

SCOTT Trees

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Photography



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Look through any major Arabian horse breed publication of the last 30 years and chances are you will have seen the photographic mastery of international photographer Scott Trees. Noted for a dramatic use of light and an intimate, emotional portrayal of the subjects he photographs, Scott has traveled the world creating beautiful images of horses.

Scott has been involved with horses his entire life. "My mother had world champion Saddlebreds, and my brother quarter horses so I had no choice really. Horses were always in my life." In the 60's his mother and stepfather started with Arabian horses and became one of the premier breeding and showing farms of the era. "I grew up around some incredible horses and I showed quite a bit. I am still the youngest to have ever shown an open US Arabian National Champion open



halter horse!" This happened 1967 when at the age of 17 Scott showed the National champion halter gelding, as a catch lead. He went on that same day to ride a Top 10 Park horse, as a catch ride!

"My interest in photography didn't really start until I was a sophomore in college. When the bug bit me, it bit me hard! I soon started a business taking pictures for fraternities and sororities and made a killing. It paid for my college degree. I also did a lot of other types of shooting including horses for my Mom. After graduating with my degree in psychology, I wanted to make my living as a photographer and shot anything I could including horse shows. That lasted about 6 years when I got bored photographing horses going around in circles all the time! So I came home from a show one day and uttered the famous last words, "I'll never photograph another horse as long as I live," and started doing more commercial work."

Indeed, Trees built an excellent commercial photography and video business for national clients that is still a part of his business today. However, he was enticed back into horse photography when asked to shoot the dispersal sales catalog for Lancer Arabians, a prominent Egyptian breeder of the day. "I turned the horses loose, which was rather novel at the time, and shot them in different locations. The catalog was a big hit, and more farm calls started



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coming in. It was about that time that the Arabian Horse industry in the United States boomed, and pretty soon I had more work than I could handle. It was an amazing time in my career. I hit a great creative groove and had the opportunity to photograph some great horses in a lot of unique situations." His career took off and the visual impact he had on the industry during that time set the tone for much of how images of horses look today. Three things were to change his life dramatically. The tax law change of 1988 in the United States had a big and negative impact on the horse industry, he got divorced, and a few years after that he had cancer. "I went from a great high to a great low," he comments. "That was a very difficult period of several years in my life. A lot of major changes in my business and personal life came about in a relatively



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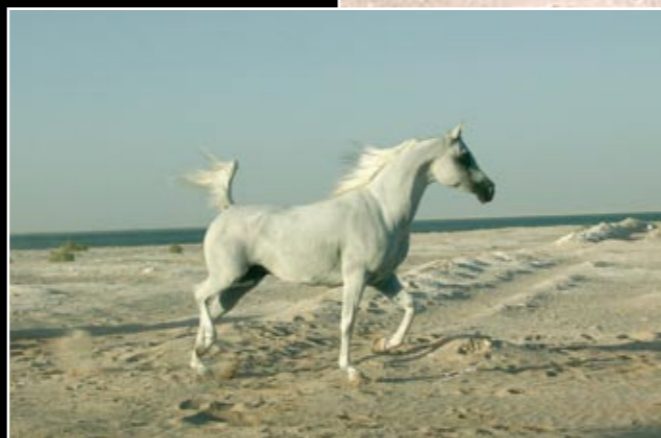


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short period of time, culminating with the cancer diagnosis. I had an aggressive prostate cancer at the age of 44 which is quite rare and usually fatal. I was actually supposed to go shoot in Europe for six weeks and was thinking about going. But my Doctor looked me in the eyes and said, "Six weeks of work or 40 years of life. The choice is yours." My life changed that instant, and had I gone to Europe I would not be alive today. Cancer turned out being a good thing for me, as I started living my life more as I wanted, and not as I thought I should. I also slowed down! Cancer was very difficult, but was also very cleansing and taught me some valuable life lessons." In his characteristic style and positive attitude, Scott moved forward rebuilding his life and his career.

Today, his talents are still in high demand and he travels the world



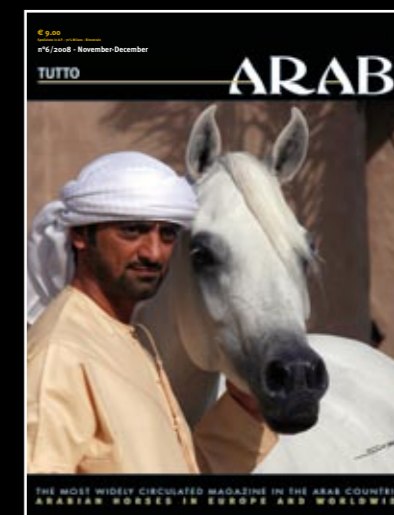
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HORSES & COVER



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photographing horses, and commercial assignments. In recognition of his photographic artistry and talent, Scott will be the featured artist at the Kentucky Horse Park Museum Gallery in Lexington Kentucky in the spring of 2009.

When asked if he has created his best shot he responds, "I hope not! While I have created my fair share of memorable Arabian horse images, I hope I haven't created my best shot! There are still so many things I want to photograph. As I have grown and evolved over my life and career, so has my art. I feel like it's just now getting where I want it to be."

If that is indeed the case, the horse industry will be looking forward to more of Scott Trees extraordinary images in the future. □



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2932 County Road 312 - Glen Rose, Texas 76043
Office | 254.898.0764 - Fax | 254.898.0766 - Cell | 817.933.0204