

Making History Mizrahi

By Christy Howard Womack

He was bred to be a legend, and a legend he has become. His sire, the great HVK Bell Flaire carried the best attributes of his own sire Noble Flaire and reproduced them in his sons. His dam, the illustrious show mare Schiaparelli, was a Park Saddle World Champion herself and she also passed down the attributes of her heritage (Wham Bam Command x Townshend Donachime). So it is only fitting that Mizrahi carry on that legacy of passing down the best attributes of a show horse to his get, and achieves a record that has only been matched one time in history, by his own grandsire.

The 2006 World Champion Stallion, Mizrahi, sired all three of the In Hand World Champions, gelding, mare and stallion, at this year's Grand National and World Championship Morgan Horse Show.

Mastroianni (out of Kim's Bellegante) was crowned World Champion Gelding this year with Richard Boule for owner Brenda Varney, after amazingly being the four-time World Champion Stallion in his career.

In her Grand National debut, Treble's She's Mizbehavin (out of Treble's Pomp & Byzazz) posed as the World Champion Mare as well as making victory passes as the Grand National English Pleasure Mare and the Reserve World Champion English Pleasure under the direction of Tim Roesink for Richard and Linda Hawkins and their Mountain Hawk Farm Ltd.

And Dragonsmeade Icon (out of HVK Obsidian) brought his career world championship total to ten as the World Champion Stallion and World Champion Pleasure Driving under the guidance of Tim Roesink for Dragonsmeade. Dragonsmeade Icon has won world championships in Park Saddle, In Hand and Pleasure Driving during his amazing career.

Mizrahi's domination of the In Hand World Champions has only been accomplished one prior time in history – 1990 – by Mizrahi's maternal grandsire Wham Bam Command who sired Hyland Acres Command (World Champion Gelding), Liberation Starbrite (World Champion Mare), and Tug Hill Whamunion (World Champion Stallion)

Mizrahi has also demonstrated his versatility across the disciplines. In fact, at this year's Grand National, Mizrahi sired the first three ribbon winners of the first section of the Amateur Hunter Pleasure Stallion and Gelding Class – Merriehill Black Label GCH, CBMF Designer Touch CH, and Playmor's Here's Johnny – all three having already made victory passes in Oklahoma in prior years.

Mizrahi was bred by Louise Shane and was born in 1996. Beginning his show career as New England Grand Champion Stallion in 1999 for Queen's River Farm. He was sold in partnership to the Design Group in 2000 where



he made his first tricolor appearance in Oklahoma. Just before his tenth birthday, Sammi Hazen purchased Mizrahi on behalf of her family's Playmor Farm. That same year he was crowned World Champion Stallion.

"When we flew to California and I saw him for the first time, I just looked at him and I knew. There was something about his expression, how he looked at me. He's so charismatic it's unbelievable," said Sammi Hazen.

"We developed a connection that's unreal. I spoil him rotten. I bake him these Stud Muffins that he loves. When he was ill at the vet clinic one time, they could tell when I was there by watching the monitor before I ever walked through the door by the way he would pick his head up and watch for me," continued Sammi.

"He is so amazing," says Jennifer Hazen. "The way he carries himself. I've never met a more charismatic and personable stallion that passes exactly those same traits onto his offspring. It amazes me. We can line up four or five sons and daughters in the crossties and they all have almost an exact way of raising and cocking their heads to look for a peppermint. They are just so easy to be around and are so workable."

"I think one of the traits he passes on is the way he moves. He has such an incredible balance to his gait and he passes that on. You can watch the way Merriehill Black Label moves and you can see that same

balanced gait. It's the way they all move. There's a pretty front end and motion, but it's the hocks behind them that gives them the extra drive," said Sammi.

"I know a lot of people who breed to Mizrahi are looking for English and Park horses, but no matter what division you are breeding for – his get carry that pizzazz, and even in Western, you want that special presence in the ring," said Jennifer.

When crossed with the world champion producer Kim's Bellegante, Mizrahi has produced stellar results. In addition to World Champion Gelding Mastroianni, this magical cross has produced MLF Miz Perfect who was the Three-Year-Old Mares Champion as well as being the Reserve World Champion Senior Mare and Reserve World Champion Mare.

Other 2015 Grand National and World Champions that were sired by Mizrahi include Alexander McQueen, Indian Creek American Girl, Miz Saturn Star, Indian Creek Record Breaker, Graycliff Tony GCH, Dressed Up, Playmor's Ecco Domani, Meet George Jetson GCH, and Shimmer. One of the most notable grandsons of Mizrahi is Graycliff Tony Hawk (Graycliff Tony GCH and Graycliff Ballo Bella) who was crowned World Champion Park Harness with Peggy Alderman at this year's show.

One can expect to continue to see Mizrahi sons and daughters making Grand National and World Championship victory passes, and as we can already see, even grandsons and granddaughters.