

Ballet

MADE HER DREAMS COME TRUE

BY LEEANN MIONE



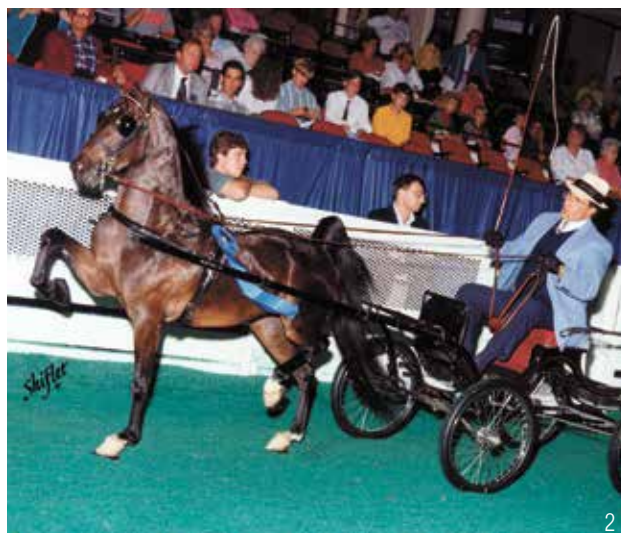
If you knew the real Ed Frickey you won't be surprised to learn that the story of Ballet begins with him. If you know the real Karen Frickey, you won't be surprised that Ballet's story ends with her.

Ballet was born in 1989 to breeder Pat Kennedy and his wife Jay at their Kenhurst Farm. Her sire Rhythm's Spirit was owned by Rex and Shirley Parkinson and the Kennedys owned her dam Poppin's Pride. She was a beautiful baby.

Karen and Ed Frickey were customers of Renee and Lonnie Lavery at their Richlon Farm in Ohio. The Frickey's lived in Lafayette, Indiana so Lonnie and Renee asked them to make the trip to Kenhurst Farm in Muncie, Indiana to look at a harness pony. Karen drove the pony and Ed videotaped them, intending to take that video back to Lonnie and Renee.

After Karen drove the harness pony, Pat and Jay suggested she and Ed look at some of their youngsters. One look at the dark colored yearling filly they presented and Ed was a goner. He told Pat and Jay that he'd pay \$10,000 for her. Karen was shocked at his offer but Ed was still trying to make up for selling her beloved seven times world's champion pleasure horse Flash Gordon. He

*"She was
the kindest pony,
both in the stall and
in the pasture but
she was something else
in the show ring."*



1 Karen Frickey drove Ballet to her second Harness Pony World's Grand Championship title in 1997.

2 Ed Frickey trained Ballet in her three-year-old year. She won the Three-Year-Old Harness Pony Futurity at the Ohio State Fair and was the Three-Year-Old Harness Pony National Futurity World's Champion.



Catherine Wheeler was just one of the throngs of people who came back to the Frickey Farm stalls to see the grand mare after her 2004 Louisville retirement ceremony with Karen Frickey.



Ballet won blue at every show she ever went to and earned nearly 100 blue ribbons in her career. Lexington Junior League's famous Red Mile racetrack was just one of the show rings she conquered.

knew he had broken Karen's heart by selling her gelding and he could only hope that Ballet would make up for his mistake. He put the beautiful filly's papers in Karen's name only and shortly after her show career began.

Under the direction of Pat and Jay Kennedy, Ballet was the Mid-West Yearling Futurity Champion, South Central and Indiana Hoosier Hackney Futurities and was a reserve world's champion. The next year she was the two-year-old futurity champion at Ohio State Fair and the All American Horse Classic and won the Two-Year-Old Hackney Pony Mare National Futurity at Louisville.

Ed Frickey took over her training for her three-year-old year and, with Pat assisting, she again won the Ohio futurity before returning to Louisville and winning the three-year-old national futurity.

The beautiful young mare had proven she was tremendously talented and it was at this point that Ed and Karen decided they wanted professional trainers to join them at their Frickey Farm in Lafayette. Denessa and Randy Harper made the move from Virginia to Indiana in 1993 and took over Ballet's career.

Ballet and Karen showed in the amateur harness pony division in 1994 and they had wins at Midwest and Lexington but it was on the green shavings of Freedom Hall that year that she

made it clear she was best suited for the open ranks.

For the next 10 years she was unstoppable; winning the UPHA Classic Harness Pony Grand Championship, the Harness Pony National Sweepstakes, six world's championships, eight reserve world's championships and was the 1995 World's Grand Champion Harness Pony with Randy driving. She repeated that title again in 1997 with Karen in the viceroy.

Ballet was a four-time UPHA Harness Pony of the Year and won blue ribbons at every show she went to. From Detroit to Asheville, to Dayton to Springfield and Louisville, she went to the winner's circle nearly 100 times.

Ballet was retired at Louisville in 2004 at the age of 15 after a career that set her apart in the harness pony division. She was game, beautiful, kind and oh so special and it was only fitting that she was owned by Karen Frickey her entire show career. In 2013 she became the first pony to be inducted into the Indiana Hackney Hall of Fame.

"Ballet was my first Hackney," said Karen. "She was the kindest pony, both in the stall and in the pasture but she was something else in the show ring. I loved her until the day she died and she was never very far away from me. She would follow me around like a puppy and I could put little kids on her back and lead them around.

I called her "Miss Piggy" because she loved to eat and she always looked fat and sassy and well cared for in her retirement. She loved being a pet and she had a wonderful, long and happy life. She made my dreams come true."



Denessa and Randy Harper pinned the tricolor on her halter in preparation for Ballet to leave Freedom Hall for the final time. Ballet died at the age of 30 after never having been sick a day in her life until the very end. She enjoyed 15 years of retirement after an amazing 14 year career.