

Orashan

By Ralph Suarez



A recent photo of *Orashan at Saba Arabians.

I met Orashan many times, as I had the good fortune to live reasonably close to Imperial Egyptian Stud in Parkton, Maryland, USA. I saw Orashan as a young horse, in the show ring and as a mature breeding stallion. Initially, I was intensely curious for Orashan, as I had read, came from Germany. Some of the most influential Egyptian Arabian horses, producing the characteristics which I appreciated, resided in Germany. I had heard Orashan was sired by a Madkour son. Later, I would learn Orashan's sire was by the Morafic son, Madkour out of Maisa and Jamil's sire was the Hadban Enzahi son Madkour I, out of the Ghazal daughter, Moheba. I loved Jamil. I remember the anticipation and the growing excitement I experienced, as I drove to Maryland to meet Orashan. "What would he be like?" I wondered, "Would he be like Jamil?"

Eileen Verdieck, then the trainer and farm manager at Imperial Egyptian Stud, had been looking for a new stallion for the Imperial breeding program. She saw many horses all over the world, thought she had come close to finding this individual, only to realise the horse she sought was much harder to find. The task was especially difficult, as Imperial had assembled a collection of broodmares unrivaled for their beauty and for their genetic strength. Who could be worthy enough to use with these mares? In an article published in the December 2001 issue of "Arabian Horse World", Barbara Griffith shared the following with Honi Roberts, "In truth, every



*Orashan's daughter *Imperial Orissah (ex Imperial Misteeena) resides at Saba Arabians.

one of Imperial's leading ladies have been hand-picked and held to the highest standards, a necessity in breeding programs, large or small. I believe the mare's contribution to her foal to be at least 60 percent, so she is extremely important. I've bred or purchased mares that I felt would be good crosses with Imperial stallions, and I've bred or purchased stallions specifically for select mares."

It was time for something different; something that would stretch the influence of Imperial far beyond the lush pastures of Maryland. In Germany, Eileen saw the elite stallion Messaoud (Madkour x Maymoonah) and immediately recognised the horse she saw in her mind's eye. Messaoud was one of those rare horses who equally sired great sons and great daughters. Messaoud was the horse Eileen wanted to bring back to America. Bred by Gunther Seidlitz and owned by Erika Rudolph, Messaoud was not for sale at any price. So, Eileen searched for a Messaoud son who could help Imperial to produce classically typey horses, with the size and with the good mind and functional conformation to be competitive in the American show ring. Eileen found the colt she was looking for at Maiworm Stud and brought Orashan to America.

In Maryland, the young horse prospered under Eileen's care. Soon, he blossomed into a beautiful Arabian stallion with a body that spoke volumes of all he could accomplish with the proper training and development. He had a charming personality and a fabulous mind. Loving of people, curious and friendly, he is the ideal representative of the Bedouin tent horse. If your pocket was large enough, Orashan would crawl in and make himself comfortable, happy to find himself snug and warm, very close to the humans he loved. He is a most lovable horse and a true friend, willing, kind and generous to try anything that is asked of him. Orashan won in many class "A" arenas, including Scottsdale, Arizona, which finally led him to the main ring of the US and Canadian National Championships. He was a top ten halter stallion in both countries, as well as a top ten champion under saddle in Canada. Orashan also competed in harness at the Regional and class "A" level. There have not been many Egyptian stallions who have demonstrated the level of versatility that Orashan easily achieved.

As great an athlete as Orashan was, he was also an exceptional sire, which was especially evident as his daughters matured and started producing foals of their own.

His daughter BB Ora Kalilah, out of the mare PH Safina, is the most well-known daughter having produced the stallion Imperial Baarez by PVA Karim. BB Ora Kalilah

also produced the lovely mares Imperial Kabisah, Imperial Kahleen and Imperial Bint Kalilah. The latter, when bred to Thee Desperado, produced an awesome bay stallion, the late Desperados Getaway. Also, the Orashan daughter, Imperial Orianah, produced the stallion Imperial Madori by Imperial Madheen. This stallion sired one of the most powerfully dramatic Egyptian mares of all time, Gelgelah Albadeia.

Imperial Organzah is another Orashan daughter, out of Imperial Na Sonbi (Moniet el Nafis x Imperial Sonbesjul). When bred to Imperial Madheen, the mare MB Mazaraa was produced. This mare in turn produced the exciting and very dark, black-bay stallion Imperial Shehaab who was recently syndicated.

SES Khebria is an Orashan daughter out of the Jean Jennings-bred mare, Ra'adin Khebira, an Ansata Ibn Sudan daughter out of Ra'adin Hilal. When bred back to Imperial lines, via Imperial Imdal, the striking chestnut stallion, Hawkeye CC was produced. MB Maaressa is an interesting Orashan daughter as she is out of Princess Maarena, who traces to the Fabah daughter, Maarena in her tail female line. Bred to Thee Gambler twice, this mare has produced two beautiful chestnut-colored horses: the stallion FW Casino and the mare FW Rosetta Rose.

In an article by Nancy Ryan about Imperial Egyptian Stud, in the February 2005 issue of "Arabian Horse World", Barbara Griffith stated:

"But perhaps Orashan's greatest contribution is his ability as one of the great Egyptian Arabian broodmare sires. Many of his 150 foals have become Regional and National Champions. We are fortunate to have Orashan daughters, grand-



Imperial Baarez's dam is the famous Orashan daughter, BB Ora Kalilah.

daughters and of course, his grandson Imperial Baarez to carry on his legacy."

Orashan is an incredibly special horse. Why do some stallions become better sires of daughters than sons? Orashan's dam was the mare Ora (Ibn Shaker I x Omera). This mare, in her tail female line, traces to the Bahraini mare, Bint el Bahreyn, whom we also find in the tail female line of horses like El Sareei and Bint Maisa el Saghira. Ora, combined with Messaoud intensifies the influence of the Kazmeen sired Zareefa, who appears five times in the pedigree of Orashan: twice through the stallion El Sareei and through the Zareefa daughters Maisa, Bint Zareefa and Elwya. The Shaloul son, El Sareei, a crucially important horse for the Egyptian Agricultural Organisation (EAO), sired mares who figured prominently in Egyptian breeding. His daughters included the mares Bint Nefisa, Malacha, Mohga, Amani, Salomy to name a few. It is very interesting to observe how Orashan, with more opportunities or rather a greater number of mares bred (as compared to the number of mares El Sareei bred), has produced mares who have become critical foundation horses in other programs all over the world. I want to stop myself short when I think of El Sareei and possibly a genetic connection that was made, when the blood of his dam was intensified in Orashan's pedigree, giving him the "El Sareei-ability" to sire such high quality daughters. Fact or fiction?

The tail female line of Messaoud traces to the Halima daughter, Moheba and ultimately traces to the Damah Shahwaniyah mare, Farida. This is the same tail-female line of the classic stallion, Ansata Ibn Halima. Orashan is a second generation, pure-in-the-strain Dahman Shahwan horse, as both his sire and dam are also pure-in-the-strain Dahman horses.

Looking back at the 30-plus year history of Imperial Egyptian Stud, two stallions emerge as hugely influential horses. One was Ibn Safinaz and the other was Orashan. In the afore-mentioned "Arabian Horse World" article by Nancy Ryan, Barbara Griffith offered the following: "Orashan's contribution to the Imperial breeding program can never be overestimated..."

I also find it extremely interesting that Ibn Safinaz was sired by Seef, a son of the mare Elwya, the same mare that is present in the tail female line of Orashan's pedigree. Were there any horses produced combining the blood of these two stallions? The Ibn Safinaz daughter, Imperial Sahleen is out of Imperial Kahleen, an Imperial Al Kamar daughter, out of BB Ora Kalilah. When bred to Imperial Baarez, and more Orashan blood, she produced the lovely show filly, Imperial Baaleena, now at Prestige Arabians. Also, the chestnut Imperial Baarez daughter, Imperial Baahiyah was a blend of these two stallions, as Imperial Safama was an Ibn Safinaz daughter.

Orashan was sold to Saba Arabians located in Australia. I was very happy when I heard the news, as Louise Cordina and Glenn North have purchased many beautiful mares, including the Orashan daughter, Imperial Orissah out of the Imperial Madheen daughter, Imperial Misteena. I am excited over the possibilities that will result from utilising the influence of this most special horse. Louise tells me she is especially excited about the forthcoming Orashan foal out of her Australian National Champion, Suhaila Al Saba (*Thaqib Al Nasser x Simeon Siboni). Also expecting a foal from Orashan is Maarena Al Saba, another *Thaqib Al Nasser daughter.

I wondered how Orashan would adjust to the change in climate on another continent, on the other end of the Equator but Louise tells me he remains a youthful horse despite his 26 years, still full of vigour and would put most young horses to shame! I was thrilled to hear this about Orashan, as what the world needs now is more Orashan daughters!

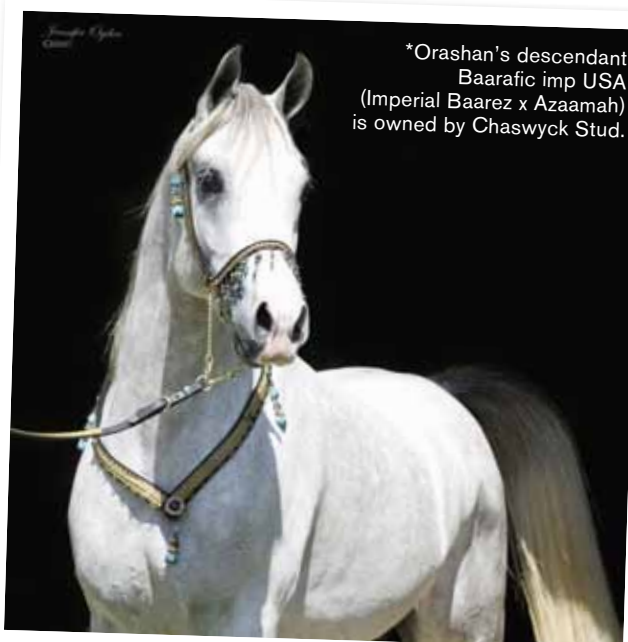
In the twilight of Orashan's life, having the insight of his siring strength while he is still alive is a gift, like the rose, unfolding to mesmerise all our senses with her beauty. **AHN**



*Orashan's daughter Imperial Orianah is the dam of the significant sire, Imperial Madori.



Nefisa Al Saba (ex *Halimas Tiara) is *Orashan's Australian daughter.



*Orashan's descendant Baarafic imp USA (Imperial Baarez x Azaamah) is owned by Chaswyck Stud.