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WOMEN
AROUND THE WORLD

Dr. Nancy O'Reilly, PsyD

SOMIS, CALIFORNIA

Please share with us a bit about your upbringing.

I was born in Atlanta, Georgia, the second of four (one sister and two brothers). I grew up in the South until my father, working for the Federal Aviation Association, was transferred to Washington, DC. DC was an amazing place to grow up when in your backyard, are the Smithsonian, the Capitol, the Federal Reserve, the Washington Monument, and many other sights. It was a hot spot for national issues: human rights, wars, and foreign affairs; as well as lots of bars and fun spots for teens. Though I was told not to, I spent my early years crossing the bridge to Georgetown. All in all, it was an amazing place to grow up.

You are a champion and inspiration for women everywhere to be their best selves. What led you to this path?

I was married in college, had three beautiful daughters, lots of degrees, loved human behavior, received my doctorate in Clinical Psychology and took the license exam (twice) to become a psychologist. With the big issues of women having no voice or a seat at the table, we needed leaders, and wanting to leave a legacy for my daughters, women gender equality and equity, and women's leadership became my love and focus. My focus was not my husband's, however, and after 43 years, my new life led to a friend taking me to see her horse. I fell in love, and after overcoming my fears and finding this new community, my first horse was purchased in 2012. From there, I've learned to ride

(still learning), increased my herd, bought Southern California Equestrian Center (SCEC), ride, drive, and now breed the best of the best!

What has been the most enjoyable part of what you do?

Finding the power of the horse and having them in my life. They saved me, and each day I get to be with them and everything is all better.

Among your many businesses, you have Amazing Horse Woman LLC. What attracted you to this name?

I decided if I was going to this, I was going to go in big or go home. It turns out it was a smart move.

How did your love for the Arabian horse come about and who was instrumental in introducing you to the breed?

I've always loved animals ... I wanted to be a vet when I was a kid. My aforementioned friend, Dr. Krystal McCullough, took me to her barn and introduced me to EF Trific Shoc, a purebred Arabian. I bought him soon after my divorce and the rest is history. I love the Arabian world, thanks to Krystal.

What do horses do for you in your very busy life?

They fill me with calm, love and happiness; I feel fulfilled. They teach us so much if we listen, be with them. We are part of each other's herd.





What about Life Inthe Fazt Lane and Affliction told you they were the ones for you?

It was their beauty, performance, and wonderful temperaments. Affliction is my goofball, until he starts moving, and Life Inthe Fazt Lane (Eddie) is beauty in motion and is so sweet, no one believes he is a stallion. Jesse and I both agree he is a woman's horse; he's such a lover.

You have had a lot of success over the last few years in the horse industry; is there a special moment that stands out for you, that was extremely gratifying?

Lately, I've taken a break from showing. Watching horses run in the green, grassy turnouts and just be horses is pure magic. We forget they work so hard for us, so my herd and I are just having lots of fun. I am riding and driving, and have babies on the way, but it's more about the joy and happiness aspect, than showing to win.

What's next for SCEC?

The center is a destination location in Southern California. We have a whole season of dressage horse shows scheduled, with the best of the best in horses

and riders expected, and whether it's a wedding, party, learning about being a leader, or you want us to take care of your horse while you go to the beach, the mountains, or LA, we can do all those things.

Having traveled the world, what is your favorite city or place you have visited?

Rome, Italy.

What is the perfect day?

Being here with my herd. I am lucky and blessed.

What is one thing our readers would be surprised to know about you?

I am an open book, what you see is what you get.

If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be?

That people would be more like animals, specifically horses or dogs; they don't lie or cheat, they live in the now, and are always excited to see you.

In ten years where do you see yourself?

Doing more of what I am doing now. ■