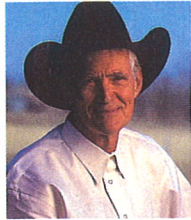


Pretty movers



by Darrell Dodds

WHEN JANET APPEL, A HIGH-POWERED New York publicity agent representing the movie industry called a couple of months ago, I was skeptical when she told me she had a story idea that was “absolutely perfect” for the *Paint Horse Journal*.

“Sure,” I thought, “I’ve heard that before.”

But the more she talked, the more interested I became, especially when she told me Steven Spielberg’s DreamWorks studio was behind the production.

“What’s the movie about again?” I asked.

“Basically, it’s a love story between a Kiger mustang stallion named Spirit and a Paint mare named Rain,” Ms. Appel replied.

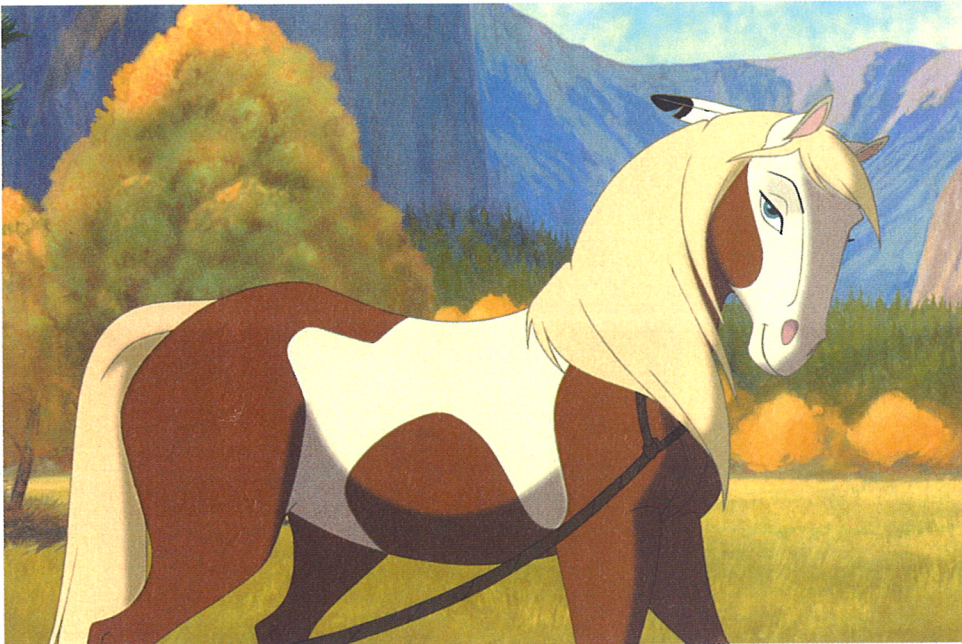
“Do you know if the Paint mare is APHA registered?” I asked.

“Well, no, I doubt it,” she replied. “This is an animated film.”

“A cartoon?” I thought out loud.

“No, I don’t think they call them cartoons anymore, Mr. Dodds. They are animated, full-length feature films,” Ms. Appel replied with just enough attitude that I knew I’d reinforced her stereotyped image of a horse-magazine hillbilly.

A few days later, a press release arrived, along with a formal invitation to attend a press party in Los Angeles to learn more about the film and meet the people behind it.



Resembling an equine Mae West, Rain is certain to attract new fans to the Paint Horse breed when she appears in movie theaters throughout the world this summer.

Luckily, *Journal* Assistant Editor Rebecca Overton had already planned a trip to California that same week and jumped at the chance to get a behind-the-scenes look at the film that will expose millions of movie-goers to the beauty and grace of a Paint mare named Rain later this summer. The film is scheduled for a May 24 release. Overton’s sneak peak begins on page 80 of this issue.

Also for this issue, Assistant Editor Ross Hecox traveled to Ocala, Florida, to interview Scott Kyle, a highly successful trainer who believes in taking a slow and steady approach while preparing young Western pleasure horses for long and successful careers.

A decade ago, Western Pleasure trainers were ranked somewhere between used-car and aluminum siding salesmen. But today, the vocation has gained new respect, thanks in part to trainers and exhibitors who put the horse’s welfare first, both in the training pen and in the show arena. This is a trend that will guarantee long-term growth for one of our most popular classes.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Paint Horse Journal*. 🐾