



Kingmambo – Sea Of Showers by Seattle Slew

Breed a champion as champions are bred. In his stud career to date, French Guineas winner Kingmambo has now sired the winners of ten Classics worldwide, his son Henrythenavigator the latest addition in 2009. Kingmambo's best runners invariably have Northern Dancer and/or Seattle Slew close up in their pedigrees. Top of the heap are mares with Northern Dancer's sons Sadler's Wells, Nureyev and Nijinsky, while Seattle Slew is in a league of his own. As to which is the best the opinions will differ, but few will deny multiple Gr1 winner El Condor Pasa a place in the sun.

What makes the combination of Kingmambo with Northern Dancer and Seattle Slew so magical? The pedigree of the super sire, who stands at a fee of \$250,000 in the US in 2009, gives clues.



The idea is to identify genetic relatives, best described as ancestors with a high proportion of similar lines in their pedigree background. These relatives will usually appear within four generations. Mr Prospector, for instance has Raise You and Miss Dogwood 2x3. On the next level, the best runners produced by Mr Prospector invariably have dams who carry ancestors who tie in with either Raise You or Miss Dogwood. Raise You is a daughter of Case Ace (by Teddy), Miss Dogwood is by Bull Dog (by Teddy). All of Case Ace, Bull Dog and Teddy are very closely inbred, 1x1 to relatives.

In the case of Kingmambo, Raise You's son Raise a Native (and that one's son Mr Prospector) finds a close relative from the sire-line Kingmambo's dam Miesque, who is by Nureyev, a son of Northern Dancer. Raise a Native (& Mr P) is a close relative of Northern Dancer, the pair appearing 2x3 in Kingmambo.

Kingmambo's damsire Nureyev is an interesting 'inbreeding' example as well. His sire Northern Dancer has Lady Angela x Mah Mahal 2x4. Nureyev himself has two crosses: Sister Sarah (dam of Lady Angela) x Dalmary 4x4, and Mahmoud (son of Mah Mahal) x Thong (granddaughter of Dalmary) 4x2. Nureyev's dam Special has a 4-way cross of relatives, involving Dalmary and a 3-part sister to Mahmoud. Very neat.

It is no real surprise to find that Northern Dancer features prominently in the pedigrees of Kingmambo's best runners, with Nureyev's 3-part brother Sadler's Wells numerically well represented. Henrythenavigator is a fine example. His dam by Sadler's Wells out of a mare by Irish River (a celebrated cross), with the next dam Brigid not only by Raise a Native, but a Mr P. equivalent into the bargain. Henry has Raise A Native and Northern Dancer doubled twice, plus Mr P. and Brigid. Beautiful.

Then there is El Condor Pasa, whose dam is by Sadler's Wells out of Glenveagh, a mare whose dam is a full sister to Special (dam of Nureyev, grandam of Sadler's Wells). As if that wasn't enough, Glenveagh is a daughter of Seattle Slew. How does the latter fit the picture?

Seattle Slew's make-up shows a 3x3x2 treble of relatives Hail to Reason x Glamour x Fair Charmer. This leads to the inbreeding in Mr Prospector, who is 2x3 Raise You x Miss Dogwood. As relatives go, Miss Dogwood is very close to Fair Charmer and to Hail to Reason. In modern pedigrees Hail to Reason might well be regarded as the cure-all: he has many close relatives, including Nantallah (damsire of Special, the pair in the dam of Sadler's Wells 2x3), Almahmoud, Buckpasser.

He has it all: his dam is by Sadler's Wells out of a mare by Seattle Slew.

Now look at Kingmambo's American classic winner Lemon Drop Kid and 2008 Gr1 revelation Duke of Marmalade. Lemon Drop Kid is out of Charming Lassie, who is Seattle Slew x Lassie Dear, by Buckpasser. In the descendants of Lassie Dear (as we know from Al Mufti and AP Indy), Buckpasser plays a pivotal role. Buckpasser and Fair Charmer are equivalents (and come from the same female line of la Troienne), the pair linking to Miss Dogwood (and her daughter Sequence) in Mr P.

To add to this, the dam of Duke Of Marmalade is Love Me True, by Kingmambo out of Lassie's Lady, who is by Alydar out of Lassie Dear. Alydar is a son of Raise a Native, and is a Mr P. equivalent.

On to Atso, who fits the bill. His dam Sea of Showers is by Seattle Slew. She is a Gr3 winning half sister to Gr1 winners Aldebaran (by Mr P) and Good Journey (by Nureyev), and also to stakes winner Tomisue's Indy (by AP Indy). All the right combinations.

Atso's grandam is multiple Gr1 winner Chimes of Freedom, who is a full sister to a Gr1 winner and Gr1 placed winner. Their sire is Private Account, who has close relatives Blade Of Time (grandam of Damascus) and Buckpasser 3x2. Private Account's third dam is the mare Glamour, who (as mentioned above) is one of three notable 'relatives' in Seattle Slew. We also note a half sister to Chimes Of Freedom, Gr1 placed Imperfect Circle (by Riverman), who is the dam of multiple Gr1 winner and sire Spinning World, a son of Nureyev.

Next step. The dam of Chimes Of Freedom is Gr1 winner Aviance, a daughter of Northfields. The 'relatives' in the pedigree of Aviance are (2x4x4) Northfields' dam Little Hut, Motto (from Sir Ivor) and Mr Busher. The latter is a full brother to the dam of Glamour.

The fact that Aviance and her daughter Chimes of Freedom were Gr1

PICK OF THE BUNCH

Suitable mares for Atso could include

1. Mares with Lassie Dear (Al Mufti & sons, Camden Park, Wolfhound, Houston Connection, etc) or other prominent Buckpasser; the latter belongs in the Tom Fool clan which embraces Tom Fool, Buckpasser, Nijinsky, Blushing Groom, Dinner Partner
2. Mares with Nijinsky (Dancing Champ!), Sadler's Wells/Fairy King, Nureyev (Caesour!), or other sons of Northern Dancer (Northern Guest!; El Gran Senor through Cordoba!; Rakeen)
3. Mares with Graustark/His Majesty (Danehill; Secret Prospector!, or his 'relative' Qui Danzig; Caesour!; etc)
4. Mares with Hail to Reason (Bold Reason, Halo, etc.)
5. Mares with Damascus (Jet Master)
6. Mares with the combination of Northern Dancer & Raise a Native close up
7. Mares with la Troienne tribe members, incl Seattle Slew's half brothers Argosy, Lomond, Seattle Dancer

winner and bred Gr1 winners suggests that their pedigree build-up must be pretty solid. Which give confidence to move on the the dam of Aviance, the Sir Ivor mare Minnie Hauk, who is full sister to English champion 2yo and sire Malinowski and half sister to Buckpasser mare Sex Appeal. The latter is dam of a trio of successful sires by Northern Dancer: El Gran Senor, Try My Best and Northern Guest. The dam of Aviance and Sex Appeal is American Champion broodmare Best In Show, ancestress also of worldclass sire Redoute's Choice and Irish Champion filly Peeping Fawn, both by Danehill. Danehill is by Northern Dancer, his grandam a daughter of Buckpasser.

In summary, things seem to centre on Northern Dancer (through Sadler's Wells, Nureyev, Danehill/Danzig), Hail to Reason (Bold Reason, Halo), Buckpasser and his close family members emanating from la Troienne (notable in Seattle Slew, Private Account), Mr Prospector (and his sire Raise a Native), Riverman & son Irish River. We also note that the pedigree construction of Atso's Gr1 winning grandam Chimes Of Freedom makes her a very close 'relative' to El Gran Senor, Try My Best and Northern Guest.