

# Dances with Horses Wows Again in 2012

by Marilyn Moore, ASPIRE, trp

Dances with Horses 2011 ranked right up there as one of our best shows ever.



The evening began with Bill Quibell singing the National Anthem and the Icelandic Horses presenting the flag.

Next, ASPIRE'S horse, Cody, and television news reporter Colleen O'Shaughnessy, from KWWL, introduced the crowd to ASPIRE and Dances with Horses.

The Raccoon River Riders opened the evening with their beautiful drill team performance. Dressed in camouflage costumes, they saluted our great country and military.

Next, our ASPIRE rider performed his many talents and skills on his favorite horse, ASPIRE'S own beautiful Norwegian Fjord, Erika, all set to inspirational music.

Laura Amandis (at left)

performed some beautiful bridle-less dance moves on Acierto, her Andalusian stallion, and then brought out a second horse for a tandem performance. Laura was soon joined by Rich Costa riding a beautiful Fell Pony.

The crowd was prepped for the night's performances as Kelly Reynolds entered the arena with El Gato and her friends, all on Arabians, and all in costume.

Midwest Renegades dare devil act was introduced and the audience went wild as the girls performed daring trick acts on horseback.

But the night was only the beginning, as Rich Costa and his horse Rusty rode around the arena cracking a burning whip! Just about scared me to death! The lights were turned off as Rusty and Rich jumped through a ring of fire, giving me goosebumps!

During Intermission, the adults snuck in one last bid on their silent auction items and the kids played games with Kris Klingaman and friends. It is always a joy to watch the kids diving for quarters and then running for the shoes in the boot race. An excited winner left the arena after the "infamous ball toss."

After the break, the Midwest Renegades' Jenny Vlahos performed a Roman Riding act, which included jumping and riding through fire stands. Thank you, Jenny, for your great entertainment.

The Icelandic horses performed a drill team formation. The speed and grace of these horses is just fun to watch.

Kelly Reynolds came back for her bridle-less performance on El Gato, as Bill Quibell sang, "I Can Only Imagine." She was beautiful in her feathered costume.

The Raccoon River Riders presented next, with their red, white, and blue costumes. They wowed the crowd and got them clapping.

The last act of the evening was Laura Amandis and Acierto performing with Bill Quibell singing, "You Raise Me Up." I had tears and chills as Acierto raised up on his rears every time Bill sang the words, "You Raise Me Up."

The audience enjoyed staying to meet all the horses, and we heard over and over what a great time they had.

It was truly a night to remember, and I was awe-struck with the performances. ASPIRE'S wonderful silent auction ended with lots of gifts going home. Thanks to everyone that made this a very special night for ASPIRE.

Please mark your calendars for next year's Dances with Horses, on September 22, 2012. We can't wait for all of you to be surprised again with the entertainers that are already lining up for next year's entertainment.

