

Farah DeJohnette: Improvisational Horsemanship and All That Jazz

North Brookfield, MA (February 9, 2016) Classical and holistic horse trainer Farah DeJohnette doesn't just think outside the box, she rides outside of it, too. In 2015, the 46 year-old daughter of jazz legend Jack DeJohnette (John Coltrane, Miles Davis) became a YouTube sensation when they filmed the first-ever, fully-improvised Liberty Dance art performance with her horse, Mercury, accompanied by her father's live jazz improvisation in the arena.

But wait, there's still more to jazz up such a one-of-a-kind performance: DeJohnette's horse drove the syncopated rhythms, from a percussive rattle strapped his lower hind leg.

“Mercury needed his own instrument to contribute, so we gave him one. We were doing a jazz-inspired improv off one another, with my horse leading the performance, and my dad and I responding,” she said, crediting her father's renowned musicianship as inspiration for her own uniquely organic training style.

The result wasn't just a creative performance. It was a demonstration of pure trust and horsemanship that turned DeJohnette and Mercury into YouTube favorites and confirmed her simple yet effective ways to help horses and their people go from discord to harmony.

“I can identify one or two practical exercises -- that any horse and rider can take back with them -- that will transform their relationship,” she says.

Born in New York City and raised upstate in Woodstock, DeJohnette apprenticed at Williamsburg Farm, home to champion Olympic stallion Abdullah, before working for trainer Pat Jacobson, West Coast grand prix trainers Steve and Jenni Martin, and seven-time dressage and show jumping Olympian John Winnett, and has benefited from the guidance of FEI dressage competitors Virginia Leary and Bettina Drummond. She is strongly influenced by the masters of natural horsemanship and Linda ('T-Touch') Tellington and has orchestrated the launch of an extraordinary new facility, Ohana Farm, in central Massachusetts, while maintaining a network of clients and clinic appearances in the USA, United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia.

Learn more about Farah DeJohnette and Mercury at www.fdhorsemanship.com.

