

Christi Proctor talks to Equine VIP

by Susan Ashbrook,, owner Equine VIP

Interior Designer, Christi Proctor brings her Texas-size imagination and winning personality to TLC's Trading Spaces. While Trading Spaces is her national debut, Christi also has a background in performance, having been a singer her entire life. Proctor's design work displays a mix of charm from varied Texas cultures, the old West and Europe. For more about Christi www.christiproctor.com

1. WHEN DID YOU START RIDING AND CAN YOU SHARE ANY SPECIAL MEMORIES? I have been horse obsessed my entire life! My father is a minister and we never lived in anything but church owned parsonages growing up That meant no land and no horses. I was really good, however, at choosing friends or boyfriends with horses! Before I started reining, I never did much more than trail riding.

2. WHY DID YOU PICK REINING VERSUS OTHER DISCIPLINES OF RIDING? I knew I wanted to ride Western and knew I wanted to REALLY learn to ride well. I had a friend that was just getting into reining and she suggested it. Reining is definitely not an easy sport. You and the horse are equally responsible for a quality ride. You can have the best reiner out there but if you don't know how to "push the right buttons" you are not going to get very far! The first time a horse spun for me, I WAS HOOKED!

3. THE FAMOUS "SLIDE" THAT REINING HORSES PERFORM LOOKS PRETTY SCARY FROM THE SIDELINES! TELL US ABOUT YOUR FIRST "SLIDE" The slide was the scariest part of reining for me...the reason was the speed. I had to REALLY develop my seat before I could really get to slide. It takes a reasonable amount of speed for a horse to be able to properly slide in a stop. The first time I actually sat my slide properly and felt a real sliding stop was an AMAZING rush!! It was SUCH a feeling of accomplishment! It is a great feeling to finally click with your horse and "feel" and "click" with them! I have not been afraid of the speed since!!

4. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR HORSE? Well, you have to know this first... Everyone knows that Twist is my BOYFRIEND!

He is SUCH a wonderful horse! He is a beautiful palomino. His registered name is Dun A Little Twist and he is out of Dun It With A Twist and Little Dry Oak. He is around 14-2 or 14-3 hands...perfect reining size. I have only had him a few months but I am already putty in his hands! He is a really big stopper and my trainer, Terry Thompson, and I are so thrilled with how well rounded his skills are. He is a nice quiet, forgiving 7 year old gelding and I am looking SO forward to showing him this next year... It also doesn't hurt that he likes attention and lets me love on him!

5. YOU ARE A BUSY LADY - DESIGNING HOMES FOR CLIENTS, WIFE, MOTHER.... HOW DO YOU FIND THE TIME TO RIDE? Honestly, I just MAKE time! Since Twist lives with my trainer in Whitesboro (three hours north of me) I make a day of it once a week if I can. I try really hard to schedule my appointments around my "boyfriend" days! My facebook friends all know that when I mention boyfriend time in my status updates it's my horse I am referring too! My husband and I work together so we juggle schedules around each other. He has his golf and his hunting and I have my Twist! Our son, JT, spends equal time with us both and enjoys our hobbies as well. Who knows, maybe he'll show reiners one day!?

6. YOU RECENTLY RODE AT THE NRHA'S "CELEBRITY SLIDE" FOR THE MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION. SHOULD WE WATCH FOR YOU AT OTHER RIDING COMPETITIONS? That was SUCH a wonderful experience! The Make A Wish kids and families I met are now permanent friends. I fell in love with them all!

7. WE HAD THE PLEASURE OF WATCHING YOU PRACTICE WITH YOUR TRAINER, TERRY THOMPSON. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT HIM AND ANY TIPS YOU'VE LEARNED FROM HIM? Terry is an icon in the reining and appaloosa arenas. I believe he has been showing and training since he was 17. He is, in my opinion, a premiere non-pro coach. He is tough, positive and always has his client and horses best interests at heart. He is AMAZING at



matching riders and horses. This is my second horse with him and both suggestions have been right on the mark! I know with Terry that his goal is for our success and he is dedicated to us.

8. ARE THERE ANY PRODUCTS YOU'VE DISCOVERED (FOR YOURSELF OR YOUR HORSE) THAT YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH OUR READERS? Terry has gotten us hooked on Sports Flex Splint Boots.

9. HAS YOUR PASSION FOR HORSES INFLUENCED YOUR INTERIOR DECORATING STYLE FOR YOURSELF OR OTHER CLIENTS? My passion for horses has influenced EVERY aspect of my life! With regards to design, I have to make sure that influence will fit my client before I allow it to affect my selections and creations. With regards to my wholesale line, Moon Rein, it PERMEATES!!

10. WE'D LOVE TO HEAR/SEE ABOUT ANY PROJECTS YOU GOT COMING UP IN THE FUTURE? Right now my big focus is Moon Rein. It is a wholesale bedding line that I just launched this Fall. I only have a few designs up on our website right now www.moonrein.com I have a LOT of designs brewing so keep your fingers crossed that the products sell! Between horses and creative product designs, who needs a therapist!?

Equine VIP is written by Producer/Host Susan Ashbrook who is also developing a TV series based on her interviews with celebrities and top equestrians. For more information go to www.equineVIP.com

Equine VIP interviews celebrities and equestrian VIPs because "If It's About Horses, We Cover It".