



Dr. Maria Katsamanis
Doctoral Degree in Clinical Psychology
EQUUS Film Festival Panel
Horse Defenders and America's Magnificent Mustangs – Friday 4 pm



Dr. Maria Katsamanis has received worldwide recognition as an accomplished equestrian, exhibition rider, author and horse trainer. She holds a doctoral degree in clinical psychology. Dr. Katsamanis has worked with many different breeds and has also had the privilege of training the rare Marwari horses of India. She has participated as a display rider in Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee at Windsor Castle. Dr. Katsamanis is co-author of "The Alchemy of Lightness" that introduces the concept of molecular equitation to the equestrian community. She writes prolifically and is also a regular columnist in the journal, "Warmbloods Today." She has also founded the non-profit organization, The Pegasus Foundation, www.thepegasusfoundation.org

She continues to maintain an appointment as a Clinical Assistant Professor at Rutgers Medical School. With a formal education as a clinical scientist she is able to help demystify and explain elements of this formula where magic seemingly occurs, that are key in helping us establish the ultimate connection with our horses. Her explanations of the barriers and myths that block the path between horse and rider frees them making the dance accessible to anyone regardless of age or breed. Her equine background is broad. She studied in Greece, France, and the United States. Her early equestrian career included working as an exercise rider for a French racing barn. She maintains an active and exclusive student base in New Jersey and continues to be sought out as a clinician both here and abroad.

The Pegasus Foundation Inc. is a 501c3 New Jersey based organization. Our mission is to promote better understanding of equine wellness through the rehabilitation and transformation of horses who need a second chance. The process of restoring these equines to physical and mental wellness will serve to produce and disseminate educational materials (ie visual and literary) to promote improved behavioral training methods and supportive materials that will inspire and educate the general public as well as the international equestrian community. All horses will be eligible for adoption as a result of enrolling in the program. Learn more about how you can be a part of the transformation, "one hoof at a time."

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