

THE REMARKABLE JACQUES TOFFI... A BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE

By Nada H. Abdelmoniem

THIS YEAR HORSE TIMES HONOURS THREE DECADES OF INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF JACQUES TOFFI, THE MAN WITH THE CONSTANT AND ICONIC SMILE, THE SALT AND PEPPER HAIR COVERED WITH THE FRENCH HAT, AND THE MAN WITH THE CIGAR IN ONE HAND AND THE CAMERA IN THE OTHER. IT WAS TOFFI'S 60TH BIRTHDAY BACK ON APRIL 18TH AND TODAY WE SAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND PAY TRIBUTE TO TOFFI WHO CREATES SHIMMERING STILLS THAT WOULD TAKE MORE THAN A HEFTY NOVEL TO DESCRIBE. THE FOLLOWING IMAGES ARE JUST A SMALL SELECTION OF PHOTOS FROM A MOUNTAIN OF GOLD, AND THE STATEMENTS ARE FROM THOSE WHO CARE FOR HIM DEEPLY AND WHO TOOK THE TIME TO WISH HIM ALL THE BEST.



HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein



Jean & Georges Toffi

HRH PRINCESS HAYA BINT AL HUSSEIN, FEI PRESIDENT, *Jordan:*

“A 60th birthday is, indeed, a wonderful occasion. Some may think of it as getting older, but I like to think that it’s just 40 with 20 years experience. I hope that with every passing day, you celebrate each moment with a renewed sense of self and zest for life. You have led 60 sensational years and along the way, you have paid homage to equestrian sport and have brilliantly illustrated every aspect of the horse and its world. For this, I personally thank you, and on this special day, wish you a very, very happy birthday.”

KHALED ASSEM, HORSE TIMES PUBLISHER, *Egypt:*

“Jacques, I see you as a human being, a mixture of several worlds and civilisations. This is your real strength, your feelings, and your profound ability to bring out what’s inside you through your work. Happy birthday.”

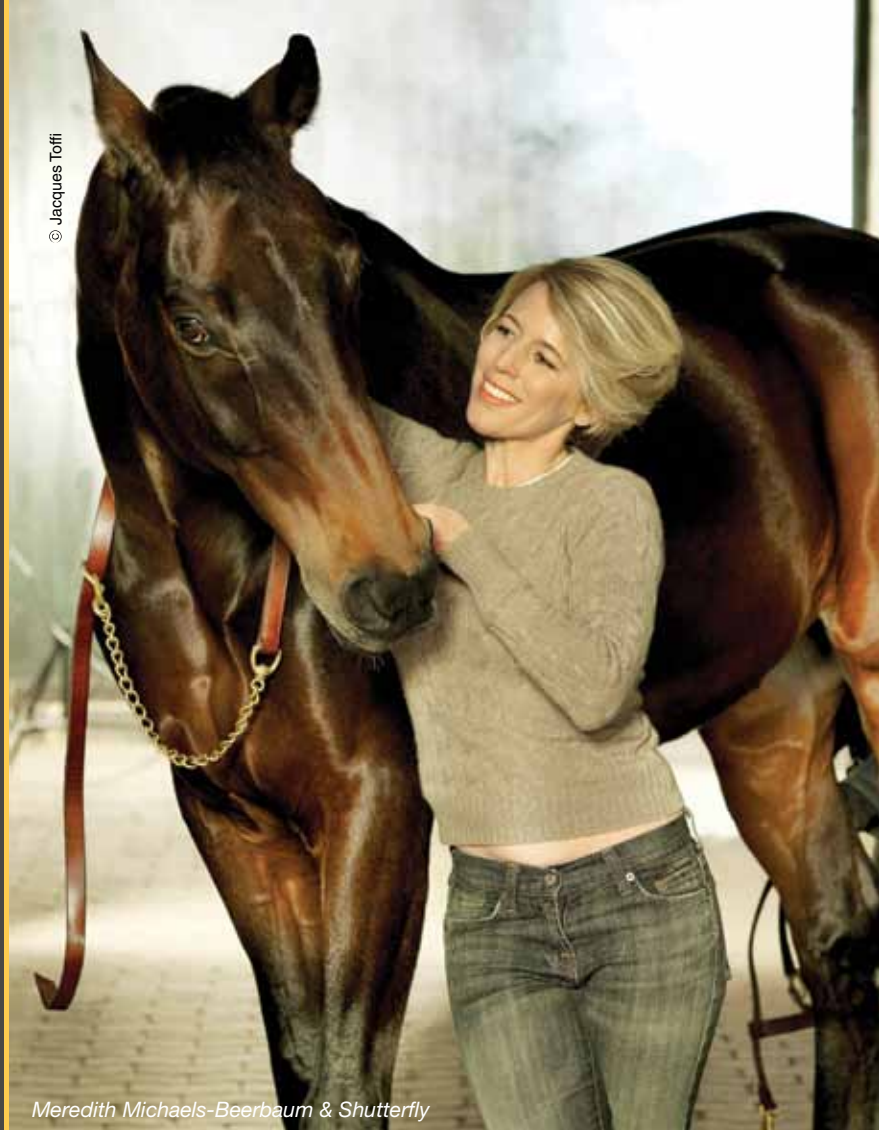
NADA H. ABDELMONIEM, HORSE TIMES MANAGING EDITOR, *Sudan:*

“Jacques, to me you are a loving individual who is wonderfully opinionated, a charming gentleman, very calm and serene. I first met you in 2007

when it was just my third year working at the magazine when I did not have much knowledge about equestrian photography. Following our first meeting and then meeting annually in Syria, I spent hours with you, learning about the technicalities of equestrian sport photography and how the shots should be presented both artistically and commercially. From there on and until today, your pictures have graced my eyes with beauty, art, and elegant vision which define the “spirit of the horse” in a unique and positive light. Happy 60th Toffi!”

SOENKE LAUTERBACH, GERMAN EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION SECRETARY-GENERAL, Germany:

“Throughout my professional career Jacques Toffi has been the role model of a horse photographer. He has the gift to shoot horses in these special moments, when beauty, strength and dignity altogether shine through. His photos simply create pure emotion. Jacques Toffi has a similar talent portraying people. His portrait of our Federation’s late Honorary President Dieter Count Landsberg-Velen smoking a pipe is “the” photo of all times for me. Apart from these skills Jacques Toffi is such a friendly and humble personality that you can only like him.”



© Jacques Toffi

Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum & Shutterfly



© Jacques Toffi

Dieter Count Landsberg-Velen



Paul Schockemöhle & Totilas

© Jacques Toffi



Uwe Heckmann



© Jacques Toffi

Fadi Al Zbibi & Hazar Sabouni

© Jacques Toffi



Prix De Diane Hermès

© Jacques Toffi



© Jacques Toffi



Polo in Hamburg



Rolf-Goran Bengtsson & Ninja

AHMED TALAAT, INTERNATIONAL COURSE DESIGNER, Egypt:

“Jacques Toffi is a valuable friend and the best photographer in our sport, in my opinion. I first met him in 2004 and I was impressed with his knowledge about the Arab region, his love for our culture, and his ideas for improving equestrian sport in the Middle East. I wish him all the best.”

STALL BENGTTSSON & KRISTOFFERSEN, INTERNATIONAL RIDER, Sweden & Germany:

“Dear Jacques, we wish you all the best on your 60th - we hope you will continue your superb work and hope to see you more often in the next years! Best regards.”

FADI AL ZBIBI, INTERNATIONAL RIDER, Syria:

“Toffi, you are a wonderful gentleman and super photographer. Every time I meet you at any show I feel happy. Even though you live in Europe, I feel proud that you have a sense of belonging to us. Happy birthday.”

PAULA DA SILVA, INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER, Italy:

“Jacques’ photography is never boring, and I am a fan of his experimental images with panning and blur, but also I have real fun looking at some of his other photos which are nearly surreal, and I can feel that he has big fun himself when he shoots them. In his photography I often find a mix of curiosity and irreverence, something that is typical of the people who are forever young.”



Laura Kraut & Cedric



LUDGER BEERBAUM, INTERNATIONAL RIDER, Germany:

“Dear Jacques, on the occasion of your 60th birthday, I wholeheartedly wish you all the best with all the best of health. You are a unique person with an outstanding talent in photography. I appreciate so much your passion for your work and our equestrian sport. Yours, Ludger.”

ARND BRONKHORST, INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER, Holland:

“Jacques is a free spirit, and that reflects in his photography. His eye is attracted to curves and shapes that other people don't see. He has experimented a lot, creating stunning images. He “feels” images and has the ability to turn that vision into great pictures. Congratulations, Jacques!”

FRÉDÉRIC CHÉHU, INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER, France:

“Not all photographers specialised in photographing horses are real artists. Without a doubt, Jacques is a real artist...He does not take pictures for the sake of taking pictures but to support a coherent and well built piece of art. From his oriental origins, he kept the fantasy, the exuberance and the warmth. From his German origins, he has learnt strictness and professionalism. On top of this, he is a real “cool” guy, which is something quite rare to find in artists who have succeeded. I simply adore him.” 🏆



© Jacques Toffi

Ludger Beerbaum



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