



PENNSYLVANIA HORSE WORLD EXPO

News Release

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Tenth Annual Pennsylvania Horse World Expo Features Retired Racehorse Challenge, Top Clinicians, Theatre Equus

The weather outside may be frightful, but inside the 25-acre climate-controlled Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center, tens of thousands of horse enthusiasts will be warm and comfy and dreaming of the warm weather riding season to come. The tenth annual Pennsylvania Horse World Expo will bring the nation's leading equestrian clinicians and entertainers, and tens of thousands of horse owners eager to learn from them, to Harrisburg, PA, for four non-stop days of education, entertainment and shopping, February 23-26.

Horse World Expo is two events in one. The Expo itself features national and international clinicians teaching riders to train their own horses, and unparalleled shopping with everything imaginable for horses under one roof. **Theatre Equus, A Musical Equine Revue** is a professionally choreographed and scripted show in which humans and horses partner to perform remarkable feats of daring and beauty. Geared to all ages, Theatre Equus features approximately two hours of family entertainment starring horses -- part circus, part Wild West show, part equestrian ballet. Performances by about thirty of the country's most highly trained horses are accompanied by music, enhanced lighting and narration.

A new addition to this year's Pennsylvania Horse World Expo is the Trail Champions Challenge. The Challenge is a timed and judged event in which competitors negotiate a difficult set of obstacles that test athleticism, horsemanship and the communication and bond between horse and rider. The exciting and entertaining competition features horse and rider combinations from throughout the region who are judged on the quality of horsemanship at each obstacle.

Also new for 2012 is the Retired Racehorse Trainer Challenge, in which three area trainers will take an off-the-track thoroughbred to retrain for another discipline. They will meet their horse and be judged on their "Day One" training techniques at Maryland Horse World Expo, January 20-22, then work with the horse at home for five weeks. At Pennsylvania Horse World Expo, they will complete a series of tests; the trainer who has

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Tenth Horse World Expo 222222222

made the most progress with his or her thoroughbred will win the championship and prizes.

Many of the country's most accomplished horse trainers present seminars on training by day, and dazzle audiences by night (Friday and Saturday only) with their amazing performances in Theatre Equus. Among them is trick trainer, movie trainer, stuntman and "Equine Extremist" Tommie Turvey, Jr., whose horses trust him so completely they accomplish dangerous stunts no other horse trainer has attempted. Those amazed by Turvey's performance during Theatre Equus, can, during his Pennsylvania Horse World Expo seminars, watch him teach his horses to do tricks like lying relaxed on their backs, feet in the air, before crowds of thousands.

New to Pennsylvania Horse World Expo this year is Jim Wofford, a two time Olympic team silver medalist and one of eventing's most successful coaches. Wofford has produced riders on nearly every USET Eventing team, and has had at least one student on every US Olympic, World Championship, or Pan Am team since 1978. Among his students were eventing legends David and Karen O'Connor and Kim Severson.

In addition to top equestrian clinicians and performers, the 10th annual Pennsylvania Horse World Expo will feature hundreds of vendors, and equines of all breeds and disciplines. Vendors will fill more than 500 booths and 180,000 square feet of exhibit space with an overwhelming selection of horse related merchandise for browsing and buying. Visitors can learn about a variety of breeds on Breed Row and during the daily Parade of Breeds, and meet breeding stallions up close in Stallion Avenue. The latest in horsekeeping technology will be featured at the show along with apparel, barns, artwork, books, equestrian vacations, feed, trailers, tack, training, schools, and much more.

Equestrian Promotions also produces the Maryland Horse World Expo, held January 20-22 at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium.

Pennsylvania Horse World Expo hours are Thursday, February 23, noon to 8 pm, Friday, February 24, 10 am – 8 pm, Saturday, February 25, 9 am to 8 pm, and Sunday, February 26, 9 am to 5 pm. Daily admission (cash only) is \$12, \$6 for children ages 7-12. Children under 7 are admitted free. Tickets are available at the door, on the website at www.horseworldexpo.com, or by mail.

Reserved seating for Theatre Equus, which begins Friday and Saturday, February 24 and 25 at 8:30 pm, is \$12 to \$24. Tickets are available at the show (while supplies last) or online at www.horseworldexpo.com. The Farm Show Complex, Cameron and Maclay Sts., Harrisburg, charges \$8 per day for parking. For more information, phone (301) 916-0852.

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(Note to editors: For press passes or photos, please email paequest@aol.com.)