

## **WH Justice: The Champion Champion-Maker**

Words by Samantha Mattocks

**It would be very difficult to have missed the impact that WH Justice has had on the Arabian horse breed in recent years. At just 12 years old, WH Justice has become a worldwide phenomenon and, in September this year, he made a triumphant return to the All Nations' Cup show-ring, where he was garlanded in gold by the judges and given a standing ovation by the audience. While Sunday 25 September 2011 may have been a day of Justice, this incredible stallion's reach goes much further than that show-ring in Aachen.**

It was 2005 that the WH Justice phenomenon began. That was the year that the world quietly changed, and three of his get made their way into the European show-rings – and started winning. Menton saw the paternal half-siblings Bess Fa'Izah and Ajman Moniscione take a Reserve Junior Female title and Junior Male title respectively. The beautiful Bess Fa'Izah (ex Sharon El Kendal x Ass-Kendal out of Ass-Fialka), foaled in 2004, would add Junior Female Championship titles from the El-ran Cup and the All Nations' Cup as well as the Reserve Junior Female World Championship, to her name before the year was out. Ajman Moniscione (ex Anthea Moniscione by Padrons Ghibli out of Armonia) would take further titles at the All Nations' Cup and the European Championships, that of Reserve Junior Male. And it would be at that European Championships that the third of this phenomenal WH Justice get would make her debut: Panarea by Palawan (ex Palawan by Padrons Ghibli out of Petreena), who took the Junior Female Championship. Six years later, these names have become household names, and between them, they have taken a multitude of titles on three continents. In 2006, Bess Fa-Izah memorably went World Champion Filly with Panarea by Palawan standing Reserve, a magical moment for all that were there. Bess Fa-Izah would add further World titles, winning the Arabian Breeders' World Cup Champion Mare and Paris World Champion Mare in 2010, while Panarea by Palawan won the Arabian Breeders' World Cup and US National Champion Mare titles this year. Not only that, they have been joined by a rising number of WH Justice-sired champions, including the feminine FM Gloriaa (ex Psity of Angels), the 2009 All Nations' Cup Gold Champion Filly and Silver World Champion Filly, as well as the 2010 European Gold Champion Filly. Also of note is the current World Champion Colt being Aja Justified (ex Aja Beneja by FS Bengali out of G Estarreja), who also won the 2101 Junior Male Triple Crown title; Shanghai EA (ex Salymah EA) is waiting in the wings, to take both titles this year.

Before we continue to look at the success of WH Justice as a sire, it is important to look at the stallion himself and revisit his history. For while the cheers and cries from Aachen may still be present in our memory, the story of WH Justice goes back much further than this.

Born in the US in 1999, WH Justice was bred by Wen Hensell, who had leased Vona Sher-Renea, owned by David and Jo Anne Goodrich, for several years. Sired by Magnum Psyche (ex A Fancy Miracle by Sasaki out of Medina Azahara), this line gives WH Justice the much-admired lines of Padrons Psyche and, in turn, the equally admired and important lines of Padron, Odessa and Aswan. WH Justice's dam is Vona Sher-Renea (El Sher-Mann x Renea by Jassen out of Shamillazzan) and it is through her sire that the El Shaklan is introduced into WH Justice's pedigree. A classical mix of Spanish and Crabbet lines, with the Spanish also coming through A Fancy Miracle, WH Justice also has Egyptian lines in his pedigree, making his a potent mix. WH Justice was spotted by Catherine and Thierry Kerjean of Equid System Ltd, who saw him on a video when he was still a foal. "We fell in love with him," smiles Catherine. "He was just four months old when we arranged the deal to bring him to Europe, and since his arrival with us, he has never let us down, not only as a sire and a show horse, but as a character, too."

WH Justice has only graced the show-ring a few times in his 12 years, which is why there was standing room only on Aachen Sunday this year when he took the championship title. A Top Ten yearling colt at Scottsdale, as well as Top Ten Magnum Psyche Futurity, WH Justice has been three times a World Top Ten, in 2001, in 2002 and 2004; in 2002 and 2004, he also, deservedly and rightly, took the Best Head Award. 2004 also saw WH Justice crowned UK International Arabian Horse Show Champion Stallion and Reserve European Champion Stallion, as well as Top Five Stallion at the All Nations' Cup. Other results at this time include: 2000 Top Five Colt, Aachen; 2001 National Reserve Champion Colt, Città Di Castello, Italy, and Top Five Colt, European Championships; and 2002 Reserve Champion Colt, Bordeaux, and European Top Five Colt.

With WH Justice's stock doing so well at the shows and representing this stallion - who was swiftly becoming a legend in his own right - he enjoyed a break from the show-ring, returning for the 2008 Menton Show. Here, he won his class and the Most Beautiful Head award before claiming the Silver Senior Male Championship and the title of Best European Horse. In addition, and almost more importantly, WH Justice also won a new legion of fans among those that had never seen him before. Rumours have frequently circulated since that WH Justice would return to the show-ring and peoples' wish finally came true as he entered the All Nations' Cup arena a matter of months ago.

The Arabian Magazine write up from that show read: "All eyes were on the entrance to the ring and as WH Justice made his way in, the level of noise from the crowd was just incredible. Verdi's Triumphal Chorus was drowned as people cheered and applauded this living legend, the fleabitten grey with the distinctive bloody shoulder that has changed the shape of the breed. There are few in the world that cannot acknowledge that WH Justice has had a phenomenal impact on the showing world.... In the championships, with four votes from six, WH Justice was called forward as Gold Senior Male. The scenes that followed were incredible: the song Sex Bomb once again played

and everyone in the room got to their feet, clapping along to the song and giving this amazing stallion a standing ovation as his handler walked him for a very special lap of honour around the ring. This was everyone's chance to say thank you to a living legend, and to show their appreciation for all that he has achieved and all the wonderful horses he has sired. For anyone at this year's show, this was a special moment that happens so very rarely, and it is one that will be treasured forever by his connections."

So what is it about this stallion that makes him so special? To look at WH Justice is breathtaking. His head and neck are among the best in the world by modern standards – in Aachen, he scored straight 20s for this category, as well as straight 20s for type – and his neck is renowned for coming cleanly up and out of his shoulder, and having the 'hooky, swan-like' feature that is so admired by many. WH Justice can certainly move, too, dispelling any notion that he might be just a 'pretty face'. Indeed, Catherine and Thierry are both huge endurance fans and compete in the sport regularly, and Catherine says that Thierry rides Justice whenever he can, something that they both love.

WH Justice has that distinctive bloody shoulder, which is seen as a sign of courage in Arabian horse legends, and is, put simply, one of the most beautiful fleabitten grey stallions in the world today.

However, in this modern world, being a beautiful stallion is not enough; he needs to be a good sire, too, and for his progeny to regularly declare their sire's virtues on a regular basis. And this is where WH Justice has come into his own. Since 2005, WH Justice has been dubbed 'the champion maker' and looking down his list of winning progeny, this is certainly true. A cursory glance shows the following winners and champions in recent years: Abha Opalina (ex Om El Amira Estopa); ADH Just Devine (ex ADH Psyches Passion); AJ Bintan (ex RGA Kouress); AJ Dinar (ex Deske HJE); Aja Adonis (ex Sanadina); Aja Angelica (ex FS Anastasia); Aja Angelo (ex Aja Aaisha); Aja Aphrodite (ex Lovin Psyche SSA); Aja Justified (ex Aja Beneja); Ajman Monsicione (ex Anthea Moniscione); Al Justice (ex Milena); Al Princess Aliha (ex Al Aliha); Al Aryam Neama (ex Wideta); Altis (ex Albia); ASH Dream of Glory (ex Donna Diva); AV Montoya (ex Metelica); Bess-Fa'izah (ex Sharon El Kendal); CR Jasmeenah (ex Fforget Me Not); DA Princess of Justice (ex DA Enfidha); Eliza Bey SWF (ex Natalia Bey), a noteworthy filly foal; Fedora RG (ex Psyches Angel); Fer Fiera Blanca (ex Clio Fiera Blanca); FM Gloriaa (ex Psity of Angels); FS Velvet (ex La Dolce Vita); Just Imagine Joy (ex MVA Thee Love Affair); Justilicious (ex TM Valencia); Justine DG (ex Psylent Heartbeat); Juwanda OS (ex Shak Lavanda); Juwel OS (ex Swana); Kaliope EA (ex Kudola Kossack); LA Karat (ex LA Kalahari); Lance Lord OS (ex Swana); MM Elusie (ex Esfera); Nustice Kossack (ex Naomi C Kossack); Panarea By Palawan (ex Palawan); Redwood Lodge Cotton Candy (ex Redwood Lodge Antiguaa); Redwood Lodge Masala Estopa (ex Om El Amira Estopa); Redwood Lodge Saffron (ex Redwood Lodge Antiguaa); Rough Justice (ex Nadjana Bint Nadir); RP Miss Surprise (ex Nefertarji); SG Amber Djewel (ex Djewel); SG Imagine (ex SG Hessta Shaklana); Shah Adel (ex Astara); Shangai EA (ex Salymah EA);

Taralea Justify (ex Redwood Lodge Cabreaa); Turchiya MPE (ex Thee Rahiba); Vision of Justice (ex Exquisite Dream); and Yusty F (ex Yzy F). This is not a complete list, and I am certain to have missed out some which have also enjoyed great success, but these winning progeny do underline the significance of WH Justice as a sire. These are horses that are found in all four corners of the globe, such is the immense appeal of this stallion. While Justice is a great sire and a champion he is, above all, 'just' a horse and Catherine and Thierry ensure that he is well cared for. "He has a wonderful character and he likes to be with humans, often playing in the field with somebody. He is an exceptionally kind horse and you can ask anything of him. Mix this with his charisma and his wonderful showy attitude and you have a great horse. WH Justice currently lives in Germany with Frank Spönle for show training, and we do miss him while he is away. "Aachen was a wonderful moment for us, and we have watched the video over and over again. It was just an incredible experience and we were amazed at the response the audience gave him. We are very proud that he is adding to the story of the Arabian horse, and to see his sons and daughters winning the world over is like a dream." With history still being made, the WH Justice story certainly looks to be one that will continue for many years ahead. Catherine is quick to add, however, that the stallion has nothing to prove, not to themselves and certainly not to anyone else. "He is just our Justice. We are blessed to have had him in our lives for so long, and we look forward to the future together, wherever that path will lead us."