

Resume

Lars and Lisbeth Poppel founded in 1993 their company **Royal art of riding and fencing** in historical riding and the art of warfare. The idea behind the company was to recreate the medieval age's knight's tournaments, the baroque's Carrousel riding and the eighteenth-century horse ballet within the historical frame. Today shows in Spanish riding such as Doma Vaquera, Garrocha and Classical Spanish dressage have now become a part of their repertoire.

The couple has through time acquisitioned a big historical knowledge about the use, riding, culture and military use of the horse. And have contributed to understanding horses and riding with historical workshops, lectures and cultural experiences. They have always modified the shows with great respect for detail and with the inspiration from the original manuscript of training horses for warfare and historical events.

In 1993 they obtained a contract with **War Museum in Denmark**, who wished for innovative thinking regarding the presentation of their exhibitions. Lars Poppel suggested making the essence of the exhibits come to life through shows during the school holidays.

The museum was against the idea at first, therefore Lars Poppel rented the museum's backyard in the autumn holiday in 1993 and it soon became the success that lead them to become the promoters and the minds behind all the historical events and shows at Royal Armory, e.g. **Culture Night, Father/son Sundays, The history of fencing** during the winter holiday and the **Art of warfare** with horses during the summer holiday.

In addition to their work they created from 1993 to 2006, the famous and successful knight's tournament between **the black and the red knight**, which took place in the backyard of the Royal Armory of Denmark, lead to 25.000 happy visitors during the autumn holiday per year. The tournament became so popular that they developed at big fanbase, who followed them every autumn holiday at the Royal Armory and went on tour with them during the summer. The press announced them the best activity in the autumn holidays.

Between the innumerable shows for War Museum the couple have produced numerous historical horseshows, i.e. in the riding arena on Christiansborg Castle and "The Horse in war and Love" in Forum in Copenhagen, as well as the international "Danish Warmbloods Breeding Show" in Herning and in the professional gala evening event shows for **Store Heste dag and Roskilde dyrskue**.

Since their start in 1993 they have created more than thousands of knight's tournaments and baroque shows in Scandinavia and other foreign countries.

They have also been a part of several movies and TV productions for i.e. TV2 and Denmark's Radio, Angle, Metronom Productions and Miso Film e.g. **Danskernes historie 1996, Danskernes historie 2014, Television song contest presented Malta, Hvad er det Værd,.**

Snurrenups søndagsklub, aftenshowet and for Swedish television ***hippo, with the Danish pop artist Sanne Salomonsen.***

They have done horse stunts in the movies ***Vølvens Forbandelse*** and were additionally in charge of riding and stunt training of the actors in the movie ***Skammerens Datter***, DR's drama series ***År 1864 and Danskernes historie.***

Events for i.e. ***DONG, Culture City Copenhagen 1996, HRH King Hussein of Jordan's stat visit, Maersk Lines international*** and ***Akershus 700 year anniversary*** as well as ***Oslo's City 1000 years anniversary***, where they had their biggest audience, at 180.000 visitors.

In the book about ***Ministry of Culture's*** guide regarding culture for museums, their show ***"mounted combat"*** at the War Museum is used as a great example for good dissemination of culture in museums. On the cover on the book is a photo from the show ***"mounted combat"***.

They are also present in the books about ***Clausholm Castle*** and the ***Medieval Centre.*** Additionally, they have been on the cover of the tourist magazine ***"Visit Notheren Zealand"***.

During the twenty-five years of shows, clinics and teaching and the press have written numerous of articles and have had them on the front covers.

For ***the Royal Theatre of Copenhagen,*** the couple have been horse instructors and responsible for the training of actors and horse stunts in ***Ivanhoe, Thor*** and ***The three musketeers.*** In all three productions the couple rode the horse stunts for the main characters and were additionally a part of the inner circle and a part of the planning and choreography for the horse and fencing scene for the production of ***The three musketeers.***

Lars Poppel has choreographed and instructed the ***Royal Danish Hussars show team.*** The couple has lived 3 years in Spain, where they trained and worked for different horse breeders and places for the education of the Spanish horse Pura Raza Espaniola. They also established an acquaintance with the Spanish riding culture Doma Vaquera and worked with bulls from large bull farms near Jerez. The couple's passion for the Spanish way of riding lead them to the ***Royal school of equestrian art*** in Jerez, where they met and befriended with Rafael Soto.

Lars Poppel is a professionally trained riding master by Svend Carlsen at Birkerød Riding school and historical weapons expert with expertise in fighting from horseback.

Originally, he mainly rode show jumping and 3 days event, but under a work assignment in The United States he established an acquaintance with different breeds of horses like the Spanish PRE and Lipizzaner and learned about the classical art of ridings fundamental principles from a former riding master from the Spanish riding school in Vienna.

His large historical interest in the art of warfare lead him to seek out the many show groups, who recreate historical events from the medieval times to the renaissance's knight's tournaments to the magnificent battles from the American civil war.

These shows where they use of the horse for combat, the sword and the lance are an important part in showing how riders in the early days used the horse's amazing features and intelligence to survive on the battlefield.

It was also in the US, that he got his inspiration to recreate the historical riding and fencing and is today one of the few specialists in this field.

Lars Poppel passion and knowledge about the mind and movement of the horse is mirrored in his teaching, where he uses elements from the art of warfare and military training principles. In short it is not the appearance of the saddlery, which dictates the rider's influence on the horse, based on the correct riding and training. To Lars dressage is the foundation for the horse's mental state, body and soul. When training a horse Lars learned the importance of looking at the horse as an individual and start training the horse accordingly

If the horse has faith in its rider, the horse will follow the rider's instructions and try to solve the new challenges. All the directions given to the horse should be cultivated and clear to get mental strength and versatility in its training.

Lars is founder, president and approved trainer for Old School Dressage. Additionally, Lars has trained royal personalities **HRH crown princess Mary** and **HRH prince Henrik** as well as many of Denmark's actors and classical riders.

Lisbeth Poppel is a professional riding trainer, historical horseback archer and fencer.

She is chairman of the Danish sidesaddle association and has 20 years experience riding sidesaddle both jumping and dressage.

In her teaching Lisbeth has a strong focus on the balance and harmony between a rider and their horse. The language Lisbeth uses to communicate the relationship between a horse and its rider, is one she has obtained through her studies of the horses perception. To see the horse as nature designed it and from there learned to understand and respect the horses ever-evolving senses.

She started riding at the age of four with the classical inspired Baroness Lerche, where she rode circus horses in sidesaddle. Because of this sidesaddle was normal for her but as a teenager she quickly learned that it wasn't and started sport dressage and jumping in a normal saddle, and attended competitions, however, it was clear for her that it wasn't where her heart was.

In her youth she trained racehorses with horserace trainer Kim Stummann and with Harness Trainer Walther Kaiser-Hansen.

Her huge passion for the horse as a riding and cultural animal has made her a versatile rider, who has searched for knowledge in every nook and cranny she could in the horse riding world. Through Lars Lisbeth also gained the knowledge of the importance of looking at the horse as an individual and start training the horse accordingly

Her partnership with Lars took her through the historical way of horse training in all its aspects and it became clear that classical dressage exercises were not for the rider's entertainment, but was made to build up the horse, so it could be strong enough to move and obey the rider in any directions on the battlefield.

In the the classical riding she found her heart, an art form which focuses on planed training with a starting point in the horses dissimilarity, temperament and soul. She went back in sidesaddle and attended hunting and show jumping, however, as their events are based on authenticity, she further developed the technical instructions for dressage that made it possible for her to ride and instruct and perform some highest exercises of Grand Prix level in sidesaddle.

Due to her degrees in economics and mangement she managed secure various post within the company, and through experience working on their own productions and several times with others theater fx. The Royal Theater where she leaned stage manegement, kostume and prop design.