

# Sadek El Bahjaoui

## HORSE WHISPERER

« Horses have made me the man I am and taught me humility, love and respect »

Sadek El Bahjaoui's words perfectly summarize the unbreakable bonds woven over the years between this artist-rider and his companions of always.

This magic, invisible yet perceptible link between Sadek and his equine partners is above all a matter of intuition, a communion with his accomplices. Sadek the Horseman has been travelling the world for years now and performing exceptional equestrian tableaux of poetry and elegance.

This fusion evident in equestrian performances by Sadek, Princess Sabah, Chenel, Fado and Khumba, is the result of a long career which started when Sadek became passionate about riding early on in his childhood.

### **Sadek, the child prodigy**

Sadek's love of horses goes back as far as his memories carry him. At 6 this child born in Marrakesh was already attending technical training at the Academy of Equestrian Art of Morocco, Ouirgane, in the Atlas Mountains. For three years, he followed, rigorously, an apprenticeship to vaulting, dressage, groundwork and acrobatics with his older brothers. A rigour rewarded when, aged 9, he joined the Fratellini circus in Paris for his first tour as a young artist.

A childhood punctuated by years of training, learning, rigor and perseverance which seem to have served him well in preparing him for the meeting that would change his life.

### **Bartabas, a defining encounter**

Sadek is only 17 when he meets the one who would nurture his passion further: Bartabas, the famous founder of the Zingaro equestrian theatre and genius director, whose company he joins and participates in the Tryptik creation. This show will take him on an international tour of three years and confirm the young artist rider's creative desires.

Enriched by this experience, barely 20 years old, Sadek reveals his creativity, committing himself to his own show, *The Dreaming Warrior*, which is an international success! Sadek showcased his oriental acrobatics on the most prestigious venues first in Europe then in Morocco.

After this creative experience, Bartabas asks Sadek to participate in his creation *Battuta*. This second three-year tour takes him across the world from Tokyo to Moscow, via Hong Kong.

With an exceptional career and a now sharpened taste for staging and dressage, Sadek gathers his cavalry, imagining a world where man and horse are one, and his desire to return to Morocco becomes more insistent.

### **Back to basics**

Aged 28, Sadek performs his own creation, *Le Guerrier Rêveur* or *Dreaming Warrior*, for the first time in Morocco, at the *Salon du Cheval d'El Jadida*, for which he receives the congratulations of none other than His Majesty King Mohammed VI, King of Morocco.

This first performance announces the realization of a project dear to him: returning to Morocco to train young Moroccans in equestrian arts and acrobatics. The project resonates and quickly becomes reality with the support of Sorec (Royal Society for the Promotion of Horse Riding). A team of six young people and ten Barb and Arab Barb horses performs at the 4th and 5th editions of the Horse Show of El Jadida (2011 and 2012) where it presents two creations, first *Jemaa El Fnaa* then *Bladi*.

### **Marrakech, new ground of inspiration**

In late 2012, Sadek has another exceptional encounter: Abdeslam Bennani Smires, owner of the *Selman Marrakech*, a luxury 5-star hotel, and international jumper. This establishment, unique in its kind, houses on its generous grounds two sumptuous stables for the purebred Arabs parading freely in the gardens ... He is today equestrian consultant for this luxury hotel where he installed his cavalry in residence and offers exclusive horse-based experiences.

### **Sharing his passion**

Sadek continues to share his passion in Morocco and abroad by performing with his horses during galas or private events and also offers master classes and tailor-made

courses. Sadek acts is also horse trainer for the Royal mounted gendarmerie. He previously trained and did choreography for the equestrian art teams of Morocco's Royal Guard and Royal Moroccan Armed Forces.