize their goals. I even had a client call me at 2 a.m., because she knew I would share her enthusiasm in finally getting the horse she had wanted. Rhonda and I consider it a great honor to own The Color Of Fame, and we are excited about all the opportunities for us and our clients that lie ahead. How many times in your life do you get the chance to own a stallion like him?"