



PEDIGREE PROFILE

Full siblings provide added fire power to Winchester's family tree

by Rommy Faversham

The Belmont Stakes (G1) undercard featured a return to Grade 1 glory for Winchester as he rallied past stablemate and dual champion Gio Ponti in the final strides of the \$400,000 Woodford Reserve Manhattan Handicap (G1) to score by a half-length.

Relegated as seventh choice at 21.40-to-1 in a particularly strong field of 11, the five-year-old Theatrical (Ire) horse completed 1¼ miles—his best distance—in 1:59.46 on Belmont's inner turf course, which was rated as firm.

The Manhattan was Winchester's first stakes victory since defeating fellow sophomores by 7¼ lengths in the 2008 Secretariat Stakes (G1) at Arlington Park in his U.S. debut.



Adam Coglianesse/NYRA photo

Winner of one race in five starts in England and Ireland at ages two and three, Winchester more recently has recorded three seconds and one third in four in U.S. graded stakes on turf. His career mark currently stands at four wins from 16 starts and earnings of \$652,898.

WINCHESTER

Winchester was bred in Virginia by owners Bertram and Diana Firestone, who also are responsible for breeding and campaigning (later in partnership) our subject's distinguished Irish-bred sire.

Winchester hails from the 17th crop of 1987 champion turf male Theatrical. The venerable Hill 'n' Dale Farms resident was pensioned from stud duty late last year. Theatrical remains Nureyev's most accomplished son at stud to date with at least 22 different offspring capturing Grade and Group 1 events in eight nations.

Winchester is one of two winners from three starters out of the Spectrum mare Rum Charger (Ire), winner of the 2002 Ballycorus Stakes (Ire-G3), a seven-furlong race at Leopardstown, as a three-year old.

Rum Charger's half sister, Stage Presence, by Selkirk, is the dam of English Group 3 winner English Ballet, by Dancehill Dancer.

Farther back, the family includes multiple Irish group winner Eastern Appeal, multiple French group winner and Winchester's fourth dam, *Hamada, and finally 1994 Ever Ready Epsom Derby (Eng-G1) hero Erhaab.

Winchester, b. h. 2005

Theatrical (Ire) 82 996 fls, 82 SWs SI 2.95 DI=1.35	Nureyev 77 2 wins, \$42,522 Champion 786 fls, 137 SWs SI 4.73 DI=2.83	Northern Dancer 61 635 fls, 147 SWs SI 5.82 DI=3.00	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57	=Nearco (Ity) 35 *Lady Angela 44 Native Dancer 50 Almahmoud 47
	Tree of Knowledge (Ire) 77 1 win, \$3,070, Spl 9 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.48	Special 69 9 fls, 3 SWs DI=1.52	Sassafras (Fr) 67 581 fls, 56 SWs SI 1.44 DI=0.71	*Forli 63 Thong 64
Rum Charger (Ire) 99 5 fls, 1 SW DI=0.90	=Spectrum (Ire) 92 4 wins, \$540,514, SW 1430 fls, 51 SWs SI 1.00 DI=0.96	Rainbow Quest 81 1060 fls, 112 SWs SI 2.74 DI=1.40	Blushing Groom (Fr) 74 I Will Follow 75	Red God 54 Runaway Bride (GB) 62 *Herbager 56 Where You Lead 70
	=Park Charger (GB) 92 2 wins, \$24,499, Spl 9 fls, 1 SW DI=2.20	=River Dancer (Ire) 83 10 fls, 2 SWs DI=3.80	=Tirol (Ire) 87 606 fls, 23 SWs SI 0.92 DI=3.00	Irish River (Fr) 76 Dancing Shadow (Ire) 77
		=Haitienne (Fr) 82 12 fls, 0 SWs DI=2.33	=Thatching (Ire) 75 =Alpine Niece (GB) 72 Green Dancer 72 *Hamada 72	*Turn-to 51 Nothirhdance 48 =King's Bench (GB) 49 =York Gala (GB) 39 =Nijinsky II 67 *Green Valley II 67 Habitat 66 =Helvetie (GB) 65

Winchester may be a five-generation outcross, but the accumulation of complementary strains from the vaunted family of *Rough Shod II benefits his pedigree. This includes the 3x5 tandem of Nureyev's dam, Special, with her full brother Thatch. For good measure, Thatch's son, 1979 English and Irish sprint champion Thatching, adds a third strain from this clan, as he traces back in tail-female line to a half sister to *Rough Shod II.

Actually, it turned out to be another stellar weekend for runners whose pedigrees demonstrate inbreeding to this turf-loving tribe. Several hours before the Manhattan, Workforce (by Kings Best out of Soviet Moon, by Sadler's Wells) romped to a seven-length triumph in the Investec Derby in course-record time. Workforce carries an auspicious 4x2 cross of *Rough Shod II's descendants Nureyev and Sadler's Wells.

Rommy Faversham is a pedigree specialist and author living in Los Angeles. More of his work is available at <http://www.equicross.com>.