

Miss Meredith Grey

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE RESERVE HORSE OF THE YEAR
THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE RESERVE OVERALL FIVE-GAITED
THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE OPEN FIVE-GAITED MARE

BY ERICA FAULKNER

A crowd favorite all year long and last year's Reserve World's Grand Champion Five-Gaited horse, Miss Meredith Grey was your choice for three People's Choice Awards in 2020.

Bred by Kathleen Bagdasarian, the game mare is sired by Master Class and out of Angel Among Us (who is a daughter of the well-known gray mare CH I'm An Angel). Kristen Bagdasarian commented on what the mare was like in her early years.

"Meredith was always a special from the day she was born. She was naturally very confident and very friendly. We also raised Meredith's mother, Angel Among Us and they were very similar in personality. Meredith was a young horse when she came into the barn for training would stand with her front feet on the tailboards if she was trying to get your attention. She learned how to stand in her hay manger and it would give her just the lift she needed to reach the hayloft where she could pull herself down some hay."

Trained by one of the industry's most accomplished trainers, Merrill Murray of Merlin Farm, her show ring career began in 2018 under the ownership of Larry Hartsock and Ceil Wheeler. Her first year in the ring as a four-year-old, she made some good performances, but it was in 2019 that she really started to shine, winning four out of six performances in the open five-gaited division.

"She is a little on the muscle," he said. "She is all about her work. When you throw a leg over her, you better be ready to go."

Murray is known for his talents with a horse of this nature.



Ears forward and going a big trot, Miss Meredith Grey won the Open Five-Gaited Stake at the 2019 Shelbyville Horse Show with trainer Merrill Murray aboard.

"She wants to get big," he pointed out. "She has so much energy and just wants to release that. She's an alpha mare for sure. However, when you're not on her back and you're just around her in the stall, she is a sweetheart. She would crawl in your pocket if you let her. There are not many mares out there like that."

It's that go-forward, high energy, game characteristic that Murray said is part of the reason she is so good. She joins a list of great performances horses, such as CH Our Golden Duchess and CH Courageous Lord, who also displayed this type of go-forward attitude.

"She has that energy you want in the show ring," Murray said.

The 2020 show season may have been shortened due to COVID-19, but less shows meant larger class numbers and more competition at the ones that were fortunate enough to be held. Every time Miss Meredith Grey came through the gate last year she impressed the judges and spectators, showing off her slow gait with a captivating presence.

"One of our favorite performances of hers was when she won a competitive five-gaited stake at the Shelbyville show last August," said Wheeler while Hartsock quickly added "and of course making the workout at Louisville in the Five-Gaited Stake!"



Sired by Master Class and out of Angel Among Us, Miss Meredith Grey and trainer Merrill Murray earned the approval of judges and spectators alike over the past two years.

Not only did she make the workout, but Miss Meredith Grey was named the Five-Gaited Reserve World's Grand Champion in a class full of quality horses.

"Her athleticism really makes her special," Wheeler commented. "She has a true slow gait and really loves her job."

When asked what made the mare such a crowd favorite, Wheeler said, "Merrill is an all-around MVP in our industry as both a horseman and a person plus the crowd always loves a grey horse!"

A memorable year it was for the mare, her owners, and especially for Murray himself, as he noted that it was going to be his last year in the show ring.

"I'll never forget being at a horse show year and years ago, and Frank Bradshaw was in the ring showing a horse," Murray recalled. "I remember a couple young bucks standing next to me and I could hear them commenting, saying things like 'what is that old man doing in the ring?' I couldn't help but laugh to myself, as I knew that Frank knew more about training and showing horses than they did. I told myself that day, that I didn't want to have that same situation happen to me."

Murray closed out his incredible career as a trainer last year, and is looking forward to enjoying his retirement. It's only fitting that such a talented horseman closed out his career with showing a string of top horses, a string that included the beautiful gray that took everyone's breath away, Miss Meredith Grey. And while her time with the great Murray has come to close, Miss Meredith Grey will continue on under the Mercer Springs Farm banner.