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Sabine Schut-Kery and Sanceo Wows The World In Historic Olympic Performance

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Sabine Schut-Kery and Alice Womble-Heitman & Dr. Mike Heitman's 15-year-old stallion Sanceo have secured a historic finish in Olympic History, securing the Silver Medal for the USA in Olympic Dressage for the first time since 1948.

Photo ©[Shannon Brinkman Photography](#)

Sabine began her equestrian career in Germany, performing in exhibitions on Friesian and Andalusian horses. She was also one of the creators of the German horse musical 'Zauberwald' [Magic Forest] the German version of Cavalia. It was there she met her future husband, Hungarian horseman Krisztian Kery, a "solid horseman" with a background in dressage and showjumping.

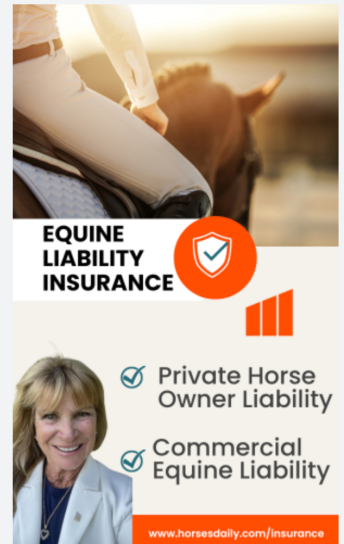
New Beginnings

Sabine is originally from Krefeld, Germany, where she was classically trained under Jean Bemelmans for three years. She completed her official "Bereiter" exam with the Federation Nationale in Germany. She continued to study with Jan Nivelle and Stefanie Meyer-Biss before her career in America was launched in 1998.

In 1998, she was offered a position as head trainer for Proud Meadow Friesians in the United States. During her interview, she told her future boss she had met someone. Jim Mosebrook and Larry Rings of Proud Meadows then offered, "Bring him along then as well as your two horses." (A Friesian and an Andalusian).

That Friesian, "Jorrit," was the first horse Sabine owned. A stallion, he was also the first horse she trained to Grand Prix and the first horse she competed and won with. Twenty years later, in her first Olympics with Sanceo, Sabine's score in the Team Final won the USA the silver medal.

"When I bought Jorrit, he was just four, and it was my dream to train him for exhibitions and to compete at the third level." In 2001, they won their first Grand Prix Freestyle in Wellington. Sabine, now reflecting on her US Team Silver Medal Olympic victory, noted, "It was exactly 20 years since my first Grand Prix with Jorrit, and now Sanceo and I are Olympians."



 An advertisement for Equine Liability Insurance. It features a woman's face and a horse. The text includes: "EQUINE LIABILITY INSURANCE", "Private Horse Owner Liability", "Commercial Equine Liability", and the website "www.horsesdaily.com/insurance".

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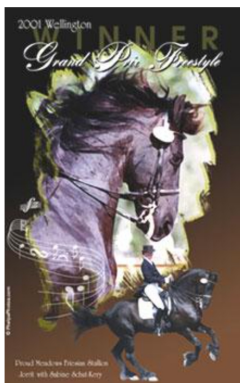
 An advertisement for mushrooms. It features a close-up of mushrooms. The text includes: "Use Code: HD", "10% off", "+Free Shipping", "Mushrooms", and "The Holy Grail of Health".

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Performances a Foundation For the Future

Sabine Schut-Kery with her two men Sanceo and husband
Krisztian Kery ©Terri Miller



Jorrit Poster commemorating his first
Grand Prix win Sabine Schut-Kery

In Sabine's earlier years with Proud

Meadow, she carried her passion for performing, inspiring, and entertaining the US Dressage world at major events such as Dressage at Devon, The FEI World Cup, and the Palm Beach Dressage Derby; Sabine left a lasting impression on all who watched her. "I really enjoy the creativity that comes with those performances," said Sabine, "There is a bond you create with each horse when teaching them how to sit, rear, and bow on command or perform under side-saddle or pulling a carriage."

Soon, Sabine was showing in recognized Dressage classes and performing at shows. She caught the attention of not only the judges but also those involved in developing America's international future. A confirmed Dressage competitor in Germany, Sabine knew there was an opportunity in America. In Germany, the leading country in Dressage Team medals, the team was dominated by regulars such as Isabell Werth.

When Sabine was offered the opportunity to further her career in the USA, starting with Proud Meadows, she made the move, and now the rest is Olympic history.

Sabine and Krisztian were married and became US citizens after moving to California to start their own business in 2007. Her husband became a successful stunt actor training horses for movies, known for his work [The Magnificent](#)

[Seven](#) (2016), [Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice](#) (2016), and [American Sniper](#) (2014).

Sanceo – Love at First Sight

Sabine's talent, honesty, ability, and keen eye, caught the attention of Alice Womble-Heitman & Dr. Mike Heitman of Horsegate Ranch who sent her to Germany in 2009 to find a young Dressage prospect. "When I first saw Sanceo, I immediately fell in love with his beauty and presence," Sabine recalls. "He was under three years old and only three times under saddle, but I wanted to sit on him to ensure I would feel what I had seen on the longe line. Sure enough, I could feel the steady rhythm, balance, and ground covering gaits of a more mature and experienced horse."

In 2011, the stallion as a young Five-Year-Old, Sanceo (by San Remo) traveled to Chicago for the Markel/USEF National Young Horse Championships. During his test, Judge Linda Zang saw his talent despite some tenseness and a big spook. "You are making us work here. This is a lovely horse, and we know what you can do. You can do it because you are an extremely good rider and do a great job. He was shying, but we consider these minor problems we take into consideration for the five-year-old test."

The horse and rider remain in the arena while the judges comment on the young horse tests. Sabine took that time to walk the young stallion around and get him comfortable with the flowers, stands, and banners in the ring. He finished fourth that year and, in 2012, as a six-year-old, represented the USA at the FEI World Young Horse Championships for Dressage in Verden, Germany.

Their career flourished, as they represented the United States at the Pan American Games in 2015 and won a Team Gold Medal. As his Grand Prix scores continued to climb, they were awarded The Carol Level Advanced Level Training Grant for the second year in 2018.



Olympic Observation Trial Seals The Deal – It's Off to Tokyo

At the US Mandatory Observation event held in early June 2021, Sabine and Sanceo earned a personal best score of 78.298%, putting them on the team with Olympic veterans Steffen Peters and Adrienne Lyle. After the trials, Sabine, Steffen, Adrienne, and alternate rider Nick Wagman traveled with their horses from Florida to Aachen, Germany. Olympic horses from Europe, Canada, and America converged to prepare to ship by plane through Liege, Belgium, to Tokyo.

It was a different Olympics, delayed for a year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and nearly canceled again in 2021. There were newly added dynamics: No friends, family, or spouses were allowed unless they were declared coaches. Strict masking and quarantine mandates, with daily testing. The climate was very hot and humid, conditions US Riders were used to having their finals selection in south Florida in the summer heat.

Sanceo's Personal Best Creates Olympic Best For the USA

American Dressage fans got used to early mornings when, for the first time, Olympic Live streaming was available. They watched as their athletes performed well during the Grand Prix, the first test for the team results. All three riders were qualified for the individual final. Then, in the Grand Prix Special, the test that would determine the team medals, Sabine Schut-Kery and Sanceo's new personal best result of 81.596 secured the Team Silver, the first in 73 years for the USA since the London Olympic Games in 1948.

With all US Team members qualified for the Olympic Final, The Grand Prix Freestyle (Kur) Adrienne Lyle opted to withdraw Betsy Juliano's Salvino. Five-time Olympian [Steffen Peters and Suppenkasper put in an entertaining "Rave Horse" performance](#) synchronized to a high-energy club mix, which has since gone viral with a tenth overall finish.

LOOKING BACK



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Sabine's husband, Krisztian Kery, created the Freestyle music for his wife's 2021 Olympic debut. "The first song is from the movie The Last Samurai. I just love it because movie music is meant to bring certain emotions to you, so I love that style of music—it resembles Sanceo, a little bit dramatic but not too much!"

Sabine Schut-Kery USA finished fifth in the world, and with another personal best score of 84.3, she was thrust into the limelight. With interviews on NBC, a welcoming celebration on her return to California, and international media shining a different kind of spotlight on the seasoned performer, Sabine is sharing her joy. "I don't really know what to do with it all right now," said Sabine when put in front of yet another microphone.

The consummate horsewoman, who has been with Sanceo for 11 years, showed her focus after her grand finale in her Olympic debut. She carefully looked him over, following the Freestyle after she dismounted.

Website – sabineschutkery.com/
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