

THE INTERNATIONAL VOICE OF THE P.R.E.

THE P.R.E. HORSE

PURA RAZA ESPAÑOLA

INSIDE

Mares & More!



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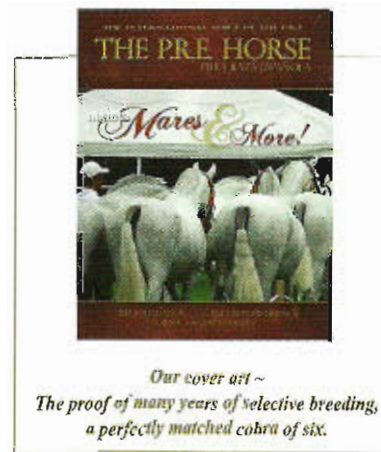
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Training in Balance and Lightness



Manuel Trigo Clinic

Piaffe and Passage Training in Balance and Lightness

by Cameron English

The Foundation hosted a seminar with Manuel Trigo at Oak Hill, the Ranch of Malcolm and Barbara Currie. Manuel Trigo has built a career of training and teaching others the concepts of natural horsemanship and lightness. Manuel is from Badajoz, Extremadura, Spain. He has worked in the Costa Rica area for the past 15 years, as well as teaching and presenting his concepts throughout Mexico and Europe.

Attending the Piaffe & Passage seminar was a diverse group of equestrian enthusiasts with one thing in common; an interest in the Art of Classical Training. Manuel teaches with passion and simple, manageable methods. My personal interest in attending was to advance my knowledge of training my young horses the Piaffe and Passage. I am sure I speak for all attendees in stating that we all received much more than we bargained for!

Manuel started with the basics of Piaffe and Passage. He pointed out that competitive dressage has moved and evolved over the years from an art form to a form of competition, based on control of the Horse. Manuel very eloquently expressed his desire to see the Sport of Dressage return to the Art of Dressage. Manuel states: "Lightness is the ability of the horse to respond to the rider, always with balance, impulsion and brio. Lightness is not only a light contact with the hands or the mouth but the self-carriage of the horse, perfect obedience, extreme sensitivity to the aids of the rider and a subliminal bilateral communication with the horse." To emphasize his point, we watched international dressage competition video of top named riders competing in Grand Prix tests. What we viewed were examples of riders holding their horses behind the vertical, canter pirouettes that looked extremely heavy and labored. The Piaffe and Passage were examples of "heavy" horses behaving badly. The fact that these examples were world-renowned international riders shows very clearly the point Manuel was making; Lightness is an Art, and at times a lost art.

Further, Manuel quoted classical trainer Michel Henriquet: "Those who believed to have found the key to Piaffe, with spurs and sticks, unfortunately arrived to degenerated, disordered and arrhythmic "diagonalizations".

As you can begin to understand; what began as a practical seminar on how to train your horse to Piaffe and Passage, quickly became a study into the foundations of classical training. What a great reminder of the importance of training a horse in the correct way, with the goal being a quality movement and a happy horse!

From the beginning, Manuel encouraged our group with the advice that anyone could reach the goal of becoming a capable trainer. *Of course the gift of the P.R.E. helps, as the breed we all love and admire, has a natural ability to collect and to gather with balance.*

Manuel proceeded to break down the three parts of a successful training program for the horse:

- **Preparation** – Training the horse to collect - using transitions and methods to teach the horse to collect and to work in balance and lightness
- **Teaching the horse the Piaffe & Passage**
- **Developing the Piaffe and Passage**

One of the aspects I really appreciated about Manuel's seminar is the way he very clearly separated the steps to develop the horse. At times, I felt as if I was learning key secrets on how to apply Manuel's techniques to my own personal training program. If you have ever trained horses, you can appreciate the value of proven practical and tactical training methods. Throughout the seminar, I kept thinking how much I could not wait to get into the arena to work with Manuel's suggested system. Manuel begins the seminar in the classroom, and then follows with a hands-on mounted clinic – giving the students the opportunity to apply the methods and ideas taught in the classroom.

Training in Balance and Lightness

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The happy participants of the Manuel Trigo Training Seminar held at Oak Hill by Malcolm and Barbara Currie.

- **Everything starts with the withers in the Piaffe**

Of course, in order to fully appreciate Manuel's system, you will have to attend the seminar and/or attend the mounted clinic as well. Manuel developed our understanding of the keys on how to build the balance and collection of our horses with patience and persistence. He showed us the keys to building impulsion and collection into our training programs with a systematic series of practical exercises. These exercises could only come from a lifetime of applied training.

Those attending are now prepared and motivated to apply the concepts Manuel so eloquently demonstrated during the seminar. The Foundation for the Pure Spanish Horse is now

planning additional seminars in the major markets throughout the US. Cost for the Piaffe & Passage Seminar is three hundred and fifty dollars (\$350) and includes two days of hands on training and explanatory manuals.

Manuel plans to bring his students to Celebration XI - The PRE horse show in Las Vegas from Aug 31 to Sept 5, 2010. Several of Manuel's students will be competing in Doma Vaquera and Alta Escuela classes at Celebration.

For more information about future Manuel Trigo clinics please visit the Foundation's web site at www.prehorse.org or Manuel Trigo's web site at www.trigomanuel.com.

Hurry & Join Us!

**Become a member of
The Foundation for
the Pure Spanish Horse**

www.prehorse.org

Call (505) 224-2222 for details

at Oak Hill by Malcolm and Barbara Currie.

