

# EQUUS Aiken

*Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit  
Mustang Symposium*

**September 19 – 22, 2024**

**Aiken, South Carolina**

- ♥ Mustang Trainer Justin Dunn – Saturday All Day Demos
- ♥ Mustang Eventer – Ann Hanlin & Woodrow
- ♥ 6 Mustangers – Nicola Bolt / Michelle Peterson / Rob West / Brian Smith / Bruce Anderson / Anna Maria Sims & Sky Epperson
- ♥ Mustang Symposium
- ♥ Thursday evening VIP Party with Filmmakers & Special Guests
- ♥ EQUUS Films all weekend - Q & A's with Filmmakers
- ♥ Equine Art & Literary Fest – Friday - Sunday
- ♥ 6 Yearling Mustangs - started and available for adoption
- ♥ Over 15 Invited Local and Visiting Clinicians
- ♥ Conversation Panels with Veterans and Equine Healing Programs
- ♥ Mustangs in the Carolinas Panels with Local Mustang Experts
- ♥ Equine Vendors
- ♥ Food Trucks
- ♥ Mustang Adoption Event

## AIKEN EQUINE RESCUE

AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA SINCE 2006



HORSES FOR MENTAL HEALTH



Official EQUUS Aiken Artist: [Sharon Lupton Buck](#)

***EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit  
is partnering with Aiken Equine Rescue to bring a  
NEW and exciting fun fundraising event to Aiken  
in September!***



# AIKEN EQUINE RESCUE

AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA



Equine Rescue of Aiken (aka Aiken Equine Rescue) is a nonprofit, rehabilitation and rehoming center for unwanted, neglected horses. We are one of 81 Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) facilities offering a safe transition for Off-the-Track Thoroughbreds (OTTBs) rehabbing them to prepare them for a second career beyond racing.

We save neglected, high-risk and desperate horses from a tragic circumstance to offer a hopeful future. We are committed to helping retired racehorses find their second career as a jumper, dressage, pleasure horse or other suitable career.

It is our responsibility to help each of them find a safe, qualified, loving home. We create second chances resulting in amazing transformations of over 1,500 equines. Our social mission fosters programs to offer an opportunity to connect with the heart of a horse. We believe there is an educational, enriching and emotional connection that only horses can provide - connecting the heart of a horse with the soul of a human.

<https://aikenequinerescue.org/>



## About the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit

The EQUUS Film & Arts Fest takes place as both a Virtual and In-Person Event! It is the first event of its kind to offer a home to the storytellers of the horse world, with films, documentaries, videos, commercials, and shorts from around the world and cultural elements of fine equestrian art and literature.

**The Mustang Summit** has been added to the program as an educational platform to raise awareness and understanding about the American Mustangs in holding pens and available for adoption. A horse who has a safe and quiet start can be trainable and become a good partner. It is our mission to bring awareness to American Mustangs who need homes. Focusing on and highlighting the work taking place in the healing and equine assisted learning fields with Mustangs. Providing resources for all who want to learn about the Off-Range Mustang horse.

Founded in 2013 by Lisa Diersen, Director/Organizer, an equestrian, who has spent her life in the company of horses. Lisa's mission is to show the world how horses can bring everyone together regardless of race, age, gender, abilities or disabilities. She presently raises, trains and loves Lusitano horses in Saint Charles, Illinois with her Jack Russell, Amore. Julianne Neal joined the team in 2016.

***Every horse has a story, it's our mission at the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest to share those stories, through film, art and literature.***

The EQUUS Film Fest [Channel You-Tube](#), streaming to all your devices.  
Visit our website at: <http://www.equusfilmfestival.net/> and our [FaceBook](#) page.

### PR AND/OR SPONSOR CONTACT:

Lisa Diersen [lisa@equusfilmfestival.net](mailto:lisa@equusfilmfestival.net) +1-630-272-3077

**Additional Info:** Julianne Neal [julianneneal@me.com](mailto:julianneneal@me.com) +1-803-351-0223

Assistant to the Director: Julie Martin

### SOCIAL MEDIA

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/EquusFilmFestival>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/EQUUSFilmNYC>

You-Tube - <https://www.youtube.com/@equusfilmfestival772/featured>



# Partnership Opportunities – EQUUS Film Fest | The Mustang Summit

## Title, Presenting, and Custom Partnership Packages

**\*\* Available Upon Request \*\***

### Platinum Partnership Package \$5,000

- Exclusive Social Media blast
- Listed as a preferred partner on EquusFilmFestival.net
- 2–10-minute introduction at VIP party (Their choice on timeframe)
- Presentation slide with company information & logo running on Lobby Loop and Reels
- 4' x 2' Banner at The Mustang Summit Location
- Branded logo on banners
- VIP Passes for 10 Guest

### Diamond Partnership Package \$3000

- Exclusive Social Media blast
- Listed as a preferred partner on EquusFilmFestival.net
- 2–10-minute introduction at VIP party (Their choice on timeframe)
- Presentation slide with company information & logo running on Lobby Loop and Reels
- 4' x 2' Banner at The Mustang Summit Location
- Branded logo on banners
- VIP Passes for 8 Guest

### Gold Partnership Package \$1500

- Social Media blast with all sponsors
- Listed as a preferred partner on EquusFilmFestival.net
- 2-minute introduction at VIP party
- 4' x 2' Banner at The Mustang Summit Location
- Presentation slide with company information & logo running on Lobby Loop and Reels
- VIP Passes for 4 Guest

### Silver Partnership Package \$1000

- Social Media blast with all sponsors
- Shout out for being a sponsor at live event
- 4' x 2' Banner at The Mustang Summit Location
- Presentation slide with company information & logo running on Lobby Loop and Reels
- VIP Passes for 2 Guest

### Pony Partnership Package \$500

- Shout out for being a sponsor at live event
- Presentation slide with company information & logo running on Lobby Loop and Reels

# Benefits of a Partnership with the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest

- Partnering with an established Internationally acclaimed Equine Film, Art & Literary Fest
- Celebrating the 12<sup>th</sup> season in 2024
- Exposure to a Global Audience through the “Virtual” On-Demand Film Fest
- Attended by International guests, artists, and filmmakers and those from across the country
- Annual visitors in New York City 800 – 1000 film & art fest guests attending over the weekend – hosted in NYC for the artists and authors. In 2019 we moved to the expansive Kentucky Horse Park artist and author attendance doubled.
- Partnering in 10 + Nationwide events annually
- Connecting with subscribers and visitors to the EQUUS Film Fest Channel
- Marketing and exposure on all EQUUS Social Media outlets
- Albuquerque, New Mexico, home of our annual Winnie Awards event, is much more inviting to filmmakers, artists, authors, and other demos in November. The location is beautiful!
- Partnering with the EQUUS Art & Fest and The Mustang Summit – with invited local equestrian artists as well as selected award-winning EQUUS artists, creating a great holiday shopping opportunity and exposure for marketing of products and services

## The New York Times

Laurel Graeber of the NEW YORK TIMES wrote:

"EQUUS, however, has the heft and breadth of a Clydesdale, screening more than 80 films Friday through Sunday in Brooklyn. It also comprises equine art and book showcases, director panels and jury awards (the Winnies)... EQUUS has just instituted an on-demand streaming service for its films, which “aren’t made in somebody’s little back room on a laptop,” said Lisa Diersen, an equestrian and former engineer who founded the festival in 2013, “These are PBS-quality documentaries.” (Equus also shows a few fictional films.)"

EQUUS Film Fest Documentary Watch the exciting  
2021 WINNIE Awards Event

<https://equustelevision.com/watch/932>

EQUUS Film & Arts Fest 2021 Documentary

<https://equustelevision.com/watch/957>

*Hundreds of films have gained recognition, found international distribution and reached global audiences We believe that film holds the power to experience a story in the most compelling way.*

*We empower storytellers to share their unique equine stories.*

*By placing the EQUUS Film Fest in the unique locations around the world, people from all walks of life can enjoy these inspiring stories.*

*We look forward to welcoming you to the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest, and The Mustang Summit where you can enjoy the impressive line-up of films, amazing artists and interesting authors, along with a full line up of Mustang Clinicians.*



Founder | Lisa Diersen

# **EQUUS Film & Arts Fest**

## **The Mustang Summit**

### **Program Schedule**

**(Subject to change per Venue)**

EQUUS Film & Arts Fest will be galloping into town with The Mustang Summit! Presenting a full weekend of programming including the EQUUS Film Festival, an Art & Literary Event, Equestrian/Mustang Demos, Lectures, and other exciting events.

#### **Schedule of Events:**

**Thursday – Opening Evening VIP Event – 4 pm – 8 pm**

**Friday – Mustang Summit Demo Programs – 9 am – 3 pm**

**Friday – Panels & Vendors – 9 am – 3 pm**

**Friday – EQUUS Films – 6 pm – 9:30 pm**

**Saturday – Mustang Summit Demo Programs – 9 am – 3 pm**

**Saturday – Panels & Vendors – 9 am – 3 pm**

**Saturday – EQUUS Films - 6 pm – 9:30 pm**

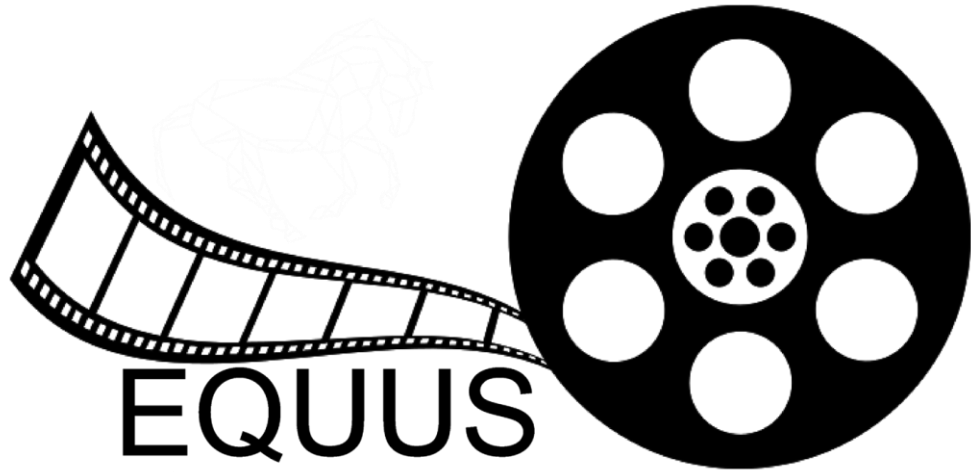
**Sunday – Cowboy Church with Randy Helm – 8 am**

**Sunday - Mustang Summit Demo Programs – 9 am – 3 pm**

**Sunday – Panels & Vendors – 9 am – 3 pm**

**Sunday – Silent Auction Close – 2 pm**

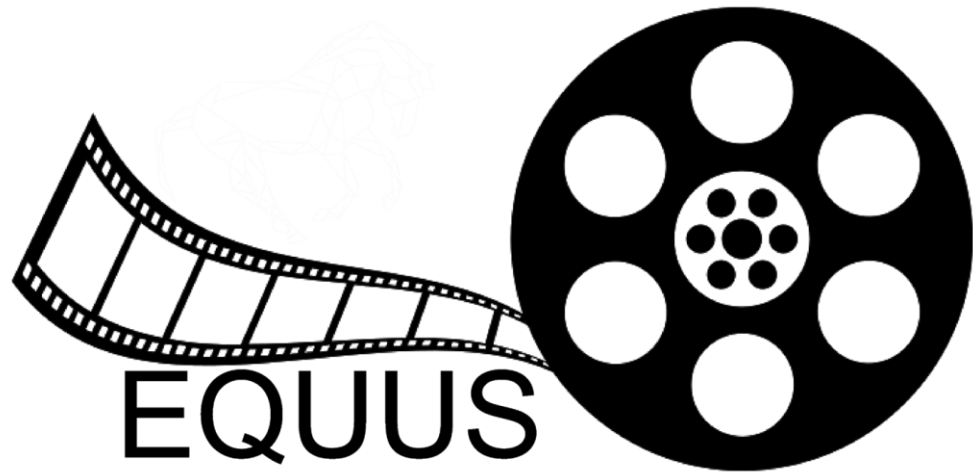
**Sunday– Yearling Mustang Adoption – 3:30 pm**



presents

# Our Mustang Partners





presents

# Our Industry Partners



HORSES FOR  
MENTAL HEALTH



WILDERWOOD



CHATTANOOGA  
GIRLS LEADERSHIP  
ACADEMY

UNLOCKING A WORLD OF POSSIBILITY



Rocky Mountain  
HORSE EXPO





# Lisa Diersen

**EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit  
Founder / Director**

Lisa Diersen is an equestrian; riding since she could sit in a saddle, Diersen has a great appreciation for all types of equestrian disciplines. She is the Founder and Director of the EQUUS Film Festival, now in its 12<sup>th</sup> season. The EFF empowers storytellers to show horses' rich history and diverse tapestry in human culture through equestrian content, film, art, and literature. The EQUUS Film Festival is the first film festival oriented around equestrian-themed content from all over the world that also travels the world. Screening feature films, documentaries, shorts, music videos, commercials, training educational materials, art, and literature, covering all equestrian disciplines, creating a home for the storytellers of the horse world.

Created for Horse Lovers... by Horse Lovers!

Her mission is to show the world how horses can bring everyone together regardless of race, age, gender, abilities, or disabilities. Lisa is passionate about the education and enlightenment of others to the wonderful world of horses and everything they can do to enrich our lives.

Producer and writer credits on the DOWN Syndrome equine documentary "A Pony And His Boy: The Story Of Berry & Josh" for the EQUUS Film Festival in New York City and the National DOWN Syndrome Congress 2019 with SPOTLIGHT Rescue Series partner and film director Julianne Neal. Working on additional SRS documentaries to add to the series she and Neal started in 2017. The Mustang Discovery Ride Project is now in production. Lisa is the Executive Director of the Mustang Discovery Foundation. Adding "The Mustang Summit" to the programming in 2022. With a focus on educating the general public about the American Mustang Horse and its importance in the world today.

She is a published equine author with many articles to her credit. Diersen spent the early part of her career with General Motors in engineering, then moving into the subdivision development and home/barn building market, winning an Illinois Home Builder Award, before returning to her first love..... working with horses! She spends her time, when not promoting equestrian film, having fun promoting Classical Dressage, Lusitano, and Mustang horses, and spending time with her faithful Jack Russell Terrier, Amore, and her Lusitano, Urano.

[www.equusfilmfestival.net](http://www.equusfilmfestival.net)

[lisa@equusfilmfestival.net](mailto:lisa@equusfilmfestival.net)

+1-630-272-3077



# Lisa Mallory & Bill Finger

## Halfway to Heaven Rescue – South Carolina Aiken TEAM



Lisa grew up with horses in her life. She jokes that she loved horses before she was born. When she was young, she worked with Thoroughbred racehorses and showed Palomino Quarter horses. Lisa's first introduction to science-based horse training began in the 1990's when she attended an equine clicker training clinic with Alexandra Kurland. Lisa began studying the science of animal behavior and attending conferences and seminars with legendary animal trainers such as Bob Bailey and Karen Pryor. For many years Lisa worked as a professionally licensed dog trainer who helped owners train their dogs to be wonderful, well-behaved household companions. She also trained Scent Detection dogs and their handlers for competition and was a licensed AKC Scent Work Judge. Bill has always been devoted to the welfare of animals and has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Ecology, with a Master's in Natural Resource Policy. As an attorney Bill has a law firm, Finger, Nelson & Maguire, PLLC, who specialize in Environmental Law. When their first horse came to live with them, Bill was a natural, quickly earning the nickname "Cowboy Bill" – for his use of "Cowboy Patter" (softly, continuously talking to horses) in his training and handling. Lisa and Bill share a love and devotion for the care and welfare of all horses, with a deep passion for our National Heritage Horses – The American Mustangs.

<https://www.halfwaytoheavenrescue.com/>  
[Lisa@halfwaytoheavenrescue.com](mailto:Lisa@halfwaytoheavenrescue.com)



# Pam Patron

## Aiken Equine Rescue – South Carolina

### Aiken TEAM

Equine Rescue of Aiken, (aka, Aiken Equine Rescue) was established in 2006 with almost 80 acres of land. We have eight pastures, thirteen paddocks, office building and a maintenance barn.

Since its founding, Aiken Equine Rescue has become the largest horse rescue farm in the southeastern United States. We have placed over 1,500 horses into adopted homes and rescued many horses, donkeys, and mules. At any given time, between 50 - 60 horses reside at Aiken Equine Rescue.

We provide each with food, medical attention, and personal care until we find them an appropriate home. With your help, we can change lives.

Aiken Equine Rescue has a 2023 GuideStar's Platinum rating - the **highest distinction of information disclosure to the public regarding a nonprofit's activities**. The Rescue ranks in the top **0.1%** of charities nationally.

<https://aikenequinerescue.org/>



# AIKEN EQUINE RESCUE

AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA



# Brian Smith

## Funny Farm Mustangs – South Carolina Aiken TEAM

The Goal of Funny Farm Mustangs is to prepare wild Mustangs for adoption by gentling and foundation training them, working with the BLM and MHF.

<https://funnyfarmmustangs.org/>  
[funnyfarmmustangs@gmail.com](mailto:funnyfarmmustangs@gmail.com)



# EQUUS

Film & Arts Fest  
The Mustang Summit

