



Alexandrova drives home sire Sadler's Wells supremacy

by Rommy Faversham

With the recent deaths of Japan's Sunday Silence and Australia's Danehill, Sadler's Wells stands, by a considerable margin, as one of the most influential living stallions in the world.



John Crofts photo

The 25-year-old super-sire added more luster to his legacy on June 2 when his daughter Alexandrova (Ire) drew off by six lengths to win the 228th running of the Epsom Oaks (Eng-G1) at Epsom Downs.

Named after Maria Alexandrova, leading soloist of the Bolshoi Ballet, this classy bay filly has, indeed, earned the title 'prima donna' as well.

Alexandrova is Sadler's Wells's fifth Oaks winner, equaling the number set by the great St. Simon more than a century ago.

Alexandrova's Oaks is also her sire's 13th English Classic victory, moving him into third place on the all-time list (see chart).

Bred by Quay Bloodstock, Alexandrova was a 420,000 guineas (\$753,270) auction purchase at the 2004 Tattersalls October yearling sale. She is the fourth winner from the winning Shirley Heights mare, Shouk, the dam of 2004 Cheveley Park Stakes (Eng-G1) victress Magical Romance, who was sired by the Sadler's Wells stallion Barathea.

Alexandrova's extended family is anchored by her fourth dam, Faizebad (Fr) whose des-

Alexandrova, b. f., 2003

Sadler's Wells 81 1834 fls, 272 SWs SI 4.44 DI=2.82	Northern Dancer 61 14 wins, \$580,647 Champion 635 fls, 147 SWs SI 5.82 DI=3.00	Nearctic 54 335 fls, 49 SWs SI 2.38 DI=1.90	=Nearco (Ity) 35
	Fairy Bridge 75 2 wins Champion 9 fls, 4 SWs DI=2.29	Natalma 57 14 fls, 4 SWs DI=1.93	*Lady Angela 44
=Shouk (GB) 94 4 fls, 2 SWs DI=0.70	=Shirley Heights (GB) 75 6 wins, \$402,418 Champion 694 fls, 64 SWs SI 2.29 DI=1.30	Bold Reason 68 334 fls, 21 SWs SI 1.50 DI=2.07	Native Dancer 50
	=Souk (Ire) 88 2 wins, \$15,961, Spl 11 fls, 1 SW DI=1.29	Special 69 9 fls, 3 SWs DI=1.52	Almahmoud 47
		Mill Reef 68 379 fls, 62 SWs SI 5.01 DI=3.73	Hail to Reason 58
		=Hardiemma (GB) 69 12 fls, 1 SW DI=1.67	Lalun 52
		=Ahoonora (GB) 75 465 fls, 45 SWs SI 2.00 DI=3.00	*Forli 63
		=Soumana (Fr) 79 7 fls, 0 SWs DI=1.59	Thong 64
			Never Bend 60
			Milan Mill 62
			=Hardicanute (GB) 62
			=Grand Cross (GB) 52
			*Lorenzaccio 65
			=Helen Nichols (GB) 66
			=Pharly (Fr) 74
			Faizebad (Fr) 62

cdendants include 1974 French One Thousand Guineas (Fr-G1) heroine Dumka, the dam of Doyoun, winner of the 1988 English Two Thousand Guineas (Eng-G1).

Alexandrova is the latest major winner sired by Sadler's Wells out of a Never Bend-line broodmare. This auspicious cross first presented itself in the early 1990s with the likes of Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) champion In The Wings (GB) and has developed into the most successful Thoroughbred affinity in Europe today.

Sadler's Wells' broodmare sire, Bold Rea-

son was a half brother to Never Bend and their cross constitutes inbreeding to their influential dam, Lalun, winner of the 1955 Kentucky Oaks. This pattern also commonly presents itself among the best of Sadler's Wells' second generation offspring, as in the case of Alexandrova's half sister, Magical Romance.

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SIRES OF ENGLISH CLASSIC WINNERS

	One Thousand Guineas	Two Thousand Guineas	Epsom Derby	Epsom Oaks	St. Leger	Total
Stockwell (1860-'73)	4	3	3	1	6	17
St. Simon (1890-1900)	2	4	2	5	4	17
Sadler's Wells (1990-)	1	3	2	5	2	13
Touchstone (1842-'55)	4	1	3	1	3	12

* Melbourne, Blandford, and Hyperion tied with 11 Classic victories