

# The Global Influence of *El Shaklan*

To say that \*El Shaklan was the most influential Arabian stallion of the last century is quite a statement, but I believe that there are few people who would disagree with me. \*El Shaklan single-handedly moved the breed forward and created the standard that we seek today in our modern show horses. His blood runs deep through many of the most successful horses of our time. Versace, Valentino, WH Justice, Ajman Monescione, Abha Qatar, MA Shadow El Sher, Sanadik El Shaklan, Om El Shahmaan, Lady Veronika and El Dorada all have one thing in common: they have \*El Shaklan in their pedigree. His influence spans the globe and there is not a place where Arabians are bred that you will not find a part of him. \*El Shaklan himself was very tall and incredibly charismatic. His back was very short and his hip long with a wonderfully high-set tail. He had a beautiful face and the sweetest disposition. He knew when to be a show horse and when it was time to be a family horse.

The incredible thing about this stallion is that you can see his look in generation after generation. It is a look unique to this breeding programme. He has stamped his descendents with his look and he has created his own particular brand name wherever you go in the world. \*El Shaklan was born in the Black Forest of Germany on our farm, Om El Arab. My mother, Sigi, had bred Shaker El Masri to \*Estopa twice before. Two incredible fillies named Estasha and Estawa were born of this cross. The third foal was the amazing colt that she named \*El Shaklan. It was the first time in history that a breeder had chosen to combine Spanish and Egyptian blood. Sigi followed her instincts and did something that was totally against the establishment. History has proven that she not only bred some nice horses, but that she created a new look that has endured four decades later.



\*El Shaklan



Sigi with \*El Shaklan

Words by Janina Merx

\*El Shaklan has touched so many people on many different levels since his birth in 1975. On a personal level, I must express my gratitude to him. Without him, I would not be the person that I am today. I was also born in 1975 and have never known a time without him. He gave my family everything. We moved from Germany to the United States because of him. We bought the farm that is still the home of the Om El Arab breeding programme today because



MA Shadow El Sher



Eagleridge Passionata



Om El Shadina



Om El Extreem

of him. He paid for my university education, my first car and the list goes on, even today. I can look out of the window as I write this and admire the incredible view of the farm that we have because of \*El Shaklan. He truly has given me an identity and a sense of belonging to something larger than life. I can go to any show in the world and admire his descendents. I feel that they are a part of our family. And I feel like I am truly blessed.

\*El Shaklan has touched the lives and breeding programmes of many so other people as well. Joanna and Pat Maxwell had the foresight to see in the yearling \*El Shaklan, a stallion that they wanted to incorporate into their own world-famous breeding programme at Lodge Farm. They leased him for two years and created the first \*El Shaklan children. In 1976, \*El Shaklan would have looked very different to the horses that were being bred and it was a bold move for them to incorporate this very different type of stallion, but it shaped their breeding programme. Among the resulting foals was the multiple-champion and champion producer Maleik El Kheil, who is still going strong at 31 years old and now lives in the Middle East. Later on, the Maxwell's bred Atlantica who, among

other wins, was World Champion Mare. Amir El Shaklan also resulted from a mating during this time. His dam was bred to El Shaklan at the Ascot Show ground and then exported to Australia with Amir El Shaklan in utero. He became the Leading Sire of Champions in Australia, a title that remains today. This brings me to talk about \*El Shaklan's impact in Australia. I visited the land down under in 1999 and had the pleasure of going to a horse show. While watching a filly class, a person that I didn't know came up to me and said: "How does it feel to look at this class of 20 fillies and know that 18 of them carry \*El Shaklan in their genes?" I will never forget the emotions I felt as that statement hit

home... What can I say about the Australians other than they are huge fans of \*El Shaklan and I love them for it!

There are numerous other important relatives that have carried the torch for \*El Shaklan in Australia: Mahabi El Shaklan, SK Shakla Khan, Om El Shareikh, Om El Abadan, Sanadik Ibn Estopa, Simeon Saar, Espano Estopa, Famemaker and Eagleridge Passionata are just a few that spring to mind.

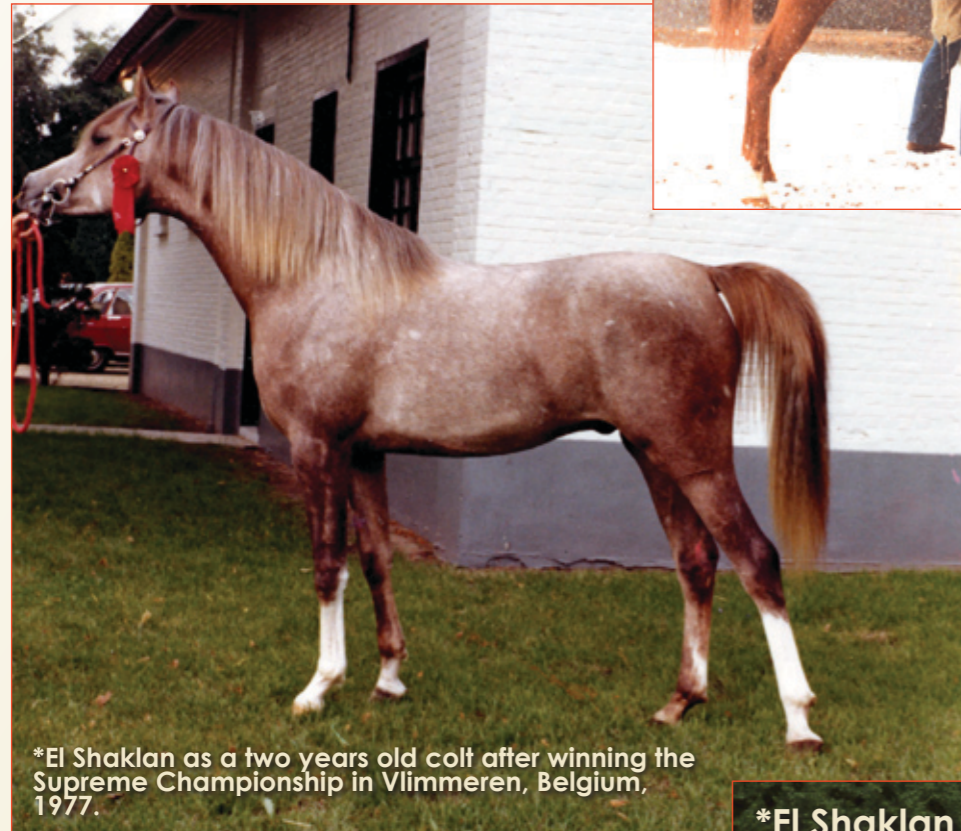
Another breeder with foresight was Lenita Perroy, found in a different part of the world, Brazil. Much of her early success as a breeder was due to her combining two \*El Shaklan daughters, Naharra El Shaklan and Lydira El Shaklan, bred by Om El Arab, with \*Ali Jamaal. She bred many of her mares to \*El Shaklan and if one looks closely at the pedigrees of some of her famous horses, you will see the name \*El Shaklan. Most people have heard of the stallions \*Riyadh El Jamaal, Ludjin El Jamaal and Ninja El Jamaal and, yes, you have got it: they all have \*El

show scene. In more recent years, a mare named Om El Sanadiva (by \*Sanadik El Shaklan) created a name for herself. She was World Junior Champion Filly and her first colt, FS Bengali, was US National Champion Stallion. Sanadiva was honoured for her Elite title in Germany at the 2009 All Nations Cup. Another filly that influenced the European show scene with her incredible type and charisma was Essteema. She was the first ever female Triple



Crown in history, taking the crown in 1999. She is by Essteem who is out of Espressa by none other than \*El Shaklan.

A stallion named El Mokhari (\*El Shaklan x Mohena), a full brother to \*Sanadik El Shaklan, has been the love of the Danish people for many years. If one looks closely at the pedigrees of Danish breeders, El Mokhari is generally in there. Sweden has had two \*Sanadik El Shaklan sons, Ffatal Attraction (now owned by Peakland Arabians in the UK) and Om El



Tanam, both of whom have made an impact. \*El Shaklan's contribution to Poland's horses has manifested itself in the incredible El Dorada (by \*Sanadik El Shaklan). She has

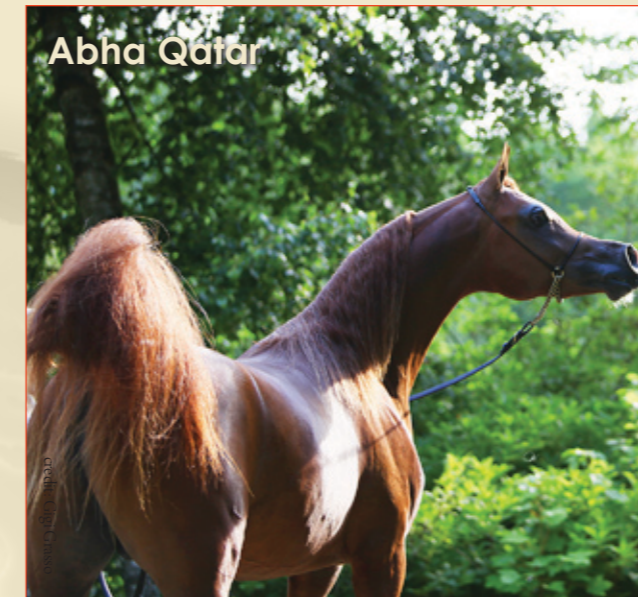
many titles to her name including Polish National Champion and US National Champion Mare. Her son El Palacio is also making



a name for himself in the show-rings of the Middle East and Europe. El Dorada herself has many wonderful attributes from her famous dam, Emigrantka, but she is undoubtedly Shaklan in type.

Janow Podlaski recently leased Om El Bellissimo, by Om El Shahmaan (by \*Sanadik El Shaklan), for two breeding seasons. Bellissimo has \*El Shaklan in his pedigree three times. We are happily anticipating the offspring and we cannot wait to see what type of an impact this young stallion will have in the future of the Polish horse not just for now, but in the future as well.

Marietta Salas of the famed Ses Planes in Mallorca has enjoyed recent success with a young stallion that exudes the Shaklan type, none other than the current Triple Crown Colt Abha Qatar, owned by Al Mohamadiah Stud, who has the Shaklan influence through his maternal grandsire Ludjin El Jamaal. As an aside, I must note that there have only ever been three Triple Crown Colts: Essteem, MA Shadow El Sher (by El Sher-Mann



by \*El Shaklan) and Abha Qatar. Their common thread, other than their three prestigious wins, is that they all are related to \*El Shaklan. Marietta also owns the beautiful Om El Amira Estopa (\*Sanadik El Shaklan x Bint Estopa by \*El Shaklan), a mare whose name can be found in pedigrees all across Europe, the US and Australia.



available and several US breeders could fulfil their dreams. It was very special to see a new born filly by \*El Shaklan just last summer, 34 years after his birth.

\*El Shaklan's most famous relative



in the United States, one that did make it into the mainstream consciousness, has been Versace. Versace is out of the ethereal \*El Shaklan daughter, Precious as Gold. Valentino is a Versace son that has been National Champion many times and his get are winning honours all over the country. The extremely typey Versace son Master Design GA made his way to the UK,

taking the Supreme British National Championship and British National Senior Male Championship, the Emerald Cup Senior

Male Championship and Supreme Championship as well as being placed second in both Dubai and Sharjah while still a young colt. His progeny are continually winning in the UK and Europe. Meanwhile, the beautiful Ladi Veronika, by Versace, was Reserve World Champion Mare last year in Paris. She is a vision in white and has the same charisma and type that made \*El Shaklan famous.

\*Sharem El Sheikh (by \*El Shaklan) won 17 Championships in the United States including unanimous Scottsdale

and Om El Excella.

There is one current phenomenon sweeping the world and his name is WH Justice. His dam, Vona Sher-Renea is by the \*El Shaklan son, El Sher-mann. Justice has been coined the "champion maker" and that truly is just what he is. His sons and daughters, and now their

\*El Shaklan's bloodlines can be found in the stables all over the Middle East. They have been purchased as show horses or breeding

full sister, has made an impact on the scene as well, being the sire of AS Natsir Apal, found in the lines of many recent show winners.



Venezia

Champion Stallion. His daughters are now coveted broodmares around the United States and can be found in the lineage of many modern show winners.



Ladi Veronika

US National Champion, Eternity, is \*Sharem El Sheikh's most famous son. We have several "Sheikh" daughters on our farm that we have bred back to \*Sanadik El Shaklan or Om El Shahmaan. Some of the more well-known horses resulting from these specific lines are Om El Bernadette, Om El Extrem, Om El Exquisit, Om El Bellissimo



Master Design GA



Versace

children, dominate the show scene with their incredible type and fabulous charisma. The WH Justice get carry the undeniable Shaklan stamp.

On the home front, I can go on and on about the influence of \*El Shaklan. His son \*Sanadik El Shaklan was our head sire at Om El Arab for many years. His son Om El Shahmaan, this edition's cover horse, has stepped into his sire and grandsire's giant hoof prints and is doing so with grace and competence. His grandson Om El Bellissimo has big dreams to live up to in Poland, but we believe that he is up for the task.

Om El Extrem, on lease to Ajman Stud, has done very well in the last few years. He has been Spanish National Champion and was also Champion Stallion in Sharjah this year. Om El Shadina and Om El Bernadette live in Saudi Arabia at the Al Khalediah Farm; this is the same stud that owned Om El Abadan, Supreme National Champion of Saudi Arabia, until his death a few years ago. Al Shaqab Stud also own several mares of \*El Shaklan descent that were purchased to breed



WH Justice



Ludjin El Jamaal

\*El Shaklan's international appeal is undeniable. With his birth, a new type of Arabian horse was created. No one could have known in the mid-1970s that when my mother followed her heart and bred this young colt named \*El Shaklan that he would have an impact as incredible as this. From the quiet solitude of the Black Forest, \*El Shaklan came forth and his look, his charisma

to their stallions. This includes the most beautiful multiple-champion mare, Venezia who is double \*El Shaklan being by Versace (ex Precious As Gold) and out of Giavanna, who is also out of Precious As Gold.

I also must mention the great mare Navaroné-P. Although she does not have \*El Shaklan in her pedigree, she does have Ibn Estopa in her lines, himself a World Champion Stallion and a full brother to \*El Shaklan. Navaroné-P is the dam of Escape Ibn Navaroné-D and Eternity Ibn Navaroné-D, both World Champion Stallions. So the blood of \*El Shaklan really is truly found everywhere. Ibn Estasha, out of \*El Shaklan's



Maleik El Kheil

and his personality touched the world. He changed the face of the Arabian horse world as we knew it and I look forward to seeing how his impact will endure in the long-lasting legacy that is the Arabian breed. ❖