

# SPANISH RIDING SCHOOL of VIENNA

## The Spanish Riding School of Vienna's Long Awaited Return to the UK

### Press Release

*The art of equestrianism in perfect time to music*

IMG Arts & Entertainment are delighted to announce that the original *Spanish Riding School of Vienna* is returning to the UK for the first time in five years, after its successful sell out tour in 2001. There will be eight stunning performances at Wembley Arena on 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November and the Birmingham NEC Arena from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2006. Tickets go on sale on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

This is a rare and thrilling opportunity to see The *Spanish Riding School of Vienna's* elegant riders and beautiful white Lipizzaner stallions perform classical dressage at the highest level. From the mirror-like symmetry of the Pas de Deux to the spectacular leaps of the Levade and Capriole, each emotionally-charged performance represents the epitome of harmony between horse and rider.

This year the *Spanish Riding School of Vienna* will be offering a unique insight into the training and education of their world famous horses in the form of a pre-show clinic for equestrian and other groups of ten or more before the Thursday and Friday performances. During the Clinic Chief Rider Hans Riegler will explain how the horses are classically trained and will be a demonstration of the steps horse and rider take in their education to develop a life-long bond.

Mag. Armin Aigner, Managing Director of the Spanish Riding School of Vienna said:

*“Great Britain is a country with a great historical tradition of equestrianism and we are delighted to be returning on tour. The performances in London and Birmingham will give a rare opportunity, outside of Austria, for thousands of old and new fans alike to witness the oldest, and indeed only, riding school in the world where the classical art of riding is practiced in its purest form. We see ourselves as cultural ambassadors for Austria on overseas visits like this one and we want to show our audiences, particularly the younger spectators, the beauty of the art of classical riding.”*

Founded in 1572, The *Spanish Riding School of Vienna* is the oldest Riding School in the world and is regarded as the pinnacle of the classical art of riding. The precise and graceful manoeuvres of the white Lipizzaner stallions and their elegant riders date back to Ancient Greece, and the tradition and skills of the world's oldest riding school promise to make for a truly unforgettable experience.

*ends*

For further information and images please contact Anna Lusser at The Outside Organisation Ltd  
Tel.: 020 7436 3633 or email. [anna.lusser@outside-org.co.uk](mailto:anna.lusser@outside-org.co.uk)

## Listings Information

### UK Tour

Location: Wembley Arena, London  
Dates: 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> November  
Time: Thurs-Sat 8.00pm Sun 3.00pm

Location: NEC Birmingham  
Dates: 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November  
Time: Thurs-Sat 8.00pm Sun 3.00pm

### Booking Information

Seetickets: 0870 166 0427  
Ticketmaster: 0870 400 0604  
Online: [www.spanishridingschool.com](http://www.spanishridingschool.com)  
Further information: [www.spanishridingschool.com](http://www.spanishridingschool.com)

### Clinics (Available for groups of 10 or more only)

Dates: 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> (at Wembley)  
23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> November (at NEC)  
Times: 6pm  
Booking: 0870 890 0107  
Prices: £19 - £59

### Notes to editors

#### IMG Arts & Entertainment

IMG is the world's largest sports promotion, client management and an entertainment company. The IMG Arts & Entertainment Division presents and promotes leading international stars and attractions in some of the most prestigious venues in the world. This includes a series of outdoor festivals, which take place in unique settings such as the Hampton Court Palace Festival, the English Heritage Concerts at Kenwood, Marble Hill, Audley End and Battle Abbey and the Tatton Park Picnic Concerts in Manchester. They also include Natural History Museum Ice Rink & Christmas Fair as well as the international tours of the Spanish Riding School of Vienna. In addition, the Division works with IMG's television arm TWI, to produce the annual Nobel Peace Prize Concert in Oslo, which is broadcast to over 100 countries and has hosted artists such as **Elton John, Paul McCartney, Sting, Duran Duran and Andrea Bocelli.**

