



Rex Peterson talks to Equine VIP

by Susan Ashbrook, owner Equine VIP



QUESTIONS FOR REX PETERSON

Hollywood's premiere horse wrangler Rex Peterson spoke with Equine VIP from the set of Disney's Secretariat currently being filmed at Keeneland, Kentucky and Churchill Downs. Rex has owned and trained some famous horses from movies such as Black Stallion, Dreamer, The Horse Whisperer, Hidalgo, Appaloosa and Hanna Montana-The Movie just to name a few.

Viggo Mortensen, the actor who worked with Rex on two films Hidalgo and Appaloosa said about Rex, "One of the most helpful bits of advice he passed on to me - which can be applied to working with horses and to life in general - is "go slow to go fast". He would never, unlike others not as gifted or patient in his line of work, rush things unnecessarily or ever ask anyone to do something he was unwilling to first try himself. He invariably has the safety and well-being of his horses as his topmost priority."

When did you realize you had a special gift with horses?

When working on the movie Black Stallion I realized that I had more ability than others in my profession.

What was the first movie you worked on - and have any of your training methods changed

(along with the demands of filming)

My first film was Electric Horseman which starred Robert Redford and Jane Fonda. I continue to learn and hone my skills learning from each horse in each situation, each horse is an individual and teaches me something new.

What part of training a horse for TV/Movies would you say is something every horse owner should know?

The meaning of the word Whoa!

What was the most difficult scene with a horse you had to especially train for?

I would have to say burying a horse alive for a Procol Harem music video still is one of the hardest things I've ever done.

How hard is it to find the "right" horse for TV and movies?

Sometimes it is extremely difficult, sometimes they just show up when you need them.

Have there been any truly special horse(s) in your life?

Justin, RJ and Hightower. Although Hightower is no longer alive, he is still considered one of the most famous trick horses. Hightower appeared in many films during his career, most notably as Pilgrim in The Horse Whisperer and

Black Beauty. He was the horse of choice for actress Julia Roberts, who bonded with him during the filming of The Runaway Bride and insisted that the horse be shipped back from his California corral to an East Coast location for post-production re-shoots.

Who was your mentor and why?

Glenn Randall, Sr. because he trained horses to do what is impossible, and taught me to do the same.

Where can we find information about your clinics and the training videos you make?

www.swansonpetersonproductions.com

Is it harder to work with horses or actors riding them?

Without question the actors, because they do not always listen or do their homework. The horse can read their energy. I can control the horse at all times, but not the actor.

What is the next TV project or movie you are working on and we can watch for?

A Horse Training TV series showcasing extreme horse training along with teaching people how to achieve immediate success in communicating more effectively and clearly with their horse to solve simple problems such as loading a horse, leading a horse, handling a horse, breaking and training a horse.

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

Susan Ashbrook was born in the mid west but longed at an early age to be like her grandmother Pearl. Pearl rode horses and built many successful businesses, and she was an independent woman when it wasn't a popular pursuit.

Susan used her creativity and business acumen to found Film Fashion www.filmfashion.com a premier agency matching A list celebrities with exclusive fashion designers such as Chopard, Escada, Ralph Lauren, Lanvin, Harry Winston and Swarovski. Film Fashion is a product placement firm built on Susan's relationship with over 5000 celebrities and was acquired by PR Powerhouse Rogers & Cowan.

Susan's passion for horses launched her second career producing equine content for the internet and broadcast channel. Ashbrook feels the equestrian world has stories to tell about riders, events, products, special horses and all things equestrian.

The best way to reach us is at susan@equineVIP.com We'd love to hear from you!