

Indigo Magic^(GB)

Gone West - Lady Carla by Caerleon

The Magic Never Stops

It would be interesting to know just who acted as the adviser to Helena Springfield Ltd, an English textile firm, in the autumn of 1977. Three yearling fillies were purchased for the firm, with the objective for them to become the foundation mares of a newly to be established stud, today known as Meon Valley Stud.

One In A Million, the cheapest of the trio, won the One Thousand Guineas, making her the first company-owned winner of an English Classic. Reprocolor won the Lancashire Oaks and Oaks Trial. Odeon, highest priced of the three, won the Galtres Stakes and placed in eight other pattern races.

None of the fillies had obvious or even fashionable pedigrees at the time, but all came from highclass female lines. Today, Reprocolor is best known as the grandam of Opera House and Kayf Tara. One In A Million bred Gr I winner Milligram and is grandam of Gr I winner One So Wonderful. Odeon didn't let the team down, as the grandam of 1996 English Oaks winner Lady Carla. Meon Valley Stud, not surprisingly, is now a potent force at the biggest yearling sales.

The pedigrees of the three fillies make a study in forward thinking. We'll concern ourselves here only with Odeon, grandam of Lady Carla and thus third dam of new sire Indigo Magic.

Odeon was by Royal And Regal out of Cammina, who in turn was by Hornbeam out of the mare Zanzara. The latter had as her two grandsires the influential Fair Trial and Solario.

Cammina's sire Hornbeam was best known at the time as the sire of a topclass broodmare named Windmill Girl, dam of two Derby winners, Blakeney and Morston. And born in the same year as Odeon was Epsom Derby winner Troy, also out of a Hornbeam mare. Interestingly, the sire of Blakeney and the sire of Troy both had grandams who were daughters of Nearco.

Hornbeam was a son of Hyperion, his dam a daughter of Nasrullah (son of Nearco). This means that Blakeney and Troy were both inbred to a son and a daughter of Nearco. And in the case of Blakeney, his dam Windmill Girl was already inbred that way herself, as her grandam also was a daughter of Nearco.

Odeon fell in the same category. Her sire Royal And Regal was by Vaguely Noble, whose dam was by Nearco. To add fuel to the fire, Vaguely Noble was himself inbred 3x4 to Hyperion (through a son and a daughter).

The combination of Nearco and Hyperion rings a bell: Nearctic is a son of Nearco, his dam a daughter of Hyperion - exactly the opposite sex to the lines from Vaguely Noble.

Not surprisingly then that whenever Vaguely Noble appears in the pedigree of big horses, Nearctic can be found as well - and most often, of course, through Nearctic's son Northern Dancer.

In Odeon this really hotted up. Her sire Royal And Regal was a son of the mare Native Street, by Native Dancer. So here we have a horse by Nearctic's genetic sibling out of a mare by Native Dancer - that's remarkably like Northern Dancer, who is Nearctic x Native Dancer.

Add Nearctic's other genetic sibling Hornbeam, and suddenly Odeon becomes Northern Dancer's equivalent as well... what a find!

Odeon visited Mill Reef stallion Shirley Heights to produce a filly, Shirley Superstar. No Northern Dancer here yet. Even so, compare Mill Reef who has a son of

PICK OF THE BUNCH

Suitable mares for Indigo Magic could incl.

1. Mares by sons or grandsons of Northern Dancer (widely available), especially Sadler's Wells, Fairy King, etc. who carry Bold Reason (Hail to Reason x Lalun)
2. Mares with Tom Fool (Buckpasser) or Tom Fool genetic siblings (Spring Run, dam of Red God in Blushing Groom, sire of Jallad; Nijinsky's dam Flaming Page)
3. Combination of 1. and 2., as in National Assembly, Freedom Land, Lustra (!), Caesour, Complete Warrior, Damascus Gate, etc)
4. Mares with Nijinsky genetic siblings (The Minstrel, Storm Bird), or with Affirmed (who has an affinity with Northern Dancer and Nijinsky), as in Argosy (who has much more!)
5. Mares with Nearctic genetic siblings (Vaguely Noble; Courtesy, Hornbeam; Flower Bowl, as in Caesour, who also has Tom Fool and Northern Dancer; St Cuthbert; Royal Prerogative; etc.)
6. Mares with genetic siblings of Gold Digger, the dam of Mr P. (Bramalea, dam of Roberto; Fleet Nasrullah, as in Best By Test, Proclaim; Good Manners)
7. Mares with Buckpasser genetic equivalents (Attica, dam of Sir Ivor; Proud Truth), or with Secretariat genetic equivalents (Sir Gaylord), as in Sportsworld (who has much more!).
8. Mares with concentrations of La Troienne, Bull Dog, Sir Gallahad (widespread)

Nasrullah and a daughter of Hyperion, with Hornbeam: son of Hyperion out of a Nasrullah mare - so at least we're staying in the same neighbourhood.

The mating of Shirley Superstar with Caerleon finally brought Northern Dancer and Odeon together, to make for a genetic sibling double 3x2 in highly talented Epsom Oaks winner Lady Carla.

The choice of Gone West as a first mate for Lady Carla (she subsequently had her third foal by him as well) appears to be an inspired one. Gone West is by Mr Prospector, who has a noted affinity for lines of La Troienne. Both Caerleon and Never Bend (grandsire of Shirley Heights) trace to that famous mare.

Secondly, Tamerett, the second dam of Gone West is by Tim Tam. The latter has as his sire Tom Fool, who shows a great affinity for his genetic siblings Spring Run (dam of Red God in Blushing Groom) and Flaming Page (dam of Nijinsky). Tom Fool often crops up in that capacity as the sire of Buckpasser.

As it turns out, Tom Fool combines with Bull Lea in Tim Tam, making the latter an even better genetic sibling of Flaming Page.

So the resulting progeny of Gone West and Lady Carla, Indigo Magic, has genetic siblings Tim Tam and Flaming Page 4x4 (sex balanced).

Where from here?

Building further on the Northern Dancer and/or Tom Fool genetic sibling connections should be a natural. There are a large number of stallions in South Africa whose dams are by Buckpasser and have a Northern Dancer sire line. National Assembly and Freedom Land prime examples. Interesting to note in this context the filly Heavenly Prize, who earned almost \$2 million. She is by Seeking The Gold (Mr Prospector on Buckpasser) out of a mare by Nijinsky, stringing all that's good together.

Buckpasser seems important, as he's from the La Troienne tribe.

Northern Dancer, of course, ties in specifically with the inbreeding in Lady Carla (Northern Dancer x Odeon 3x2), and mares by any son or grandson of Northern Dancer should do. They'll give a 5x4x4 or 5x4x3 Northern Dancer genetic sibling cross.

It is easy to spot the similarity between another son of Gone West, Western Winter, and Indigo Magic. Western Winter's dam is by a son of Northern Dancer, and is herself inbred 4x4 to Nearctic (who is also the sire of her third dam).

The presence close up of Shirley Heights suggests a link to sires who have done well with him, notably Sadler's Wells. Interesting to note the existence of two highly rated progeny of Caerleon mare Truly Special, whose own dam is by Royal And Regal. A French Gr3 winner herself, Truly Special produced a French Gr3 & US Gr2 winner from a mating to Darshaan (son of Shirley Heights). The mare also had two French Gr2 winners by Sadler's Wells.

The genes, it seems, proceed in the right kind of environment.

The Magic never stops.

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