



PEDIGREE ANALYSIS *by Rommy Faversham*

SPECIAL CROSS *produces classic winners*

ROMMY FAVERSHAM looks at a very 'Special' affinity: the classic cross between Sadler's Wells and his three-quarters brother Nureyev

IF BETTORS, with a penchant for pedigrees and tall orders, were looking for one angle that could identify both winners in this year's English Oaks and Derby Stakes at Epsom (which resulted in odds of 20/1 and 7/1, respectively), they would have needed to look no further than the remarkable relationship between the breed shaping close relatives Sadler's Wells and Nureyev.

This cross, proven to be reversible, creates inbreeding to their common sire Northern Dancer and to Special, grandam to the former and dam of the latter. In this case, winning Oaks longshot Talent (GB) is by the Galileo sire New Approach (as such, a paternal great granddaughter of Sadler's Wells), and out of a Nureyev-line mare. An afternoon later, the Derby was captured by Ruler of the World (IRE), a son of Galileo out of a mare by Kingmambo, whose own dam Miesque will easily be remembered as Nureyev's best daughter. For good measure, Ruler of the World is the third Derby winner in the past four years to manifest this powerful pattern.

In general, one finds that sires who carry the blood of Sadler's Wells or Nureyev get a disproportionate number of top offspring when bred to mares carrying blood of the other. To be sure, success with this classic tandem could, and was, predicted by applying one of the soundest of breeding methods: female family inbreeding.

In a feature article appearing in the *Thoroughbred Times* in February of 1996 regarding the best pathways to follow when inbreeding to the increasingly omnipotent Northern Dancer, this author commented, "the optimal channels . . . in 20 years time (will) demonstrate inbreeding through close relatives. (The two) who fit this description are Nureyev and Sadler's Wells."

This expectation had already been supported by Special's own family, anchored by her dam Thong and her grandam, the foundation matron Rough Shod II, whose previous descendants enjoyed a history of relative success when their strains were duplicated. Nureyev's grandson, the influential sire of sires Kingmambo is a prime example. His best progeny with this pattern include European classic winners Henrythenavigator, Virginia Waters and Divine Proportions.

The first internationally recognised runner carrying the Nureyev/Sadler's Wells cross was Kingmambo's son, 1998 Japan Cup winner El Condor Pasa, whose pedigree was further intensified by his third dam Lisadell, a sister to Special. The pattern's success has indeed been passed to several of Kingmambo's most prominent sons at stud including Dubai Destination and King Cugat. His best siring son King's Best has done almost all of his most notable work with Sadler's Wells-line mares, led by Soviet Moon, a Sadler's Wells daughter who is dam of 2010 English Derby winner Workforce (GB). Nureyev's own sons and paternal grandsons have followed in this auspicious trend. His son Stravinsky sired 2005 VRC Oaks winner Serenade Rose as well as English Gr.1 winner Soldier's Tale (USA). Both out of Sadler's Wells line mares.

GR.1 WINNERS WITH THE SADLER'S WELLS-NUREYEV CROSS

INDIVIDUAL	SIRE	MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS
CAMELOT	Montjeu	English Derby, 2000 Guineas
CAMPANOLOGIST	Kingmambo	Preis von Europa (GER)
CARRY ON KATIE	Fasliyev	Cheveley Park Stakes (ENG)
CREACHADOIR	King's Best	Lockinge Stakes (ENG)
DANCER'S DAUGHTER	Act One	Dual champion in South Africa
DIM SUM	Kyllachy	Chairman's Sprint Prize (HK, twice)
DIVINE PROPORTIONS	Kingmambo	Europe's Champion Filly at 2&3
EL CONDOR PASA	Kingmambo	Japan Cup; Horse of the Year
GABBY'S GOLDEN GAL	Medaglia d'Oro	Acorn S., Santa Monica H. (US)
GONDOKORO	Zabeel	2013 Queensland Oaks
HENRYTHENAVIGATGOR	Kingmambo	English & Irish 2000 Guineas
HILDA'S PASSION	Canadian Frontier	Ballerina Stakes (USA)
IBN KHALDUN	Dubai Destination	Racing Post Trophy (ENG)
IMMORTAL VERSE	Pivotal	Coronation Stakes (ENG)
IT'S A DUNDEEL	High Chaparral	2013 Australian 3YO Triple Crown
KING'S APOSTLE	King's Best	Prix Maurice de Gheest (FR)
LAVEROCK	Octagonal	Prix D'Ispahan (FR)
RIP VAN WINKLE	Galileo	Queen Elizabeth II S., Sussex S. (ENG)
ROYAL DIAMOND	King's Best	Irish St Leger Stakes
RULER OF THE WORLD	Galileo	2013 English Derby
SERENADE ROSE	Stravinsky	VRC Oaks; 3YO Champion Filly
SOLDIER'S TALE	Stravinsky	Golden Jubilee Stakes (ENG)
TALENT	New Approach	2013 English Oaks
THEWAYYOUARE	Kingmambo	Criterium International (FR)
VIRGINIA WATERS	Kingmambo	1000 Guineas (ENG)
WHIPPER	Miesque's Son	Prix Morny, Jacques Le Marois (FR)
WIGMORE HALL	High Chaparral	Northern Dancer Turf S. (CAN, twice)
WIZZ KID	Whipper	Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp (FR)
WORKFORCE	King's Best	English Derby, Arc de Triomphe
ZABEELIONAIRE	Zabeel	South Australian Derby

Conversely, the male line of Sadler's Wells enjoys a much greater level of influence that now stretches across the planet while dominating Europe. The tandem of Sadler's Wells and Nureyev also appears in the family tree of Galileo's multiple Gr.1 winner Rip Van Winkle (IRE), whose dam was a daughter of the aforementioned Stravinsky. The late Sadler's Wells stallion Montjeu sired 2012 English 2000 Guineas and Derby winner Camelot (GB) out of a Kingmambo broodmare.

Even more recently, the first half of 2013 has seen the largest collection of international classic winners with pedigrees flaunting this powerful cross. Of course, this Southern Californian need not remind Australasians of It's A Dundee, who scored a commanding five-length victory at Randwick in the ATC Australian Derby in April to become only the fifth horse in history to claim the three year-old Triple Crown. A New Zealand bred son of the Sadler's Wells sire High Chaparral, It's A Dundee is out of a daughter of the influential Zabeel, a maternal grandson of Nureyev.

This parade of classic winners continued in early June when another Kiwi, the marvellously bred filly Gondokoro, came home on top in the Queensland Oaks at Eagle Farm. Gondokoro is by Zabeel out of a mare by the Sadler's Wells Arc winner Carnegie. A "triple RF" (Rasmussen Factor: inbreeding to a superior female within five generations using different individuals), her pedigree is a cornucopia of female family inbreeding patterns.

Given the progenitors involved, most of the individuals built on the Sadler's Wells/Nureyev cross are turf runners. This helps to explain its lesser impact in the western hemisphere where more racing is on non-grass surfaces. As for the other side of the earth, breeders and horsemen should be aware that this Special cross may not have even reached its peak. ■

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