

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 that 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 Veronica 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 program. He has stamped his descendants with his look and has created a 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 Siller, 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 chose 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 created a new look that has endured four decades later.

*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 program today because 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 descendants. 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 programs of many 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 program 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 program. Among the resulting foals was the multi-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

Showgrounds 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 Shaklakh, Om El Shareikh, Om El Abadan, Sanadik Ibn Estopa, Simeon Saar, Espano Estopa, Famemaker and Eagleridge Passionata are a few that come to mind.

Another breeder with foresight was Lenita Perroy, found in a different part of the world. 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, Ludjn El Jamaal and Ninja El Jamaal and, yes, you have got it, they all have *El Shaklan in their genes.

It was a very difficult time for my family when *El Shaklan was sold to Najib Audi and sent to Brazil. But as an adult, I can see now that it was a way to share him with the world. Once he went to Brazil, and later on to Argentina, he became a beloved horse to breeders in South America. He would have never been able to influence that continent in the way he did had he not spent the majority of his life there. World Junior and Scottsdale Champion, ZT Shakfantasy, for example, was bred in Argentina by Count Federico Zichy Thysson, and he is just one of many horses bred on this continent. *El Shaklan was cared for well and honored for his accomplishments by the Count and his staff. It was reassuring to my Mother to know that *El Shaklan lived a happy life in Argentina, which is where he ended his days.

Early on, *El Shaklan and his descendents dominated Europe's 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 honored 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 Esteema. She was the first ever female Triple Crown in history. She is by Esteem 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 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's undoubtedly Shaklan in type.

Janow Podlaski recently leased Om El Bellissimo (by Om El Shahmaan) for two breeding seasons. Bellissimo has *El Shaklan in his pedigree three times. We are happily anticipating the offspring and can't 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 famous Ses Planes in Mallorca has enjoyed recent success with a young stallion that exudes the Shaklan type, none other than Triple Crown Champion Abha Qatar, owned by Al Mohamadia Stud, who has the *El Shaklan influence from his maternal grandsire Ludjin El Jamaal. As an aside, I must say that there have only ever been four Triple Crown Colts in Europe. Their names are Esteem, Shadow El Sher, Abha Qatar and Aja Justified. Their common thread, other than their four prestigious wins, is that they all are related to *El Shaklan. Marietta also owns the beautiful Om El Amira Estopa (by *Sanadik El Shaklan) who can be found in pedigrees all over Europe, the US and Australia.

Diego Mendez of Spain purchased Estawan Shaklan many years ago for his incredible breeding program. Upon his retirement, Complutum Arabians acquired his entire herd. They also bought Om El Extreem to breed to the "Mendez" herd, multiplying the influence of *El Shaklan in their horses.

Interestingly it has taken one country a long time to truly appreciate *El Shaklan and that is the United States of America. He was in the US for almost four years, bred hundreds of mares and was named US Top Ten twice, even placing 3rd on the cards. But it was a different era than it is now. Horses like Aladdin, Strike, Kaset, and Bask were the ideal and although *El Shaklan had a huge fan club; he never became a mainstream stallion in the US. His impact on North America was transferred onto his children and grandchildren. He did have a revival when his frozen semen became available and several US breeders could fulfill their dreams. It was very special to see a new born filly by *El Shaklan just last summer, thirty-four 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 honors all over the country. The beautiful Lady Veronica, 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.

*Shareem El Sheikh (by *El Shaklan) won 17 Championships in the United States including unanimous Scottsdale Champion Stallion. His daughters are now coveted broodmares around the United States and can be found in the lineage of many modern show winners. US National Champion, Eternety, is *Shareem 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 Extreem, Om El Exquisit, Om El Bellissimo and Om El Excella.

There is one phenomenon sweeping the world and his name is WH Justice. His Dam, Von 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 children, dominate the show scene with their incredible type and fabulous charisma. The WH Justice get carries 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 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 he’s up for the task.

*El Shaklan’s bloodlines can be found in the stables all over the Middle East. They have been purchased as show horses or breeding stock and are representing their heritage well. Om El Extreem, on lease to Ajman Stud, has done very well in the last few years. He was Spanish National Champion and Champion Stallion in Sharjah this year. Om El Shadina and Om El Bernadette live in Saudi Arabia at Al Khalediah; this is the same farm that owned Om El Abadan, Supreme National Champion of Saudi Arabia, until his death a few years ago. Al Shaqab Stud owns several mares of *El Skaklan descent that were purchased to breed to their stallions. This includes the beautiful multi-champion mare, Venetzia who is double *El Shaklan being by Versace (ex Precious As Gold) and out of Giovanna, who is also out of Precious As Gold.

I also must mention the great Mare Navarone-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. Navarone-P is the Dam of Escape Ibn Navarone-D and Eternety Ibn Navarone-D, both World Champion Stallions. So the blood of *El Shaklan is truly found everywhere. Ibn Estasha, out of *El Shaklan’s 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.

*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 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.