

EQUUS at Soulful Prairies

MUSTANG HORSES

MUSTANG SYMPOSIUM

FILM & ARTS FEST

AUGUST 25, 2024 10 AM - 5 PM

\$20 ADULT - \$10 KIDS (UNDER 10 FREE)

SOULFUL PRAIRIES WOODSTOCK, IL

 **Meet Jake Harvath – Year of the Mustang – Long Rider**




 **Mustang Horses**

 **EQUUS Mustang Movies**

 **Mustang Horse Demos**

 **Sky Epperson & Annamaria Sims**

 **Linda Bruce – Equine Gestalt**

 **Jill McCrae & Mustang “Ambiante”**

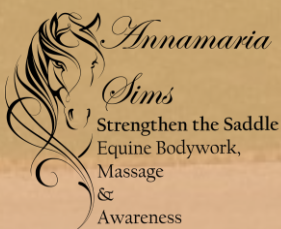
 **Mustang Symposium**

 **Panels with Mustang Healing Specialist**

 **Mustang Veterans Programs**

 **Equine Artist & Vendors**

4706 Alden Rd | Woodstock IL 60098 <https://www.soulfulprairies.com/>



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](https://www.youtube.com/EquusFilmFestival), 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 +1-630-272-3077

Additional Info: Julianne Neal 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>



The Mustang Summit at Soulful Prairies

Demo Corral Schedule

Sunday – August 25, 2024 – 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Time Block	Mustang Demo Sessions Daily 45-minute sessions	Clinician
10:00 am	Prayer Drum Event Opening (15 minutes)	Linda Bruce Annamaria Sims
10:15 am	Charlie Sims Growing Up With Autism & Horses	Charlie Sims
11:00 am	Linda Bruce Introduction to Equine Gestalt	Linda Bruce
12:00 pm	Sky Epperson & Annamaria Sims Body Before Mind Mustang Training	Sky Epperson Annamaria Sims
1:00 pm	Mustang Ballet Classical Dressage Long-Reining With Jill McCrae & Ambiente	Jill McCrae McCrae Farm
2:00 pm	Jake Harvath Year Of The Mustang	Jake Harvath
3:00 pm	Sky Epperson Mustang Adoption Academy	Sky Epperson
4:00 pm	Introduction to Equine Body Work	Annamaria Sims



Schedule is Subject to CHANGE Without Notice

The Mustang Summit at Soulful Prairies

Film & Panel Schedule

Sunday – August 25, 2024 – 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Time Block	Film / Panel	Clinician
10:00 am	Film H.O.O.V.E.S.	Documentary about a Veterans Program in Ohio using horses.
11:30 am	Film The Mustangs: America’s Wild Horses	Mustang Documentary Addressing the current conditions Facing the American Mustangs today
1:00 pm	Film Freedom Reigns	Documentary about “Freedom Reigns” Mustang Sanctuary located in California
2:00 pm	PANEL Mustangs and Mental Health	Rev. John Matis Sarah Matis Linda Bruce Dana Price
3:00 pm	PANEL So, You Want A Mustang Tales from our first Mustang Year... 3 Mustangs & 2 Burros later!	Rebecca Castiello, Rachel & Lexi Zurkowski
4:00 pm	PANEL Mustangs and Veterans	Patti Gruber Sky Epperson

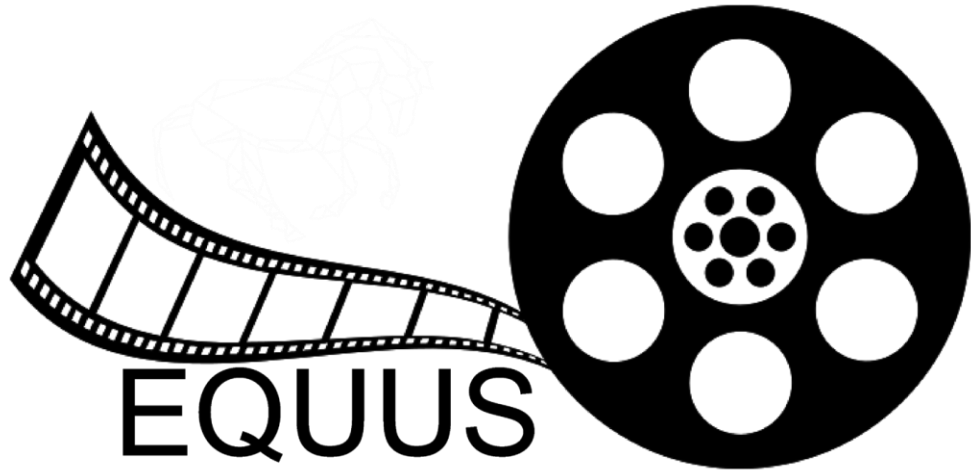


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Illinois Equine Liability Act

Illinois - Warning - Under the Equine Activity Liability Act, each participant who engages in an equine activity expressly assumes the risks of engaging in and legal responsibility for injury, loss, or damage to person or property resulting from the risk of equine activities.



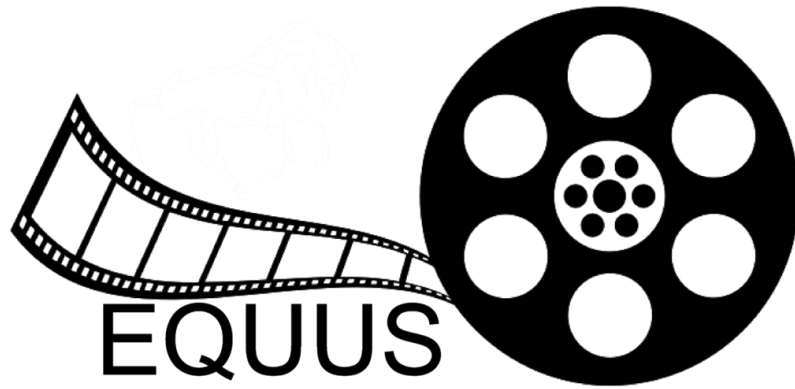
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Our Mustang Partners



THE *Cloud*
FOUNDATION





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Our Industry Partners



HORSES FOR
MENTAL HEALTH



CHATTANOOGA
GIRLS LEADERSHIP
ACADEMY
UNLOCKING A WORLD OF POSSIBILITY



MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

Rocky Mountain
HORSE EXPO



WE ♥ MUSTANGS

We are proud to sponsor the **EQUUS Film Festival** & **Mustang Summit** on their mission to connect mustang owners & support this exceptional breed!



www.etalondx.com

Upcoming Dates and Locations 2024

42 Mustangs (or more) in 2024

Based on information from the BLM Website:

It costs BLM about \$27,500, on average, to provide lifetime care for a wild horse not placed into private care.

- **March – Rocky Mountain Horse Expo – Denver Colorado - March 15 – 17, 2024**
 - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event
- **June – Gateway Mustang Summit - Potomac, Illinois – June 7 – 9, 2024**
 - Small Event - 4 Mustangs & Films – Adoption Event
- **July – BreyerFest – Lexington, Kentucky – July 12 – 14, 2024**
 - Small Event – Films – Rescued Hearts
- **July – The Leanor - Aztec, New Mexico – July 26 – 28, 2024**
 - Small Event – Films & Art & Panels – Mustangs & Rescues
- **July – August – Adams County Fair – Brighton, Colorado – July 31 – August 4, 2024**
 - The Mustang Summit - Mustangers Event – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event
- **August 25 – Mustang Symposium – Soulful Prairies – Woodstock, Illinois**
 - 1 Day Mustang Symposium
- **September – Mustang Classic – KHP – Lexington, Kentucky – September 13-15, 2024**
 - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest
- **September – EQUUS Aiken – Aiken Equine Rescue - Aiken, South Carolina – September 19-22, 2024**
 - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event
- **October – Liberty Festival – Kentucky Horse Park – October 11-12, 2024**
 - EQUUS Film & Arts Fest – Rescued Hearts Screening
- **October – Ibericon – World Equestrian Center – Ocala, Florida – October 17-20, 2024**
 - Small Event – Films
- **October – EQUUS BC – Anvil Center – New West Minister, BB Canada – October 26, 2024**
 - Small Event – Films
- **November – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit Main Event – Albuquerque, New Mexico – November 14 – 17, 2024**
 - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event

Additional Dates and Locations 2025

- **April – EQUUS Equine Affaire Ohio – Columbus, Ohio – April 10-13**
 - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event
- **May – EQUUS Sacramento – Sacramento, California**
 - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event
- **June – Mustang Symposium – Colorado BLM Partner Event -Grand Junction Colorado – June 26-29**
 - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event
- **August – Maryland Mustang Mission – Harford County Equestrian Center – Bel Air, Maryland – August – August 30 – 31, 2025**
 - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event
- **September - GHS Devil's Garden Mustang Challenge – Huntingdon, Pennsylvania - September 26-28**
 - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event





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The Team



**THE MUSTANG
SUMMIT**

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 12th 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

lisa@equusfilmfestival.net

+1-630-272-3077



Deborah Ann Caiafa

Team EQUUS – All Around Go To Gal! - Illinois

Deb has been a key TEAM member for the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest for many years. If you cannot find her helping at the info desk you can find her seeking out the closest horse looking to kiss them!

She is a fierce advocate for the American Wild Mustang and a lover of all horses. She has fallen back in love with riding and takes weekly lessons at Bull Valley Equestrian Center in Elburn, Illinois on a beautiful Draft Cross mare. Working on her jumping and Hunt Seat Equitation!

She makes her home in Warrenville, Illinois with her wonderful husband “Chubb-O” and her pack of pups.

Without wonderful helpers like Deb EQUUS wouldn't be able to bring you the best in equine films, literature, and art! Our volunteers are the backbone of the fest!!

Thank you, Deb, for all your dedication and hard work!

You can look to Deb to help answer any questions you might have at the fest!



Julie Martin

EQUUS Team

Executive Assistant to the Director



WEBSITE: <http://www.equusfilmfestival.net/>

Julie Powers-Martin: Is a horse lover and mother to Joshua, the rumbustious star of the Down Syndrome documentary “[A Pony And His Boy: The Story Of Berry & Josh](#)”. Taking care of an 11-year-old with Down Syndrome takes up much of her day but, she still has time to play an important role in the day to day running of the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest as Lisa Diersen’s Executive Assistant.

She has an extensive background in accounting and bookkeeping, spending 15 years in the plumbing industry before leaving to bring up Josh. Julie’s family includes her wonderful and supportive husband, Jason, her two adult sons, Jason and Justin, and two furry family additions, Jewel (jack Russell) and Josie (corgi cuteness).

Try keeping all of those “J’s” straight!

Julie loves riding her Lusitano mare, Havana and helping with the rest of the herd of Lusitanos that are part of the family!

The EQUUS Film & Arts Fest could not get everything done, all of the books checked in, movies reviewed, podcast listened to, art admired, and ready to go on time without Julie’s help as an important member of the team!

Follow Julie and Josh on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/julie.powersmartin>

A Pony & His Boy Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/A-Pony-And-His-Boy-The-Story-Of-Berry-Josh-359375751489470>



Woodstock, Illinois

August 2024

Soulful Prairies



OUR STORY STARTS WITH A WOMAN WHO HAD A CRAZY PASSION FOR HORSES, PEOPLE, AND PRAIRIES.

When I found this little corner of the world in Woodstock, I instantly felt connected and at home. All the buildings were falling down and there were weeds everywhere. The property was a complete mess but I could feel the energy of what was to be. I didn't have a plan and my husband thought that I was mad. But, he believed in me and knew that this project was going to fill me up in a way I couldn't even imagine at the time. He strapped a pair of strong, beautiful wings on my back and encouraged me to fly. This was just the start of the Soulful Prairies story. walls are made of lath and plaster. The backyard even features a 3000-gallon cistern.

This eighty-acre parcel has much to offer. Thirty acres are now in the Land Conservancy which means these areas offer native wildlife and plant life, some of which are endangered. Five acres are fenced for the horses, it is always fun to stop and have a chat with one of them if you are out and about.

A walking and riding path sweeps the edge of the property. The buildings surround a grassy flat area perfect for hosted events. Don't forget to take a nap in one of our hammocks. There is also a beautiful overlook where you can kick back and watch the birds and other wildlife over the pond. The croak of our resident bullfrog is not to be missed.

Soulful Prairies has hosted a variety of events including equine clinics, private and corporate retreats, fund-raisers, and meetings. In addition to our gorgeous prairie space, we also have clean and comfortable accommodations on-site for groups or individuals who would like to stay for more than one day. We partner with exceptional people who can offer you or your group additional services to enhance your experience at Soulful Prairies. We enjoy supporting our guests in creating their dreams. We love brainstorming and creating, so feel free to contact us about your vision.





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The “Mustangers”



Sky Epperson

Indiana

MUSTANG Adoption Academy – Founder/Director

Mustang Heritage Foundation TIP Trainer

Haubstadt, IN

www.mustangadoptionacademy.com



Sky is a father, mustang gentler and horse trainer from Southwest Indiana based at the Triple E Ranch. Interestingly, Sky grew up without horses. He didn't even have a pet until he was married and in his late 20's. Around 2003, Sky got his first horse at the encouragement of his father who wanted another riding buddy. Sky took his father's advice on that first horse, then learned quickly to not take his dad's horse advice again! The horse had some issues caused by previous owners/trainers that put Sky on the fast track to learning much more about how the horse brain works. This learning process led to a passion and love for horses, horse education and the horses communication with both humans and the herd. Sky is the father of triplets born in 2001 and the love of horses has grown the herd to 10 horses and 2 onery but adorable burros. The herd, Sky, and usually one or two of the family squeezes in a horse pack trip each year.

In recent years, Sky has fallen for the Mustang - bright, smart and tough. He has become a Mustang and mustang gentler and is available to do training demonstrations and clinics as well. West Taylor and Dr. Steven Peters really showed Sky what's important in helping mustangs as well as other horses. Sky continues his quest to learn by continually studying and experiencing the horse most waking hours. Sky's horse sense grew immensely when working for Hall-of-Famer, Terry Palmer and the Palmer family at their ranch in Durango, Colorado. Having the chance to be in front of so many different horses, from yearlings to older horses, was a true blessing.

Through extensive study and practice, we at the Mustang Adoption Academy Foundation have found the path to Mustang adoption success: Evidence-Based Horsemanship. We have a solution for our Veterans that are struggling and are working hard to stop the 20 plus suicides that are happening daily in Veteran communities. MusOur nonprofit foundation helps adopters, and their Mustang friends successfully navigate lifetime partnership. The journey doesn't end with adoption papers and delivery, but continues with online and in-person demos, clinics, online courses, and one-on-one support. Please help us by supporting our organization through a donation or subscribing to one of our services to help all Mustang Adopters learn the best way to help them help their Mustangs.

Follow the Mustang Adoption Academy's progress on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/sky.epperson> or <https://www.facebook.com/Mustangadoptionacademy> or on Instagram @Mustangadoptionacademywithsky Mustangadoptionacademy.com



Annamaria Sims

Partnering with Sky Epperson - Illinois

Strengthen the Saddle - Founder

Equine Bodywork, Massage & Awareness



Annamaria Sims, certified Equine Massage Therapist, started her journey with horses later in life. An animal lover at heart, she enrolled her son who was diagnosed with autism (who also showed a fondness for animals) into a therapeutic riding program in 2005 and has never looked back.

Annamaria took an immediate interest into the compassion, natural healing power, and therapeutic aptitude that the horses demonstrated. She volunteered for over 15 years working with occupational, physical, and speech therapists as they worked with both kids and adults with physical and mental disabilities all while expanding her own horizons and watching her two children thrive in the program.

After spending 25 years in database management and retail, she decided to take the knowledge that she had gained and her love for horses and bet on herself. Believing that horses are at their best when they are sound physically, Annamaria received her certification for equine massage and began building a business that now sees her working on over 125+ horses per month in two different states (Illinois and Wisconsin) and growing.

In addition to her massage work, Annamaria has recently worked with wild mustangs at multiple events nationally in an effort to have them adopted to forever homes. Her work has assisted in having multiple mustangs adopted to work in therapeutic program that work with military veterans.

Her ultimate goal is to be able to help as many horses as she can so that partnerships can be made to the benefit of both the horse and the human being.

“Horses are truly an amazing force of nature. The world would not be the same without their powerful healing presence.” – Annamaria Sims

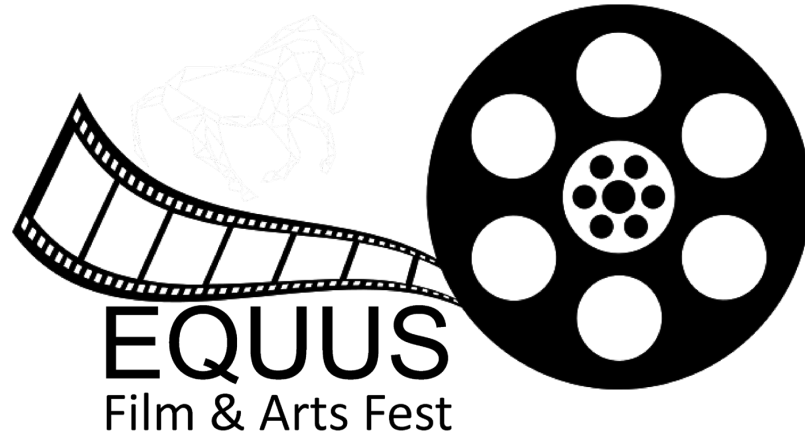


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presents

The Clinicians & Guest Speakers



Linda Bruce
Illinois



Certified Equine Gestalt Practitioner, BA, MA

MY STORY

I was a highly sensitive, somewhat shy child. I often felt a little lost and overwhelmed. Animals always gave me a sense of balance. My childhood was filled with feeding orphaned animals from eye droppers and helping those no longer healthy enough to stay on this planet to peacefully pass to the other side. I believed I could feel the pain of an injured spider, or the sadness of a baby separated from its mother. These feelings were not limited to animals and bugs. The sight of a child sitting alone at a lunch table was enough to send me home sick from school.

MY HORSE PARTNERS HAVE ENCOURAGED ME ALONG THE WAY.

Their keen sense of knowingness and ability to heal on many occasions has left me breathless. As the property took physical shape, I really had to own my purpose. That part of the story continues to unfold, but I can tell you that I find the most joy in seeing people reshape themselves. We are here on this planet to experiment, seek, fall and get back up again, all the while becoming more and more of who we are really meant to be. If I can be a stepping stone to helping someone along their travels of exploration I am grateful and honored.

<https://vimeo.com/294431744>
<https://www.soulfulprairies.com>



Rebecca Castiello Rachel & Lexi Zurkowski Illinois Proud American Mustang Adopters!



Blue (age 4) captured from Wyoming at 1 (HMA unknown). Currently in training under saddle and starting to canter.

Major Tom (Age 5) captured at 1 from devils garden (chipped not branded). Major was returned for being aggressive but he is a great horse and fantastic under saddle.

Comanche (age 10) captured pancake Nevada at age 4 and competed on the extreme mustang makeover. Used to barrel race and now getting back into shape.

Pizzelle (age 10) captured at 8 as a nuisance donkey from Chocolate Mule mountains and stayed in holding for 2 years. Took 2 years to do feet without sedation.

Cannoli (age 5) captured at 4 from centennial mountain and a very sweet disposition.



Patricia Cross

Mustang Ballet - Indiana



Born into a world enchanted by the allure of Mustangs, my journey began as a young dreamer entranced by the untamed beauty of 'Wild' Horses. At the tender age of 11, my mother brought home an unhandled palomino pony. This spirited gelding, merely a yearling at the time, would soon come to be known as BuckOh!, marking the genesis of an extraordinary bond and a transformative journey.

As I matured, I navigated through the corporate corridors of the financial and mortgage industry until destiny intervened at the age 37. In October of 2022, I welcomed my first American Mustang, and by January 2023, my herd expanded to four, with two of my new companions carrying precious new life.

Yet, on March 25, 2023, the winds of change swept through my life as I found myself unemployed for the first time in my career, a casualty of the financial downturn gripping the economy. Emotionally depleted and withdrawn, I struggled to find my footing and grappled with a profound sense of purposelessness, leaving me adrift.

Amidst this storm, I discovered solace in the rhythmic dance with my horses, rekindling a sense of purpose and a fervent advocacy for Mustangs, reigniting a passion for genuine connection and a sense of family. The impact goes far beyond the positive steps taken for the horses; it has also revitalized my own life!

In addition to nurturing my growing herd of magnificent Mustangs, I take great pride in being a devoted mother to 2 wonderful young men whose curiosity fuels my own quest for knowledge and compassion. As the founder of Mustang Ballet, I am committed to fostering a worldwide understanding of life's compassion and the imperative of preserving the rich heritage of our Great American Mustang. I serve as a steadfast advocate for future generations, sharing the lessons learned from embracing a deeper connection with Mustangs and People through the timeless traditions of the equestrian arts.

www.mustangballet.org



Patti Gruber

Illinois

Operation Wild Horse Program Director

**PANEL: Mustangs, First Responders & Veterans
Mustangs For Mental Health**



Patti grew up the granddaughter of two WWII veterans. One a Marine who was captured on Wake Island and spent years as a POW in Japan. The other a Navy machinist who served on the USS Mona Loa. Without a firsthand understand of the struggles her grandfathers both endured during wartime service, Patti grew up knowing there were emotional scars from their time in service. As an adult she learned about PTSD and started to draw the lines to connect her experiences, those in her family and her grandfathers back to their experiences during WWII.

In January of 2015, Patti approached Veterans R&R about creating a veteran program with horses. Patti is most well know for her success in the Dressage arena with her Mustang Stallion Padre'. He is the first and only wild horse to qualify, compete & win at Dressage at Devon, the most prestigious Dressage show in the United States. Since 2010, their success has been chronicled online throughout the world, in magazines including Dressage Today and Practical Horseman, in two books and on a Breyer model horse made in Padre's likeness. She is an accomplished horsewoman of 35 years and is committed to improving the lives of our veterans & military families through their connection, growth and learning experiences with horses

Operation Wild Horse (OWH), a program of Veterans R&R 501(c)3, provides a safe community where Veterans, Active-Duty Military, and families can build a significant Mustang/Human bond that allows barriers to fall, communication to enhance, and trust to form. This approach has time and time again resulted in the formation of life-changing partnerships via:

- Mustang Assisted Learning (MAL)
- Mustang Assisted Activities (MAA)
- Military Service Member and Veteran Reintegration (MSMVR)
- Understanding Mustang Human Relationship (UMHR)
- Mustang Therapeutic Riding (MTR)

<https://www.veteransrandr.org/operation-wild-horse>

<https://www.facebook.com/operationwildhorse>

OPERATION "WILD HORSE"



HORSES HELPING VETERANS HELPING HORSES



Jake Harvath

Utah

Year of the Mustang

Jake Harvath is a long-distance rider from Heber City, Utah. He is the founder of the Year of the Mustang project. A six thousand-mile horseback journey that has taken Harvath and his mustangs from Utah to the Atlantic coast. Now they are headed west, with plans to pass through twenty-five states in total. Jake's mission is to show the usefulness and versatility of mustangs as working horses and to educate the public about the need for adoption. A trainer and farrier by trade, Jake is applying the skills he's obtained in life to the challenging journey.

While his horses; Denver, Bella, and Eddy are showing the world the qualities that mustangs possess, Jake found a voice by documenting his journey on YouTube and social media. Giving the world a unique look at what it's like to cross America on the backs of wild horses.

<https://youtu.be/88yPCT0gQpg?si=wDNcYHNjZSsxXWzr>

<https://yearofthemustang.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100095731503504>

<https://www.instagram.com/yearofthemustang>

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-support-the-year-of-the-mustang>



**YEAR
OF THE
MUSTANG**

Rev. John Matias

LLPC, MA, MMin

**Mental Health Professional | Mustang Owner
Michigan**

Rev. John Matias, LLPC, MA, MMin, is a graduate of Calvin College, Calvin Theological Seminary and Western Michigan University. He became an ordained minister at age 25 and currently serves as a bilingual clinical mental health therapist at Bethany Christian Services with refugee youth specializing in EMDR, DBT, and CBT. John served on the Grand Rapids Public School Board for 9 years and is the Vice President of the Board of Network 180, the community mental health entity in Kent County, Michigan's second most populous county.

John founded and pastored churches in Chicago, El Paso, Texas, and Grand Rapids, Michigan, and served in education K-12 and college, traveling and advocating nationally. Through his career he has worked at the grassroots level addressing pertinent issues affecting urban at-risk communities in the U.S. including the AIDS epidemic at its outset, gang violence, economic, housing and educational inequities, immigration and racial disparities, minority pastoral leadership development, removing barriers to mental health and higher education, and advocating politically in Lansing and Washington D.C. regarding the needs of the most vulnerable.

John grew up second generation Puerto Rican, number 15 of 16 children in the inner city of Chicago, exposed to the impact of community violence and poverty. His experiences have influenced his passion for addressing the impact of complex trauma in youth and adults. Along with his wife Sarah, also an EMDR therapist, he became involved in an equine therapy program volunteering as the development director for the past two years through which he developed an understanding of the powerful impact of horses in the treatment of trauma and mental health. Sarah and John have 4 grown children and one grandchild and also both come from family cultures of military service. They are Army parents of a Blackhawk pilot and Sarah is an adult child of a combat veteran. Throughout their marriage they have rescued and rehabbed a variety of animals and recently adopted two Wild Mustang yearlings and are in the process of starting a non-profit horse sanctuary and trauma-focused equine assisted therapy program for the treatment of both military and civilian populations experiencing the effects of trauma.



Sarah Matias

Mental Health Professional | Mustang Owner LMSW, CAADC, ADS is a Licensed Master Social Worker Michigan

Sarah Matias, LMSW, CAADC, ADS is a Licensed Master Social Worker, Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor, advanced trained EMDR therapist, NADA Acudetox Specialist and EAGALA certified mental health professional. Sarah trained in EMDR with Dr. Wendy Freitag, President of the International EMDRIA Research Foundation and colleague of Dr. Francine Shapiro and is trained in several advanced protocols including equine-assisted EMDR. Sarah is a graduate of Wheaton College, Grand Valley State University.

Sarah has over 30 years of experience in community-based counseling, advocacy, and ministry. She currently serves as a clinical mental health therapist specializing in complex trauma and substance use disorders at Arbor Circle Corporation in Grand Rapids, MI and served on the board of an equine assisted growth and learning facility from 2017 to 2023. She has a passion for cross cultural work, studying in Latin America, Asia and Europe and serving in community-based work in Chicago; El Paso, Texas; Ciudad Juarez, Mexico; and Grand Rapids, Michigan addressing a broad range of populations who have experienced complex trauma including gang members, incarcerated populations, and war refugees. She has partnered with her husband in urban church planting, missions, and has been actively involved in advocacy through a variety of community coalitions, program development, grant writing, and networking between the faith community and social service system.

Sarah specializes in the treatment of complex trauma, addiction, attachment and other mental health diagnoses, utilizing EMDR, equine assisted EMDR and psychotherapy and other modalities as part of an integrative trauma-informed, approach. She has integrated animal assisted therapies throughout her community-based work and has also developed treatment to address the mental wellbeing of the horses and other animals assisting in therapy. Sarah and her husband John, also an EMDR therapist and ordained minister, have 4 grown children and one grandchild. Sarah and John come from family cultures of military service, are Army parents of a Blackhawk pilot and Sarah is an adult child of a combat veteran. They recently adopted two Wild Mustang yearlings and are in the process of starting a non-profit horse sanctuary and trauma-focused equine assisted therapy program for the treatment of both military and civilian populations experiencing the effects of trauma.



Jill McCrae

Illinois

McCrae Farm Classical Dressage | Mustang Ballet



McCrae Farm strives to provide a safe and healthy environment for horse and rider, and to train with intelligence and compassion

Horses must be light and active; the gaits must be pure and regular; the movements are given by - not forced from - the horse.

McCrae Farm was established in 1987. We are a classical horsemanship facility dedicated to training, instruction and performance.

We are dedicated to the preservation of French Classical Training principals set in the Eighteenth Century by François Robichon de La Guérinière. We are also here to share our love of horses with the local community via performances and instructions.

What started out as our first performance sixteen years ago has inspired and grown into sold out performances to benefit local charities and to entertain family and friends. Inspired by traveling around the world, from Brazil to Paris, and seeing what the top schools and troupes have to offer, McCrae Farm has melded these experiences and brought them to life here in the Midwest.

<https://www.mccraefarm.com/>



Rachel Penning

Wisconsin

Penning Photography

How to Photograph Horses



My love of horses started at a very young age. I had horse posters on my walls, watched horse shows on TV, and even pretended to be a horse!

When I was 12, I finally got a chance to take riding lessons at a riding stable in Germany (where my father was stationed while in the Armed Forces). After moving back to the States I got a job as a trail guide and then finally I purchased my first horse, a Mustang named Copper. He was a great first horse! I started my photography journey with him in 2009.

After taking pictures of Copper I started taking pictures at barrel racing events which expanded into pictures of mounted shooting, horses competing at liberty, horse shows (of all kinds) and several other events including the Wild Horse Fair at Operation Wild Horse in July. My absolute favorite shots to get are horses in motion!

While photography is not my full-time job (I currently work full-time in a customer account position) it is even more special when I have the opportunity to photograph these powerful and graceful equines.

Unfortunately, Copper died of colic in 2015. Copper was very special and I loved that he was a mustang, so I decided I wanted another mustang. I purchased Red, pictured below, she is a mare from the Black Rock Range West HMA in Nevada.

<https://www.penning-photography.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PenningPhotography/>



Dana Price

Michigan

My name is Dana Price and I have been in the social work/counseling field for more than 23 years. I have a double major Bachelors Degree in Psychology with an emphasis on Children and Family and Sociology from Western Michigan University. My Masters in Counseling Psychology is also from Western.

I am a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and a Certified Advanced Drug and Alcohol Counselor (CAADC). My primary approach is Cognitive Behavioral Theory however, I am also experienced in using Dialectical Behavioral Theory and Motivational Interviewing. I offer a laid-back approach to therapy utilizing humor, accountability, warmth, and empathy. Collaborating closely, I work to help clients learn new positive coping skills and get them back on track for long lasting change.

I currently work with adolescents, adults, and couples and am comfortable treating a diverse range of presenting problems. Some of the most common issues I treat are: depression, anxiety, addictions, trauma, personality disorders, and grief. A good therapeutic relationship can offer clarity and support. Emotions can feel overwhelming, but having a safe place to process them can help clients move toward symptom reduction and personal change.

Dana@changestudiocounseling.com (work)

616-259-5033 (work)



Charlie Sims

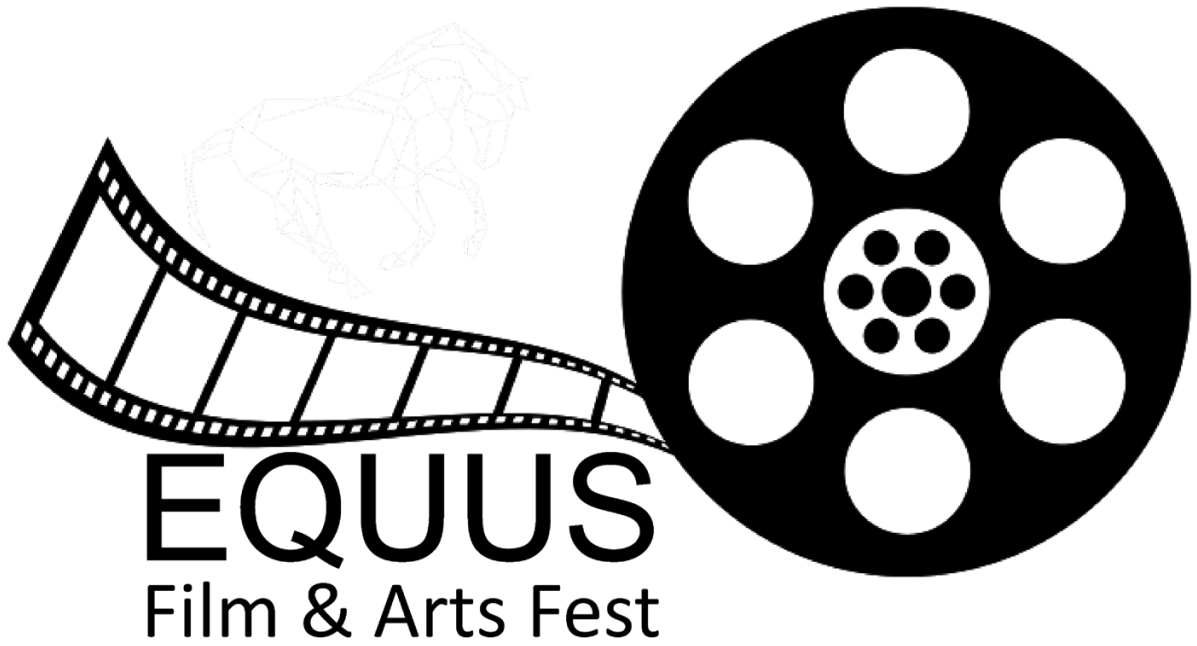
Illinois

Growing Up With Autism & Horses

Charlie Sims is an animal lover by nature. Growing up, he was always looking at animal books and had a fondness for their development and way of life. After being diagnosed with autism at the age of 3, he was enrolled in a goal based therapeutic riding program that helped him develop his muscle tone, balance, riding ability, and his bond with horses.

Charlie has competed in horse shows across the United States and is a two-time Congress EWD (Equestrians With Disabilities) Champion and a NSBA EWD World Champion. Though no longer competing, Charlie has continued his bond with horses. He cares for his own horse Emma and is taking classical dressage lessons.





presents

The Partners



**THE MUSTANG
SUMMIT**

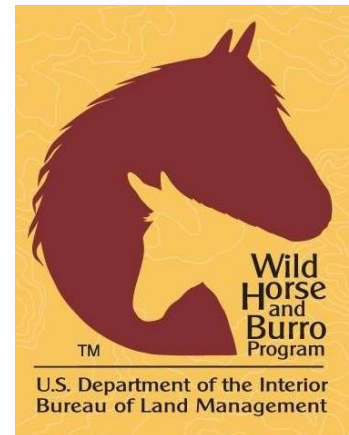
Bureau of Land Management

The BLM works to place excess animals into private care through its Adoption and Sales Programs as well as [successful partnerships](#) with organizations across the nation. Many have found it personally challenging and rewarding to adopt or purchase a wild horse or burro. It is a chance to care for, and then own, a part of America's heritage.

The BLM has placed more than 240,000 wild horses and burros into private care since 1971. Many of those animals have become excellent pleasure, show, or work horses.

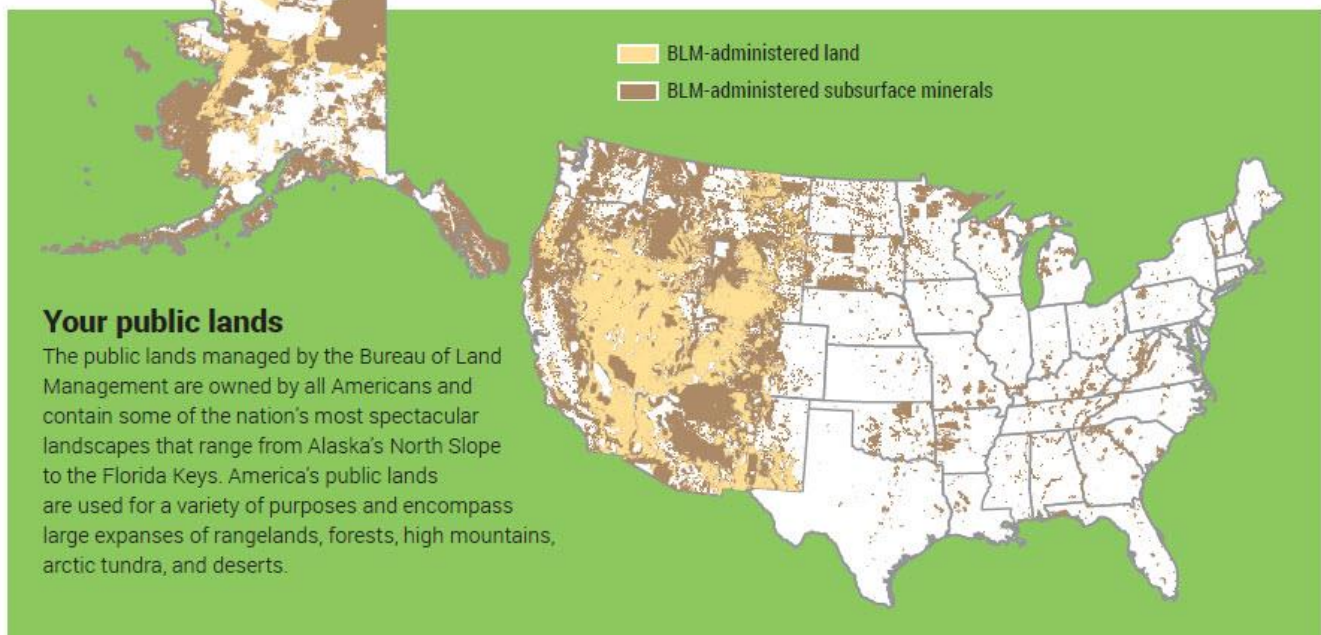
Learn more about:

- [How to adopt or purchase a wild horse or burro](#)
- [Adoption Incentive Program](#)
- [Off-range corral adoption and purchase locations](#)
- [Wild horse and burro adoption and sale events](#)
- [Visiting and adopting or purchasing from a public off-range pasture](#)
- [Sale Program](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)



The Bureau of Land Management

Manages more than 1/10 of the nation's surface area and 30% of the nation's minerals and soils.



<https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/herd-management>

<https://www.facebook.com/BLMNational>



Welcome to Equine Network.

We provide the equine community with best-in-class competitions, content, products, and services that deepens their love for horses and horse sports.

Our award-winning brands present innovative content, engaging digital experiences, and live equestrian events designed to inform and entertain our target audiences. We attract and retain subscribers and users who are serious equine enthusiasts and industry professionals, and who have both the resources and commitment to provide the best for their horse-related pursuits and upscale lifestyles.

Our Team We're a team of problem solvers, innovators and creators. We're data analysts, marketing strategists and video producers. We're also team ropers, barrel racers, dressage competitors, eventers and trail riders. You'll frequently find us working with hay on our clothes and some mud on our boots. We don't just talk the talk; we ride...



Pat Towbridge
Equine Network | Horse Week



Freedom Reigns Sanctuary

California

Freedom Reign Foundation is a non-profit 501C (3) that is dedicating to improving the lives of horses by rescuing those that are destined for slaughter and providing them a safe haven; backing legislature that improves the quality of life for horses in many industries; and educating the public on the plight of so many horses in need.

Freedom Reigns Sanctuary is a place to observe these beautiful creatures in their natural social circles and as close to natural habitat as we can create. We provide them with the basic care of semi-annual vaccines and hoof trimmings as well as any emergency care deemed necessary as long as their future quality of life will remain adequate for this setting. The equines are given ample freedom to select the friends and companions they connect and build bonds with which usually creates mini herds with like groups. Most of the horses are naturally grazing and moving about on over 3000 acres. Several smaller groups are temporarily homed in smaller pastures either as families, mares with new babies or horses needing temporary rehabilitation. Incoming horses are always quarantined for 4-6 weeks depending on where they are coming from. Any horses not grazing in our large pastures are fed daily our farmed at the ranch, high quality oak/wheat/barley hay.

Freedom Reigns is not open to the public but visitors are welcome to contact us for a private tour if in the San Juan Bautista area. We are a working ranch in which the horses welfare is our main focus

<https://www.freedomreignsequinesanctuary.org/>

<https://freedomreignsdocumentary.com/>





**HORSES FOR
MENTAL HEALTH**

Who We Are

Horses for Mental Health is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to increase awareness, public engagement, funds, and access to programs incorporating horses for mental health and personal growth.

We partner with nonprofit organizations, philanthropists, celebrities, influencers, and companies to realize our collective vision of a world where all mental health needs are met – together.

We seek to strengthen engagement to create a community of inclusivity and diversity while increasing access to quality mental health programs incorporating horses that serve all groups of people..

Our Team

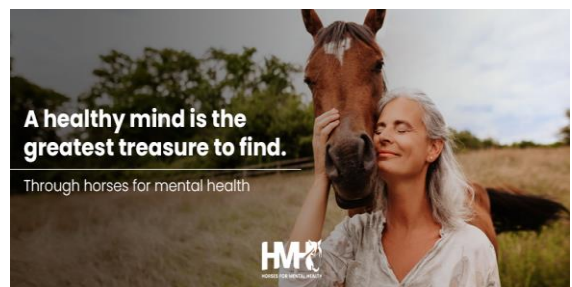
Our team consists of world-class thought leaders with expertise in varying disciplines ranging from: mental health, horsemanship, brand development and strategy, fundraising and awareness modeling, talent acquisition, sponsorship consulting, creative scripting and design, program management, impact reporting and analysis, among other engagements in the social impact realm.

Our team involves and engages with experts and leaders in the equine-assisted services industry, and specifically with psychotherapy and counseling incorporating horses, who help advise our work.

Horses for Mental Health (HMH) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to expand the role horses play in mental health and well-being to realize our vision of a world where all mental health needs are met.

At our foundation is our heart for the welfare of both horses and humans, and how they can impact each other to heal and thrive in incredible ways.

<https://horsesformentalhealth.org/>



Lynn Thomas, Co-Founder/President

Maryland Mustang Mission

Maryland



MARYLAND MUSTANG MISSION

Maryland Mustang Mission is a newly formed nonprofit 501(c)(3) that is devoted to spreading mustang awareness and education on the east coast by showcasing the American Mustang's versatility and ability to go from wild to mild.

Picture

Did you know that there are over 58,000 wild mustangs in holding facilities across the United States?! We need your help to successfully accomplish our mission and help get these amazing horses out of holding facilities and into forever homes! With change comes new beginnings and we are taking a leap of faith with establishing this 501(c)(3) to keep these events going. Let's make the Maryland Mustang Extravaganza and Open Show a huge success in 2024! We cannot do either of these events without you. You can help make them possible by becoming a donor, prize sponsor, competitor, and spectator. Please click the tabs to learn more about the events that will be offered. You can also find lots of great information on our Facebook page, Maryland Mustang Mission, so be sure to pop over there when you get a chance.

<https://mdmustangmission.weebly.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/775340236733053/>

Mustang Leadership Partners

Tennessee Youth & Mustangs



Mustang Leadership Partners (MLP) was established in February 2009 to provide girls and young women with an opportunity to develop, practice, and improve relationship skills, responsibility, social accountability, self-awareness and self-confidence—all of which are mirrored in the mustang's behavior. Providing hands-on science experiences and equestrian training, the MLP program is grounded in the belief that horses are mirrors to our energy systems and teach us important life lessons. The MLP program requires a year-long commitment and dedication to several academic and citizenship standards.

To participate in the MLP program, CGLA students must complete an application and are selected based upon their commitment to the MLP standards and their current academic standing. The program serves up to sixteen students (eight middle school and eight high school).

1219 CARTER LAKE RD
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37405

<https://www.cglonline.com/student-center/mustang-leadership-partners>





The Wild Horse Refuge is a private sanctuary that was created entirely for rescued Wild Mustangs that were taken from BLM Herd Management Areas (HMA) located within Colorado. The Wild Horses living on this special property are now protected and have regained the freedom and independence they had prior to government interference.

With more than 29 square miles of contiguous land to run free, their wild and free spirit has been restored. With the Refuge being located just 30 miles from the Sand Wash Basin, the horses feel right at home as they roam freely across the vast open spaces of the Refuge!

There are no paddocks, stock pens, fenced pastures, or other smaller and more restrictive spaces in use here. Instead of being relegated to pens or smaller pastures where they might have an occasional opportunity to run one or two hundred yards - or possibly even a few thousand feet... the wild horses living at the Refuge continue to run until they choose to stop.

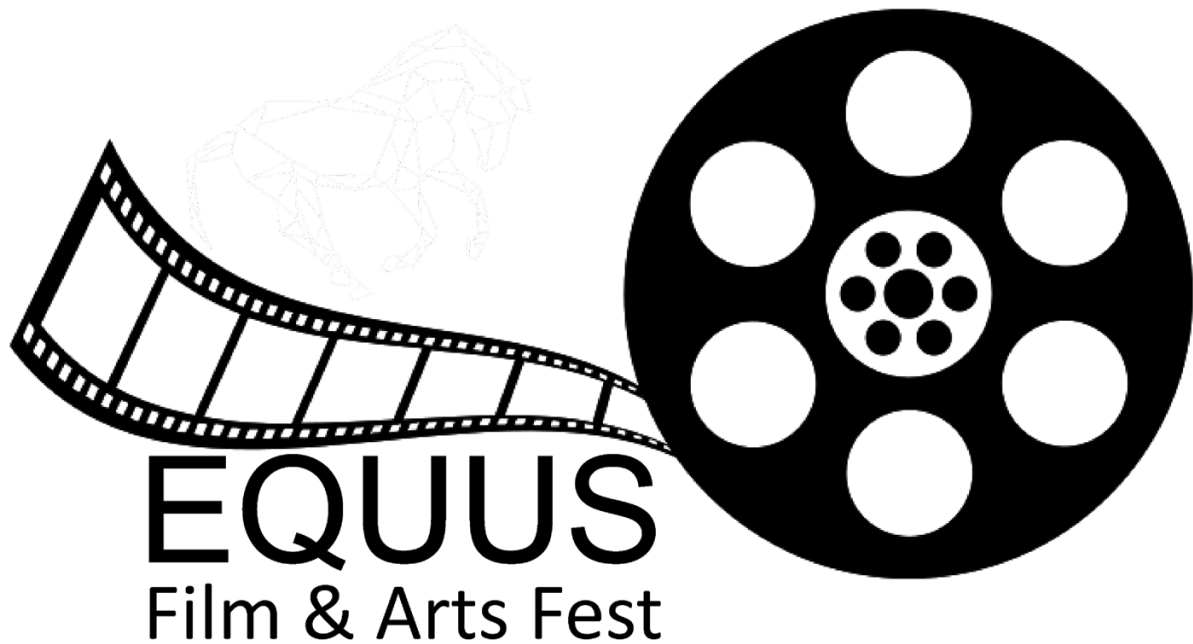
It is truly a beautiful sight to see when these wild horses are able to regain control of where they go and what they do completely on their own!

The Wild Horse Refuge is a completely new facility that was acquired in order to create a special home for Colorado's native Wild Horses.

Wild horses (Mustangs) are allowed to roam freely within the Refuge - which has more than 22,500 acres of land for the horses to roam freely.

<https://www.wildhorserefuge.org/>





Presents

The Films

5000 Miles 5000 Mustang “Project”

Directed by: Julianne Neal

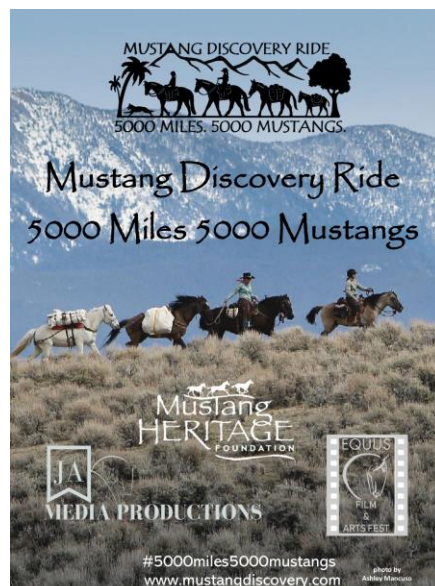
08:00 mins Trailer

Take a young woman with a passion for horses looking for a grand adventure, add American Mustangs and a host of guest riders and you have the ingredients for the “Mustang Discovery Ride.” This documentary project will tell the story of a journey across the United States on the American Discovery Trail (ADT) featuring Mustang TIP trainer, Lianne Fear, along with her Mustangs, dogs and support team. The team is covering 12 states, coast to coast from Delaware to California, riding previously wild Mustangs while packing, camping and speaking about the power of these amazing animals. Lianne rode out from Delaware’s historic Cape Henlopen State Park on September 28, 2021, with members of the team and is continuing her adventures through Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and California. The documentary will detail the struggles and triumphs that she encounters, most attributed to the kindness of strangers met along the journey. We will also feature aspects of the ADT in each state, Mustang adoptions inspired by the project, college and university equine programs utilizing Mustangs, Veterans Programs in existence and other Mustang-related stories. The goal of the ride is to cover 5,000 miles across the country while inspiring the adoption of 5,000 Mustangs into appropriate homes. Through the documentary film, related podcast/vodcast and documentary-series, we are trying to reach as many people as possible to make it happen!

There are currently 53,000+ wild horses in holding pens across America. Each and every one deserves a loving home. Have we inspired you to want to adopt one of these living legends? Join us if you’re inspired to adopt and want to find out more!

Julianne Neal, JA Media Productions, will direct a Documentary and Docuseries as the journey progresses. A team of EQUUS photojournalists and videographers will contribute to the film, each adding individual creative perspective of the ride. Sponsors Mustang Heritage Foundation, Espana Silk, Crypto Aero Feeds and Omega Fields are joining the Mustang Discovery Foundation in supporting the team along the way. Follow the team's progress on social media or visit www.mustangdiscovery.com to learn more about the ride. To keep up with progress on the film project, visit www.jamediaconnections.com www.equusfilmfestival.net/mustang-discovery-ride.html

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/n38CtylRlcw>



FREEDOM REIGNS

EQUINE SANCTUARY



Matt Cohn
Founder/Director/Producer

Matt Cohn **Washington, DC** **Freedom Reigns**

Matt Cohn is an award-winning producer and director. His most recent film as a director is "Freedom Reigns" which has won "The Impactful Doc Award" in 2023. As a producer, he's known for never taking no as an answer and confronting any obstacles head on.

<https://www.hitfiremedia.com/>

<https://freedomreignsdocumentary.com/>

HOOVES: Healing America's Veterans

Directed by: Josh Nagel

4:00 mins (Trailer Submission)

This film speaks to the need of mental health as it brings to life the journey of 9 veterans completing a transformational process that liberates them from the demons in their head, allows them to intrinsically connect to a new purpose, and ultimately find peace of the heart and mind.

This mission of this documentary is to bring hope to those struggling with the effects of trauma and to help those who support our veterans understand what they experience at a deeper level.

<https://www.joshnagelproductions.com/>

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/O7QADH9Y1cE>



Directed by: **Josh Nagel**

Josh Nagel Productions is an award-winning video production company located in Toledo, OH. Josh Nagel is the Founder and Lead Cinematographer of this company, and he has over 11 years of experience in the video production industry. Since then, Josh has developed his dynamic, compassionate video story-telling style through experience, unique vision, and personal connections Josh forges with people. He has a highly skilled team of creators who are passionate about the video production process. Josh offers various videography styles, combined with abundant creativity, ensuring clients a professional and reliable service with the best end product.

The Mustangs: America's Wild Horses

Directed by: Steven Latham & Conrad Stanely

90:00 mins

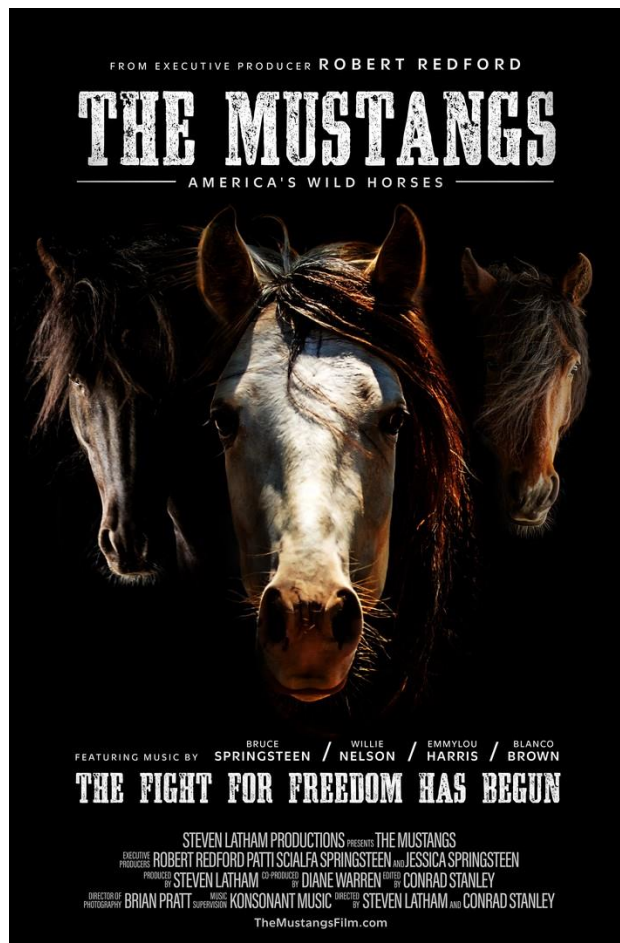
"The Mustangs: America's Wild Horses" is a feature documentary that is executive produced by Robert Redford, Patti Scialfa Springsteen and Jessica Springsteen.

The film features songs by Bruce Springsteen, Emmylou Harris, Willie Nelson and an original song written by Diane Warren and performed by Blanco Brown.

"The Mustangs" takes audiences on an odyssey throughout America to places few people have seen or even know about. There are more than 80,000 wild horses on our public lands and more than 50,000 in government corrals. This film will make you fall in love with America all over again and understand why the protection of our wild horses and our public lands are worth fighting for.

<https://themustangsfilm.com/>

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/SSWEC0buBq0>



Director - **Steven Latham**

Steven Latham is an award-winning filmmaker and the President of Steven Latham Productions. Mr. Latham produced and directed the film, *Saved By The Sun*, for NOVA/PBS. He also produced and directed the feature documentary about the TED Conference, *The Future We Will Create*, with Daphne Zuniga.

Mr. Latham created and was the producer/director of the PBS series, *The Living Century*, which told the amazing stories of the 20th Century through individuals who were at least 100 years old. He produced this with Barbra Streisand and Cis Corman of Barwood Films. The project's board of advisors included Leonard Maltin, Art Linkletter, Dr. Tom Perls and 3-Time U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky.

The Mustang Speaks Documentary

8:00 mins

Trailer

In July 2023, Sky Epperson and Annamaria Sims combined Sky's Brain-Based Horsemanship training and Annamaria's Neuro-Pathway Body Work to help 3 untouched Mustangs. We filmed over 6 days of work at the Mustang Adoption Academy and now would like to bring this story to the world. Meet Ambiente MAA and her 5-month foal, Amore MAA, both adopted by Patricia Cross and transported into Indiana for the project. Meet Ajax MAA and Atlas MAA, both found at a nearby long-term holding facility. Follow their stories over the 6 days to see just how well the brain and body collaboration worked for these Mustangs and can work for your horse as well! From first touches to halters, feel good healing to licking and chewing, holding tags on to tags off, see for yourself how this work is making a difference. Now we need your help. The Production phase is expensive. Postproduction is even more so.

By supporting this project, you can help make the difference in bringing The Mustang Speaks to the big screen, and to an audience that may be able to make a difference in the life of a Mustang. Please visit www.mustangadoptionacademy.com for more information about Mustang adoptions. Please visit www.amustangstory.com for more information about The Mustang Speaks, The Mustang Discovery Ride Documentary and A Mustang Story, the docuseries. Thank you for your support!

<https://www.mustangadoptionacademy.com/>



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
- 4' x 2' Banner at The Mustang Summit Location
- Branded logo on banners
- VIP Passes for 4 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
- 4' x 2' Banner at The Mustang Summit Location
- Branded logo on banners
- VIP Passes for 2 Guest

Gold Partnership Package \$1500

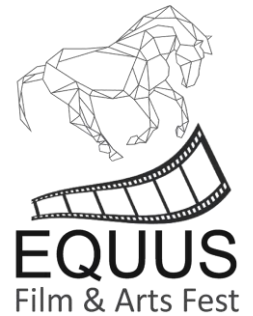
- Social Media blast with all sponsors
- Listed as a preferred partner on EquusFilmFestival.net
- 2-minute introduction at VIP party
- 4' x 2' Banner at The Mustang Summit Location
- Presentation slide with company information & logo
- VIP Passes for 1 Guest

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

Pony Partnership Package \$500

- Shout out for being a sponsor at live event
- Presentation slide with company information & logo



Benefits of a Partnership with the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest

- Partnering with an established Internationally acclaimed Equine Film, Art & Literary Fest
- Celebrating the 12th 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 Aiken

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

September 19 – 22, 2024

Aiken, South Carolina

- ♥ Mustang Trainer Justin Dunn – Saturday All-Day Demo
- ♥ Mustang Eventer – Ann Hanlin & Woodrow
- ♥ 7 Mustangers – Nicola Bolt / Alecz Adams / 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 & Artists
- ♥ Food Trucks

Tickets:



AIKEN EQUINE RESCUE

AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA SINCE 2006



HORSES FOR MENTAL HEALTH



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

EQUUS Albuquerque

Film & Arts Fest


The Mustang Summit

Mustang Symposium

NOVEMBER 14 - 17, 2024


ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

BERNALILLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S POSSE ARENA

 THURSDAY EVENING VIP PARTY WITH FILMMAKERS & SPECIAL GUESTS

 EQUUS FILMS ALL WEEKEND - Q & A'S WITH FILMMAKERS

 EQUINE ART & LITERARY FEST - FRIDAY - SUNDAY


 MUSTANG SYMPOSIUM

 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 NEW MEXICO PANELS WITH LOCAL MUSTANG EXPERTS

 EQUINE VENDORS

 SILENT AUCTION

 MUSTANG ADOPTION EVENT



WILDERWOOD



MUSTANG CHAMPIONS



WILD HORSE REFUGE
Colorado's Refuge For Wild Horses



HORSES FOR MENTAL HEALTH



CHATTANOOGA GIRLS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
UNLOCKING A WORLD OF POSSIBILITY



MEDIA PRODUCTIONS



ALBUQUERQUE

CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE



EQUUS Official Artwork by: Lynn Pomeranz

EQUUS

Film & Arts Fest

The Mustang Summit

Mustang Symposium



CHATTANOOGA
GIRLS LEADERSHIP
ACADEMY
UNLOCKING A WORLD OF POSSIBILITY



HORSES FOR
MENTAL HEALTH



5000 MILES. 5000 MUSTANGS.



MEDIA PRODUCTIONS



Wild Horses
Program
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

