

# Horses in Movies

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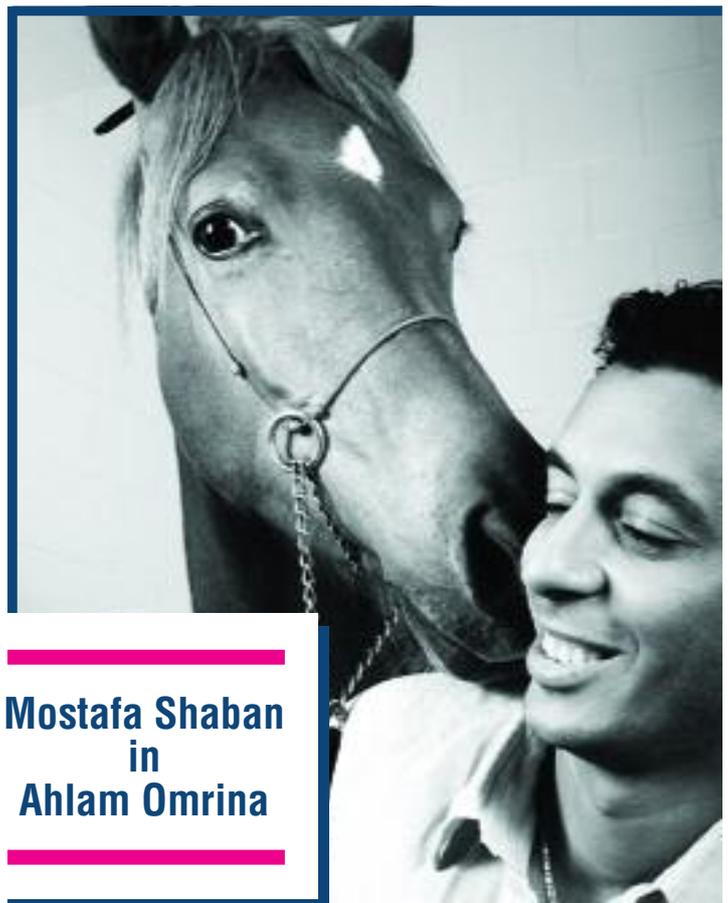
Horses are a product of fascination, appreciation, power, grace and downright beauty. It's in the nature of these animals to have a better understanding of negotiation, friendship, loyalty and trust. While not related closely to humans in the evolutionary order, horses have strongly ingrained experience as objects of intricate power.

Whilst being common in Hollywood cowboy movies, the idea of horses being related to just that has emerged. Directors have found the perfect pitch to make viewers find themselves absorbed in a melodrama regardless of the movie plot, and to mention some; The Horse Whisperer, Hidalgo, The Mask of Zorro, etc.

MOSTAFA SHABAN, one of the aspiring new young actors has told us a little bit about filming with horses and how they have managed to influence him.

**How do you feel about horse backriding? And how was your passion for horses developed?**

-Well, horses are such beautiful animals. Their self confidence forces one to acquire some manners, mainly to be patient. They have limits; in discipline, in loyalty and in friendship. Yet I have made new friends through loving them. I never knew anything about horses, so when I decided to take the role in my latest movie, Ahlam Omrina, I moved to a stable in Mansooriya to start training. For three months, I practically lived with the horses, attending for them. It was then when I felt the passion; the way the horse looks at me and the way he observes me in order to know if it's the right time to start a relationship or not. And if I gave my attention to another, I would sense one of the other horses feeling jealous. I then bought a horse, Sindibad, to enhance my training, but he was



## Mostafa Shaban in Ahlam Omrina

the trainer! He was very spirited and completely overwhelmed with himself, and we didn't develop a bond until I gave him the attention that he demanded.

**Do you think being affected by horses will help your career? For example in an upcoming historical role that demands lots of horse back riding?**

-Absolutely. But now, working with horses wont just be restricted to movies, they are part of my daily life. But sure, I would never say no to a historical role.

**Tell us about Sindibad?**

-Oh he feels like a star! He pauses in front of the camera without taking orders! He was already famous in the Haram area when I bought him. He really wore me out, but during filming, he knew his business very well. He is lovely though.

**What kind of horse is your favorite?**

-Arabian horses. They are the smartest, the most beautiful and the most difficult to handle.

**How did/do horses influence you as a human being?**

-I'm a big talker, but they have taught me to listen more, and they have also taught me to be more tolerant and patient, and to me, this is the most important influence. ■