

## THE SOUTHERN BELLE AUCTION - ONE-WEEK COUNTDOWN:



**Photo by Wellman Image Photography** 

The Southern Belle Classic was founded by Belle in Boots Productions in 2023 by Meredith Mobley and Tiffany Fuller. Meredith and Tiffany shared some important information regarding the auction and the company.

Meredith is a former dressage rider who is mostly immersed in the Western discipline now. She also currently foxhunts with the Camden Hunt. She earned her USDF Bronze and Silver medals. She currently enjoys working with young horses and those who need a bit of a confidence boost. Tiffany grew up in the Hunter Ring. Now, she is an avid barrel racer. She enjoys developing young horses on the pattern as well as running her more seasoned open horses.

Both, Meredith and Tiffany have always enjoyed attending horse sales both as buyers and as sellers. That is when they realized there was a need for well-broke and gentle horses in their state and region. In an interview, they said that they, "Feel strongly that both consignors and buyers deserve the best environment, venue, and marketing opportunities. With these objectives in mind, the Southern Belle Classic was born. "The Girls' Sale", as it's often called, is an elite auction bringing together quality horses and buyers."

For those interested in attending the auction, the Southern Belle Classic is open to the public on Friday, March 22nd, and Saturday, March 23rd. Friday will consist of vet checks done by Southern Equine Services veterinarian, Ben Mitchell. There will also be Meet and Greet opportunities where interested buyers can ride horses they are interested in. Friday will also have a trail preview on the Cross Country Course as well as a ticketed dinner.

The auction begins at 3 pm on Saturday, March 23rd. It will take place in the Covered Arena. Meredith and Tiffany describe it as, "A fast-paced, heart-pumping, exhilarating event! Guests will witness 60 of the nation's finest horses being sold to the public in the absolute most exciting way as our auction staff is lively and

entertaining! Each horse will enter the arena individually and in hip order. Their trainers will show off the horse to the best of their abilities within the confines of a small auction pen for an average of about 3 minutes. The whole production will last approximately 3 hours. The auction is also live-streamed on CCI.live, our online bidding platform." There will be over twenty vendors on site for all your shopping needs. There will also be food trucks and a cash bar both days.

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Meredith shared, "One interesting point worth noting is that while we have many horses who are phenomenal at western disciplines, we also have many who excel under English tack! Guests are welcome and encouraged to attend, whether they have plans to purchase a horse or not. This is a fun, family-friendly event at a breathtaking location, Stable View! It is important to know that buyers should pre-register on our website at <a href="https://southernbelleclassic.com/pages/buyers">https://southernbelleclassic.com/pages/buyers</a>. Additionally, buyers should do their homework; meaning contact the consignors

(ask questions, be honest about their level of riding and intended use of the horse, etc.), request and review the X-rays and vet exams of horses they are interested in, schedule additional PPEs if desired, and ride the horses. We encourage buyers and guests to observe the horses and talk with the consignors as much as possible. Lastly, we work hard to make the buying process smooth and worry-free. Kay Walters Insurance is onsite throughout the weekend and is available to put coverage on your new purchase immediately following the sale. No Limit Transportation is also onsite and ready to haul your purchase to his or her new home!"

Meredith and Tiffany's final words were, "We would like to invite the public to join us and our team of consignors on Friday night for the Southern Supper hosted in the Pavilion. Additionally, we offer a VIP Experience with includes reserved ring-side seating and a free pair of Cinch jeans, among other treats and goodies. These offerings can be found on our website at <a href="https://southernbelleclassic.com/collections/auction-weekend-add-ons">https://southernbelleclassic.com/collections/auction-weekend-add-ons</a>. Finally, we'd like to thank our sponsors and vendors who are essential in making this exciting event occur. The majority of our sponsors and vendors are local small businesses who dedicate much of their time and resources to helping the equine industry in our area be as amazing as it is. The 2024 Southern Belle Classic is excited to be presented by Farmscape Realty, a local Aiken real estate firm with ties to the horse community."