



Press release  
Chantilly, 5 February 2007

Horse show:

### “On the Silk Road”

from 7<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April,  
and from 22<sup>nd</sup> September to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2007

## Chantilly is on the Silk Road once more



Following last autumn's success, the horse show created by Sophie Renaudon Bienaimé, “On the Silk Road”, returns to Chantilly's Living Museum of the Horse, from 7th April 2007. For over an hour, spectators are transported to the mythical, poetic universe of Europe's first exchanges with Asia, in search of the fascinating horse-riding peoples.

“On the Silk Road” is a richly coloured show, a succession of artistic images which, I hope, awakes a feeling of fantastical journeys in the public's imagination”. Having welcomed 6,500 people over the course of the 16 shows performed in September-October 2006, Chantilly's Living Museum of the Horse offers a new series of “On the Silk Road” shows.

### The colours of the Silk Road

Fifteen scenes are represented in succession. Guided by an unseen narrator, the spectators are told both history and legends surrounding the arrival of Chinese porcelain, lacquer ware, silk, spices and precious stones to Europe. On the ring, inside the prestigious Dome belonging to the Living Museum of the Horse, eight riders lead the museum's twenty or so High school horses. They are accompanied by an aerial acrobat, a percussionist and a dancer.

The director took three years to write and put together “one of my most beautiful shows”. During these three years, she scoured Asia for stories, legends, costumes and harnessing equipment. “The *Thousand and One*



*Nights* stories of my childhood definitely inspired my desire to travel to the East. I also wanted to discover the horse riding people who live along this route nowadays, so that this new adventure could be built around real-life encounters”.



## From the Mongolian nomads to the descendants of the Sikhs, via the Princes of Condé

For this show, Sophie Renaudon-Bienaimé visited the countries crossed by this legendary route. From Mongolia, from a market in Oulan Bator, she brought back the first costumes for the show, "On the Silk Road". "The Mongolian riders still wear the dehl, the long coat of their ancestors. Sometimes their headdress is replaced by an American cap: it looks awful!".

The journey continued with a recent visit to India: "This was one of my most moving experiences. Visiting the Amber palace near Jaipur, built in the Middle Ages, I discovered a concrete remnant of the Silk Road: some stained glass windows made of Murano glass. So the route from Venice to Peking must have passed through India". She imported more than fifty kilos of Indian tack and fabric to illustrate her show. It was also in India that Sophie was offered a Marwari horse by Mrs Francesca Kelly: Dilraj, 10 years old, the only representative of this breed in Europe.

Historically, Chantilly is closely linked to the Silk Road: the chinoiserie and porcelain visible in the château bear witness to this. Louis-Henri de Bourbon, 7<sup>th</sup> Prince of Condé who had the Grand Stables built during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, also initiated the manufacture of porcelain and wall coverings here. These experiences are recorded on placards in front of each object displayed in the château, which provides a beautiful means of prolonging the journey on this Silk Road.



### Living Museum of the Horse, "On the Silk Road", practical information:

**Opening hours:** Museum open every day except Tuesday

Weekdays: 2.00 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.

Weekends: 10.30 a.m. - 6.30 p.m.

Show, "On the Silk Road", Saturdays at 9.00 p.m. and Sundays at 4.30 p.m., from 7<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April and from 22<sup>nd</sup> September to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

### Prices

"On the Silk Road" show: from €20 (child) to €30 (adult)\*

\* The price includes reservation charges and the ticket includes a tour of the Living Museum of the Horse.

### Information,

**reservations:** Tel.: +33 (0)3 44 57 40 40 - [www.museevivantducheval.fr](http://www.museevivantducheval.fr)

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# Living Museum of the Horse

ON THE SILK ROAD

**REQUESTS FOR ACCREDITATION TO BE SENT BY FAX  
TO +33 (0)3 44 620 622 OR BY POST TO:**

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Journalist's name and surname:

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Would like to attend the show, "On the Silk Road" at the Living Museum of the Horse on:

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 9.00 p.m.  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 9.00 p.m.  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 9.00 p.m.  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 9.00 p.m.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 4.30 p.m.  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 4.30 p.m.  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 4.30 p.m.  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 4.30 p.m.

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