



Aude Butler–Bauserman Biography

I currently live in Luray Virginia and am a full time French and Biology Teacher as well as a Freelance Dressage Instructor. I started riding at the age of 6 in England and was heavily involved in pony club. My parents then moved to France where I continued my riding as a jumper. Little did I know at the time I would change disciplines. My parents had bought a property that was adjacent to the riding school L’academie Equestre de Touraine a dressage school which had been opened by Commandant de Padirac after leaving Saumur. Many mornings I would go over and look through the trees and watch the sessions. However, one morning I was spotted and the Commandant with his calm but serious voice said “come out from behind the tree before you start growing roots.” Looking back on it was both the most intimidating moment of my life and the biggest turning point. I had never seen anything such as the half-pass, the pirouettes, the levade, the 1 tempi and then the 2 temps; but most of all the fact that you could not see him move while asking for the transitions. He suggested I come over and ride. I trained under his tutelage for many years and showed. My parents who worked for the government were required to move again this time to Virginia where I continued my training with local instructors and clinicians but would return to France every summer. I became a working student for Linda Konigesberg and thought her guidance and knowledge helped make adjustments that helped improved the brilliance, patience and expression in my horses.

Experience

- Pony Club Level B (U.K. Pony club)
- Jumping Training Level 4 under the instruction of Isabelle Aufrere – La Cravache
- Classical French dressage training with Marie-Helene Lelievre
- Classical French dressage training with Commandant de Padirac from Saumur at L’academie Equestre de Touraine
- Clinics with Nico Van Stigt, Charles de Kunffy, and Jean Claude Racinet
- Trained with Regula Lorenz
- Trained with Linda Konigesberg as well as working student position for multiple years.
- Forest grove Stables Dressage Instructor
- Many students of all disciplines and all types of horse breeds successfully competing in dressage.
- Competed up to 4th level with schooling in upper level movements.

Theory

Dressage is for every horse in every discipline it does not have to stand alone. There is so much to gain across all disciplines. The basics for a dressage horse also apply to horses of all types of riding. The same is true for the rider--the balanced seat and judicious application of aides required by dressage make anyone a better rider, regardless of the style saddle they use. You can use it to open and shut gates, improve your horse's response to your leg, seat and hand, and even to improve your horse's gaits. A balanced horse, carrying himself properly, is a smooth ride, no matter what your equestrian style or sport or overall goal. My theory could not be better summarized by a quote from Commandant de Padirac "while forging they become blacksmiths" it loses a little in translation but he was right. All horses have to be molded and it is not a fast process but rather one that needs time. To find happiness on any horse is to do the best we can to work in harmony with him. It is not a function of being quick or being able to impress or always being elegant but rather the fundamentals and accomplishing a solid foundation.

