



# Pathfork (USA)

## Distorted Humor – Visions Of Clarity by Sadler's Wells

**When a successful sire gets sons to stand at stud, there's always the question of whether they'll be able to carry on the male-line torch. No longer any worries in this respect for American champion sire Distorted Humor. In the spring of 2012 his son Flower Alley made headlines as sire of I'll Have Another, winner of the first two legs of the US Triple Crown, the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes.**

**D**istorted Humor, who is sire of more than one hundred stakes winners, has yet to have one in that category whose dam does carry one or more lines of La Troienne. When Distorted Humor first went to stud, concerted efforts were made to give him mares with La Troienne, as expectations were that this would suit him. The early efforts paid off in a big way, and the trend continued. The connection with La Troienne (which Distorted Humor does not have himself) is bottom female-line ancestor Nectarine (a full sister to Bull Lea), who is kin to La Troienne.

In modern pedigrees, La Troienne is widespread and not difficult to find in multiples. One noted influence is La Troienne's son Bimelech, through his daughter Lalun, who is dam of sires Never Bend and Bold Reason. The two sires are the driving force behind the affinity cross of Sadler's Wells (dam by Bold Reason) with Never Bend stallions Mill Reef (& sons Shirley Heights and Doyoun) and Riverman.

To date, Distorted Humor has sires ten individual Gr1 winners. Included are Flower Alley (grandam by Sadler's Wells), Hystericalady (damsire Northair has Bold Reason), Any Given Saturday (4th dam is kin to Lalun), Bit of Whimsy (dam by Sadler's Wells' son El Prado), and Pathfork (dam by Sadler's Wells out of a mare by Riverman). Added to this, Flower Alley's Derby winning son I'll Have Another is out of a mare inbred to Never Bend.

The linking factor from Distorted Humor is his grandam Sweetest Chant (by Mr Leader), who is close kin to Bold Reason and Never Bend.

On to the bottom half of Pathfork's pedigree, his dam Visions Of Clarity. She's a daughter of Sadler's Wells, and has a 3x3 double of Bold Reason x Never Bend. Visions Of Clarity is bottom-line kinbred through Sadler's Wells significant female line ancestor Dalmaly going to Papola, the significant ancestor in the bottom female-line of Pathfork.

This is a major sire-producing female line, which hit the big time with Best In Show, the fifth dam of Pathfork.

Best In Show's daughter Sex Appeal (by La Troienne-line sire Buckpasser) is dam of sires El Gran Senor, Try My Best, Northern Guest (all by Northern Dancer). Another daughter Show Lady is 3rd dam of Redoute's Choice (Daneshill), whose champion daughter Miss Finland has a dam with Sadler's Wells and Mill Reef.



US Champion Sire with his first crop to race and US Champion Sire of 2011, **Distorted Humor** continues to bolster his reputation as a sire of sires. His son Flower Alley sired the 2012 GI Kentucky Derby and GI Preakness Stakes winner I'll Have Another.

### PICK OF THE BUNCH

*Suitable lines for Pathfork could include*

1. Best In Show female line descendants, notably Northern Guest, Try My Best (Last Tycoon, Bel Byou), El Gran Senor, Modus Vivendi, Atso; Labeeb (kin-linked to this female line)
2. La Troienne female line descendants, notably Buckpasser (Northern Guest, Al Mufti, National Assembly, etc – widespread)
3. Dalmaly female line descendants, incl Sadler's Wells, Nureyev, Fairy King, Golden Thatch, etc
4. Lalun female line descendants Bold Reason and Never Bend (Mill Reef, Shirley Heights; Riverman, Irish River; etc), and Lalun's kin-linked Mr Leader
5. Trippi, notably in combination with any of the above
6. Rose Leaves (full sister to Bull Lea) female line descendants (Native Chapeau, Diorissimo, Scented Royal; Sleek Gold; Noble Ambition), notably in combination with any of the above

Another daughter Monroe got sires Xaar and Modus Vivendi (both by Zafonic). Then there's daughter Blush With Pride, grandam of US Classic winners Jazil (Seeking The Gold) and Rags To Riches (A.P. Indy). And Minnie Hauk, the third dam of Pathfork's dam who is 3-part sister to Gr1 producing sire Spinning World (by Nureyev). Spinning World sired Gr1 winners in two hemispheres, his best English winner the filly Spinning Queen, kinbred 4x4 bottom-lines through Minnie Hauk x Cap And Gown (for reference, the latter is also grandam of SA sire Labeeb).

### Where From Here

Suitable lines for Pathfork should include those from his own potent female line, pointing in the South African context especially at champion broodmare sire Northern Guest, and by extension female lines which have produced big winners by Northern Guest. Northern

Guest's dam is by Buckpasser, a traditional source of La Troienne, of such value in the context of Distorted Humor.

The La Troienne angle must remain of interest, most likely through Buckpasser who is so well represented in the South African mare population – notably through Al Mufti & sons, Northern Guest, National Assembly, etc. Background elements of Bull Lea and his full sister Nectarine should further enhance this mix.

Inbreeding to Sadler's Wells must be an option, as is adding members of the same female line (descending from Dalmaly), notably Nureyev and Golden Thatch. Sadler's Wells' damsire Bold Reason leads to Mill Reef, Shirley Heights, Riverman. Sir Ivor belongs in the same camp.

The close resemblance of pedigree and performance at stud of Distorted Humor and Trippi makes the latter's daughters interesting options for Pathfork. It is relevant to note in the context of female line kin-breeding that Spinning World (3-part brother to Pathfork's dam) sired Italian Gr1 winner Ancient World, whose third dam Comely Nell is a virtual clone of Trippi's fifth dam Amoret.

### HIGHLANDS STUD

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