

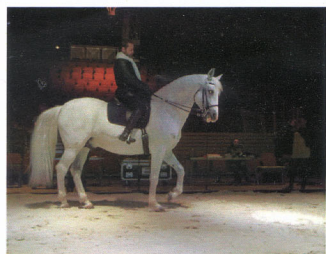
Hassan a hit at the Brighton Dome

by Alexandra Downing

The Brighton Festival is in its 45th year and runs a cultural and diverse programme of entertainment for three weeks in May. Both local and international artists contribute to the events including music, dance, art, theatre and film. The 2011 Brighton Festival welcomed the Mexican theatre company Teatro de Ciertos Habitantes



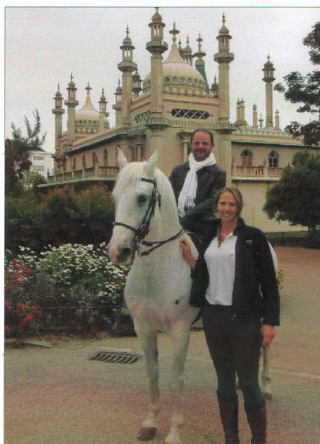
with their production of *Monsters & Prodigies*. This theatre / opera *mise-en-scène* tells the story of the castrati in Italy during the baroque era. Sue Barber, proprietor of Pine Lodge School of Classical Equitation, was approached by the company to provide a classically trained horse perform on stage as part of the production. Sue chose Hassan, a 22 year old Lusitano stallion bred by Jose Antonio Nunes Robalo, by the stallion Xeno and out of Seixal.



Hassan's contribution was to be the mount of Napoleon Bonaparte. Mexican Classical Dressage rider and actor Luis Fernando Villegas played Napoleon. Hassan and I arrived in Brighton three days prior to the opening night of the show. Despite the limited time Luis established a good partnership with Hassan. The pair performed to a full

house on three consecutive nights. On stage Hassan was required to display piaffe, passage, Spanish walk and a bow. Hassan was a great ambassador for his breed both on and off the stage. Crowds gathered as Luis rode through the Park and passed in front of the Brighton Palace. The theatre used for the performances was the Brighton Dome's Corn Exchange which ironically used to be the riding arena when the Prince Regent's horses were stabled there as part of the Royal Pavilion estate.

It was a privilege to work with the Teatro de Ciertos Habitantes, a company which has been internationally acclaimed, receiving awards for both the company and the director. I would like to thank everyone at the Brighton Festival who made our experience both enjoyable and successful. The local paper 'The Argus' couldn't resist featuring a photo of Brighton's biggest star, Hassan's largest fan base is definitely in Brighton!



Woodbridge Horse Show Trinity Park, Suffolk

Despite the bitterly cold wind there was a distinct sense of Iberian warmth at the Woodbridge Show on Monday 2nd May 2011. The Lusitano classes at the annual show have gained increasing popularity since they were first introduced and the turnout at the 2011 show held at Trinity Park Ipswich was testament to this.

The Lusitano Parade Class attracted great attention from the crowd as the riders paraded their horses in traditional Portuguese tack and dress. After a very impressive display, Holly Barber riding Pine Lodge's purebred Lusitano gelding Rafa were placed first by judge Tony Dampier. Natasha Read riding Helen Barlow's Sa-Sa were placed second followed by Alexandra Downing on Xá third. Both Rafa and Sa-Sa are from Pine Lodge School of Classical Equitation.

There was strong competition in all the classes with the in-hand and ridden English dress classes also represented by very good examples of the breed. Both the in-hand and ridden English dress classes were won by Alexandra Downing riding part-bred Lusitano gelding Xa, owned and bred by Fenella Rois de Sa. Second place in the in-hand went to Pakefield Lusitano's Desejada (by Spartacus) who was imported only last year by owner Tessa Hardy. Pine Lodge's home bred 5 year old stallion Bento (by Infinito) was placed third.