

The extraordinary drill team "Painted Ladies" talks to Equine VIP

by Susan Ashbrook,
owner Equine VIP

Equine VIP caught up with the extraordinary drill team the "Painted Ladies" practicing for their 4th appearance at the prestigious Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade. The parade is viewed by millions of people and these ladies with their stunning paint horses make quite a sight. The American Paint Horse's combination of color and confirmation has made the American Paint Horse Association (APHA) the second-largest breed registry in the United States. The team has been a crowd favorite at the Folsom Pro Rodeo for over 17 years and has appeared at other events such as BMX Racing, baseball games and the TV Show "The Mentalist".

1. CAN YOU GIVE US A BRIEF HISTORY ABOUT HOW THE "PAINTED LADIES" GOT STARTED?

We started when four matching painted horses went to the Cow Palace. That's when paints were becoming popular in the rodeo and show horse world.

2. THE "PAINTED LADIES" (inc) AREN'T AN ORDINARY DRILL TEAM. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT MAKES YOUR TEAM SO SPECIAL?

We are entertainers. We do trick riding, trick roping, fireworks on top of horses, pink ribbons, we have had sung the National Anthem on top of horses. We get the crowd started!

3. YOU PERFORM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY - IS THERE ANY PLACE THAT STOOD OUT FOR THE TEAM?

The Tournament of Roses Parade stands out the most, it's a once in a life time experience. Folsom Pro Rodeo is our hometown favorite.

4. THE TEAM IS SO BUSY, HOW DO YOU FIND TIME TO PRACTICE?

We all have 40 hour work weeks but do find time to put on our spurs and pull up our chaps once a week to practice at the Sacramento

Horseman's Association.

5. HOW DO YOU SELECT WHICH RIDERS/ HORSES WILL BE A PART OF THE TEAM? IF SOMEONE IS INTERESTED IN AUDITIONING, HOW DO THEY GO ABOUT THAT?

Most horses learn the drill before the rider.

paints are the same. They are smart and willing. All of them are hams not horses and love their pictures taken.

8. THE TEAM PLAYED A ROLE IN THE TV SERIES "THE MENTALIST". HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?

We were on the west steps of the State Capitol of California in Sacramento for a photo shoot. The Mentalist was doing a shoot as well and asked us to be in their shoot.

9. YOUR COSTUMES ARE SO COLORFUL AND FUN, ARE THEY CUSTOM DESIGNED FOR THE TEAM?

Yes, they are all hand sewn for the team by myself including the chaps and chinks.

10. DO YOU LOOK FOR SPONSORS TO HELP COVER THE COSTS OF TRAVELING AND PERFORMING? IF SO, HOW CAN PEOPLE GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU?

With today's economy, we are always looking for sponsors. For more information on us and how to contact us, go to our web site www.paintedladiesrodeo.com

Equine VIP is written by Producer/Host Susan Ashbrook who is also developing a TV series based on 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".



Safety first and decision on a rider/horse combo comes later. If anyone is interested to be a part of "Painted Ladies" and owns a paint horse, they can contact us through our web site.

6. HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHAT MUSIC AND ROUTINES YOU WILL PERFORM?

It depends on the event and the crowd for what music or routine we use.

7. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR HORSE(S) AND ARE ANY SPECIAL...AND WHY?

Each of our horses are special, no two