

# Arabians Take Center Stage

Stephanie Kicinski established Jeremy's Ranch in 1990 when she and her husband built a farm for their horses. After a job change Kicinski decided to start an English riding school that would give children the opportunity to ride well-trained horses in a non-competitive environment. Her program accepts children over 9-years-old and she incorporates activities to keep lessons fresh so students stay interested in riding. Lessons change weekly and deal with a variety of disciplines including dressage, jumping, gymkhana, drill team and polo.

The most popular activity at the ranch is the Horse Theatre, which keeps many students riding at Jeremy's Ranch into high school. Horse Theatre participants perform poems, songs and stories on horseback to an audience of friends and family. Typical program elements include music, synchronized moves such as jumping and pattern work. Past performances include *The Lion King*, *The Highwayman* and *The Little White Bull*. Kicinski brings



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D C Chanelle and Shannon Hellmers dressed for *The Last Unicorn* in Jeremy Ranch's latest in a Horse Theatre production.

speakers in to talk to her students on the subjects covered in the performances, such as a history of the Crimean War, when they performed *The Charge of the Light Brigade*.

Kicinski's three Arabians feature prominently in every Horse Theatre production with her grey mare, D C Chanelle (Gwalison x Chanteuse) often cast as the star. They also inspired her to start the Horse Theatre six years ago. "My two bay Arabian geldings, Mac George (El Macquito x Chauchat

and Charlamayne (Cal-O-Bask x Bint Charmeen) look very similar and someone loaned me another bay Arabian, Sir Romany Rye (Bremervale Destiny x AM Milk Maid). The three bay geldings made me think of the song, *The Three Little Gypsies*. I thought of having the kids do a clover pattern with the horses then having D C Chanelle join to make a four-leaf clover. The kids had fun and looked great dressed as gypsies. Then I started thinking of other poems and songs we could perform."

Involvement in the Horse Theatre is free to any student taking lessons at Jeremy's Ranch who can attend all 10 Sunday afternoon rehearsals. Kids help choreograph the routines while friends and parents help with costumes and music.

"It takes the enthusiasm, reliability and helpfulness of all the kids to pull this off. The enthusiasm is great and keeps me wanting to do it," says Kicinski. "This is so satisfying to do and one of the best things I have done in my life."

—Molly Benstein