



A KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON PRODUCTIONS FILM

RIDING LIBERTY

www.ridinglibertythemovie.com

INTRODUCTION

Being a filmmaker and also someone involved in the sport of polo, it took me a long time to find a story that would inspire, educate and emotionally engage a wide audience who know very little about the sport. Many people associate polo with its exclusivity and champagne flowing parties. Inspired by real events, this is a beautiful story how hard work, commitment and determination can change destiny and triumph over adversity.

Our vision is to create an inspiring and emotionally engaging film that shows the grace and power of the sport whilst also providing a beautiful insight into the horsemanship, skill and dedication needed, the healing capacity of horses and the importance of retraining of racehorses.

Cassandra Thomas. Writer and Director

SYNOPSIS

Set in England, the story centres around Sebastian, an 18 year old boy who is damaged by abuse from an alcoholic father and leaves home to go and work as a groom for a local family-owned polo yard. Unable to speak, he is immediately at odds with his employer's son who is learning to play polo and has all the ponies, training and support but is extremely spoilt and lacks the work ethic and dedication that Sebastian has. He bullies the disadvantaged boy, who is clearly a skilful rider, for being mute and also for daring to dream of playing polo, a sport he considers above him.

When ex-racehorse Liberty arrives at the yard to be retrained for polo, it is revealed that she is traumatised from an accident. The family are unable to build the trust with Liberty and after a few weeks decide to send her back. Unbeknown to the family, the boy makes a breakthrough with Liberty and develops a strong bond with her, teaching her the skills needed to become a polo pony whilst also learning the sport himself. This bond not only heals him from his muteness but also Liberty from her nervous disposition and allows him entry into a sport that ordinarily needs wealth beyond his means. A professional player and coach watches the troubled boy training Liberty. His skill and determination is admirable and in the final scene, their transformation is revealed in front of a crowd after a big match, changing both their lives forever.

THE IMPACT

Riding Liberty is a 20 minute short film that aims to raise awareness of the impact horses and animals can have for children and young adults. There are so many amazing charities out there doing wonderful things with horses: Riding For The Disabled, Retraining Of Racehorses, World Horse Welfare, Power of Polo, yet often the bond between humans and animals is all too lost in our fast-paced world.

This film is important as it is the first film to feature the sport of polo within a story showing behind the scenes of the sport and the amount of work it takes for horse and rider to play. The film will involve action packed scenes of the horses, natural horsemanship, the skill of schooling polo ponies climaxing in an exciting polo match. The film also touches on the retraining of racehorses; such vital work in the welfare of these majestic animals. There are hundreds of short films made every year but only a tiny percentage have the quality of production and story-telling that we strive to achieve with Riding Liberty.

Our biggest aim is to make sure it is seen by as wide an audience as possible so our distribution is key. We will enter the film into major film festivals around the world with a big focus on publicity playing on the uniqueness of the film. We will also screen the film at cinemas and online. We will aim to premier the film at one of the very top tier of Film Festivals, namely Toronto, Sundance, London Film Festival, Cannes Film Festival or Berlin.

THE BUDGET

With our highly experienced crew and camera department, we are able to make this 20 minute high end film for £20,000. We are very lucky as all filming locations have been donated to us but there are many other factors to consider. The first biggest expense will be the hire of the highest quality equipment needed to deliver this action packed and visual film, we will be looking to hire the same quality of camera as used in high-end feature films as well as specialised cameras for mounting on the polo ponies and riders. Contrary to many short films we be paying our crew and cast for the 4 day shoot to ensure we can get the teams possible. There will be budgets for the art department and costume as well all those usually hidden costs in pre-production, post production costs and distribution. Could we make this film for less? Absolutely, we could cut corners everywhere, hire inferior kit and less experienced crew but you get what you pay for and by deliberately aiming for the best we have a greater chance of achieving the best.



LOCATIONS

The film location for the equine and polo yard will be at The vO Polo Club in Northamptonshire.

The match will be filmed on Ladies Day at The Dallas Burston Polo Club in Warwickshire on Saturday 13th June 2020 which has crowds of up to 1000 guests watching from the picnic lines and clubhouse.



TEAM

Our core team, Cassandra Thomas and Jonnie Hurn are established full time professional producers. This will be the fourth film they have worked together on.

Cassandra who wrote the original story could not have done so without her involvement and knowledge of polo and horses. Apart from being a producer, she runs a polo club in the summer and looks after around 60 polo ponies in the winter months at the farm. Her love and understanding of the sport and horses is what will make this film authentic.

Jonnie has been writing and producing films for many years. He has just completed a commission to write the feature script for a true story about a major fraud case. Previous films of his have played in countless festivals, been released worldwide and garnered multiple awards. 2020 will see another feature script of his, which he co-wrote, shooting in Malta for a major distributor. It is Jonnie's deep understanding of character and story-telling that transforms Cassandra's original story into a world class short screenplay.

INVESTMENT

As well as supporting a unique, action packed and beautiful film, investing into the film gives you an unforgettable experience and insight into the film making process.

Investors will receive the following perks:

- Creative involvement in the film
- Regular updates on filmmaking progress
- Visit set and meet the cast and crew anytime during filming
- Invitation to preview screening and party
- All film premiere and festival tickets around the world
- Listed as an Executive Producer credit on the film credits
- Listed as Executive Producer on IMDB, the Internet Movie Database.



 A screenshot of the IMDb page for the film 'Riding Liberty'. The page shows the title, the genre 'Produced by', and two executive producers: Hugh Paton and Leonora Wilson.

IMDb Sign In

Full Cast and Crew for: **Riding Liberty**

Produced by

Hugh Paton
executive producer

Leonora Wilson
executive producer



FILM SPONSORSHIP

We are excited to offer the opportunity to sponsor the film *Riding Liberty*, filming in June 2020. Sponsorship is centred around the final scene in the film which features a big polo match with lots of spectators. This will be filmed before and during the prestigious Ladies Day at Dallas Burston Polo Club in Warwickshire.

The Sponsor will receive the following:

- "In association with " naming rights and logo on film end credits, posters, media and websites.
- Product placement in the polo match scene filmed at Dallas Burston Polo Club on Ladies Day.
- Sponsorship boards around polo ground and/or clubhouse captured in the film.
- Match naming rights mentioned by characters in the film.
- Clothing branding and advertising filmed in the scene.

In addition to film sponsorship, the sponsor will also benefit from sponsoring Ladies Day itself, which is the biggest and most glamorous event in the calendar. Often attracting crowds of up to 1000 people, spectators picnic around the polo pitch or enjoy VIP and clubhouse hospitality. All marketing used for filming will remain around the clubhouse and polo ground and the sponsor will be included in the programme and in all publicity.

There are hospitality packages available on the day in the VIP area to entertain clients. To be arranged with the club separately.

