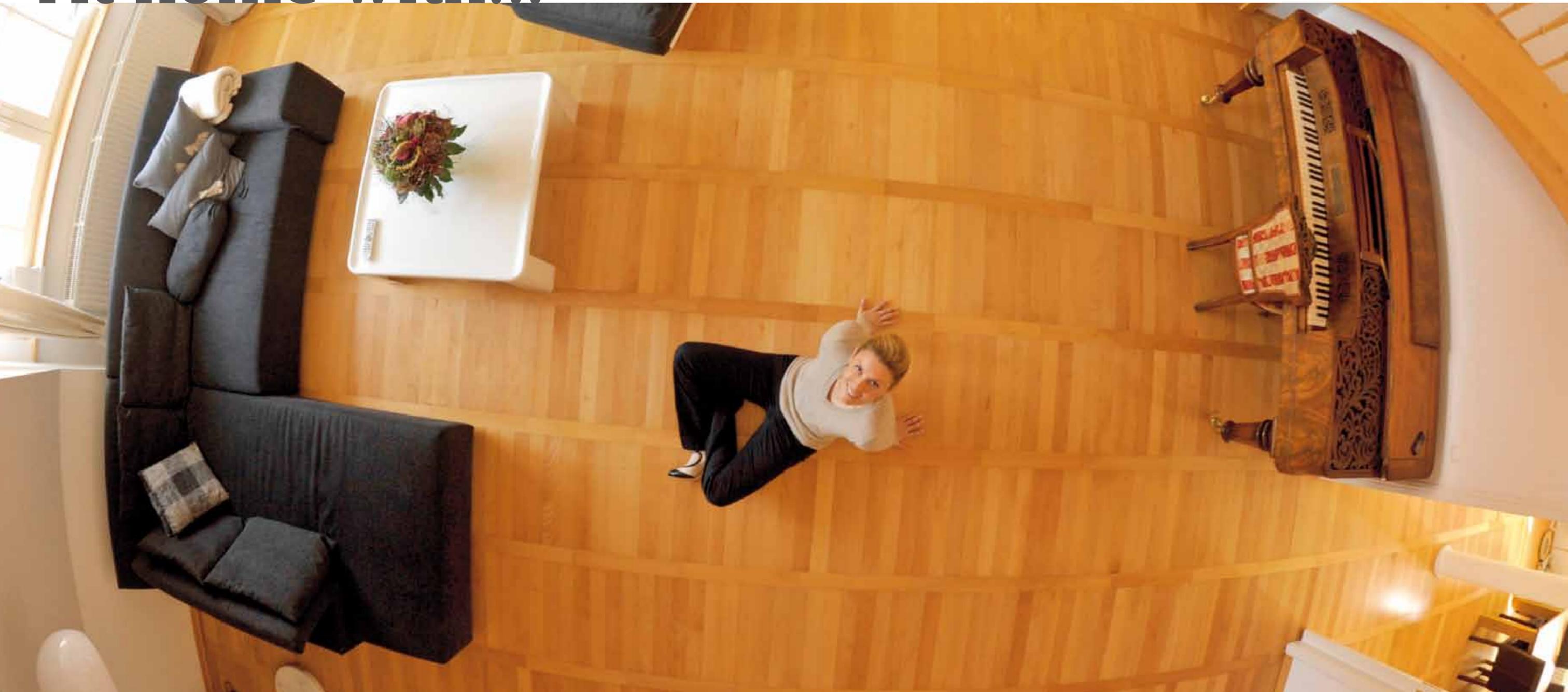


At home with...



Janne Friederike Meyer

Text by Kim Kreling, pictures by Holger Shupp

Janne Friederike Meyer loves to laugh. When conversing with someone she will look her partner straight into the eyes. Answering questions she will choose clear, precise words without beating around the bush. She enjoys to meet friends, loves to go to parties and loves life. And: "If something annoys me, I will try to find out the reason why and ... change it." It's as simple as that. Janne Meyer seems to be the embodiment of energy and joy of life.



In 2011 Janne Friederike Meyer became National Champion in the women's category riding Holiday by Solitour.

Jumping legend Paul Schockemöhle called her the "charming offensive of the German show jumping sport." Instead of Janne Meyer, her name could be 'Janne Multi': the multi-talent with the multi ideas. On one hand it was always clear to Janne Meyer that she wanted to be a professional rider, but on the other hand there were quite different thoughts and ideas going through her head: Singer. Actress. Professional football-player. She also enrolled for a few courses in sports journalism at the university of Hamburg. During a break due to an injury she even started to paint and she was also doing jewellery designs. "But I was so enthusiastic about my designs that I just could or would not sell them. I wore them myself – especially earrings and necklaces. My father was shocked when I started all this."

Project Independence

It happened during the spring in 2001: Janne Meyer passed her A-level examinations in school and started a project on an even larger scale. Four months later – in October 2001 – she started an independent business by renting a few boxes at the Derby ground in Hamburg – Klein-Flottbek. "I had already made some money when I was at school by horseback riding and I had a few good clients whom I did not want to lose", she

pointed out. "To start being in business on my own did not strike me as being especially brave. For me it was a logical conclusion." At the beginning Janne Meyer employed one girl with whom she not only shared the work but also the apartment they were living in. "I had it all figured out: how many horses I could ride and how it could work out, if my employee had a day off and I had to work.

Considering all that I could afford to be independent." Slowly but surely her company changed - having been an exclusive training stable, she now started to sell occasional horses and became a competition- and sales stable. In 2005 she moved to Schenefeld, where she has two and a half employees now, and her own apartment right on top of the horses' stables. "I can listen to my

horses and I live right next to them. But in my apartment there are no horse pictures at all!"

Shooting star

"I have often been called a shooting star by the press", Janne Meyer says, "but it was different for me. For ten years I went to competitions without being noticed. From my point of view that was not a 'shooting' rise." And it was not a rise without hurdles either. In 2005 she had a fall after the Derby wall at the plank and was unconscious. Hamburg was stunned, but 30 minutes later Janne was waving to her fans again. She only had a light concussion. That was lucky! Has she become more anxious since then? "Certainly there are situations when I have some respect – including show jumping – but if I would be scared I wouldn't do it." In 2008 she was kicked by somebody else's horse on the shinbone. A long laceration kept Janne from riding for almost three months. During that time her horses were trained by her sister, Anna Sophie. Obviously she did a good job. As early as in August, Janne Meyer won the Grand Prix in Münster. Then she collected several prizes and joined her training colleague Carsten-Otto Nagel in the final of the Riders Tour in Munich in December in a neck-to-neck race. The headlines at that time: Trainer or pupil – who is going to win the final? The stables of the two are situated only about three kilometres from the



Janne Meyer's champion horse Cellagon Lambrasco measures 1.60m, the same height as some oxers at the Nations Cups. "To see the poles at eye-level was very impressive at the beginning." Janne's motto: "When saluting I never stop near an oxer anymore."



Janne and her dog Janosch.

borderline of Hamburg. In the end Nagel won the final, but since then the ambitious Hamburg-girl was in the centre of attention. In 2009 she started to win national prizes, in 2010 she joined the German team in Aachen and Kentucky. Team World Champion! In 2011 followed the greatest individual success so far: winning the Grand Prix of Aachen. "When I look at the photo which was taken in Aachen when jumping the last obstacle and throwing everything away, I sometimes think: This has got to be a photomontage!" It seems that she is still wondering – even half a year later – how she and Mops, alias Cellagon Lambrasco, managed to do this together. "My aim has never been to win in Aachen. My aim was to take part in Nations Cups and to be part of the European Championships." In spite of that, Aachen has certainly been one of her most impressive experiences. "Sometimes I have mixed feelings", declares Meyer, "as far as my business is concerned I am rather neutral and sober and even – I believe – diplomatic. But the sport is emotional! You do it because it's fun, and that's why you can sometimes cry or really enjoy what's going on." Emotion, ambition and action – the threefold talent of Janne Meyer. The outstanding proof of her energy, she offered at the WEG in Kentucky, where she helped Cellagon Lambrasco during the triple combination so enthusiastically that a button burst off her jacket.

Holstein Champions

At the age of two already she used to sit on a horse in front of her father Friedrich. At four years old she took her pony 'Mücke' full speed on a cross country. With her ponies 'Waterman' and 'Jack in the Box', she was able to take part in the German Pony Championships and from there she switched straightaway to horses with the Holstein brand. Her family – the Meyers – and the Holsteiner, that is a long, intensive and successful story. Janne's first horse for the big sport was – of course – a Holsteiner, named Callistro, a son of Calato. Father Friedrich had bred him and gave him to his daughter. There was also Büttner's Calandro with

"I cannot cook. I will have to find a man, who is able to cook."
- Janne Meyer's confession

whom Janne won the German national championship in 2006. With a heavy heart she sold him in 2007 to Sebastian Numminen, a Finn. "It was sad but at that time economic aspects were the decisive factor." Janne Meyer is not only a successful sports woman but also a promising business woman. Ever so often she is presenting stallions for the Holstein breeding association. Right now she is working with the eight year old Cachas from Caretino, as well as Casquette from Casall and the nine-year-old Clarimo from Clearway. Janne Meyer does not only ride horses, she says: "My parents have been breeding Holstein horses for a long time and I have started to do the same."

Her first breeding product is from Lene, who she has ridden successfully in high class shows; and from Larimar, a young Holstein stallion. There is only one problem: the gelding is now three years old but he cannot jump. "And I thought I had done everything just right" she laughs and adds: "But I won't give up!" This year she bred Holstein stallion Cachas with the mare Quante. While she is training Cachas at the moment, she has won several big shows with Quante. "Both horses were national Holstein Champions. That is to say, I have bred a Holstein Champion with a Holstein Champion and I do hope the result will also be a Holstein Champion." And there it is again: her cheerful laughter. "My math

teacher will be delighted to hear this." And he would certainly support her latest project: a correspondence degree course in 'management in horse sport', a sort of business management. To be frank: "I am not especially keen on it, but it can't do any harm to know about these things. Apart from the horses and shows, my studies are a real challenge." It seems that she can't live without this pressure to do well when she adds: "I have already enrolled for a Correspondence degree course in sport sponsoring in two years' time." Slowly but surely, this young lady becomes a bit frightening. Where does she get the energy to spend her little spare time – a free weekend or an evening – at her desk, studying? Her answer: "Because it's fun to know that one day, you will have

completed your studies and know more than before!"

The edge of the plate

"I am curious about life, and I love to change the perspective. The problem with riding is that you don't look over the edge of the plate. You just don't take the time to do that", states Janne Meyer. But she herself is the best

C.V. Janne Federieke Meyer

Born:	January 12th 1981 in Hamburg
2001:	Finished her A-levels Started her own business in Hamburg
2006:	German show jumping Champion
2007:	Janne Meyer jumps into the top 100 of the world ranking list for the first time
2008:	Winner of Grand Prix in Münster, second in the final of the Riders Tour
2010:	World Champion with the team in Kentucky
2011:	European Champion with the team in Madrid and winner of the Grand Prix in Aachen

counterexample. Her hobbies prove it: music, dancing, diving and flying. "I started diving spontaneously during a vacation." In the meantime she has passed the examination for her diving

much effort", she admits quite nonchalantly. "Before I went to the exam for my flying license I read eight books at home, what a stress! But I wanted to get it over with before Kentucky." It did not quite

"It would be stupid to say that I am not and never have been afraid."

license, and uses every opportunity for an excursion under water; away from the world of horses and people. "The best thing under water is that you don't hear anything. Language is a wonderful thing, but it can also get on your nerves." The next thing she was aiming at was a flying license. "I always need something new. So I start it, and often regret it because it takes so

work out that way, but in April 2011 Janne Meyer finally passed her flying test. "If need be I can be quite patient, although I do not give people that impression", she declares, "I never give up if things do not work out in the beginning." For Janne Meyer, flying is one way to look over the edge of her plate. "When I'm flying I don't think about my horses. After all I have to get back on the ground safe and sound." From time to time – weather and spare time permitting – she grants herself a special outing pleasure. On a Monday afternoon, she climbs into a small plane, gets behind the steering wheel and flies over Hamburg, or her favourite island Sylt. "It is important to look at the world from a different perspective once in a while, to do something that has nothing to do with horses. Otherwise you get too narrow-minded." When travelling aboard a Boeing 747, on her way to a competition abroad for instance, it could just happen that Janne Meyer is overcome by helper's syndrome, if somebody – obviously rather frightened – was sitting right next to her. She has a very special way of calming them down in a situation like that: "Take it easy. I have a flying license. If the pilot has a blackout I can take over!" <<



"I wouldn't say that I collect cowboy boots, but I like to buy new ones and never throw the old ones away. I even got a new pair from our team for my clear round at the Nations Cup in Kentucky."