

WHAT MAKES WIHS A DON'T-MISS EVENT

THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY Washington International Horse Show (WIHS) in October 2018 showed just why this iconic show has thrived for six decades, and why you'll want to make sure you mark this year's edition on your "must-attend" calendar.

Australian bush poet and horseman Guy McLean penned an ode to WIHS after his appearances there, capturing the show's unique appeal: "What once was a hectic downtown with cars and buses and bikes, turns into an equine thoroughfare when the big show turns on its lights. It's a throwback to the days of yesteryear when horses were needed for all, as we realize now that we need them still, to rise to the silent call."

Part of WIHS's unique charm is that busy city-goers can see horses up close and personal, stopping to pet a nose on their way to work. WIHS is one of the few shows in North America to take place in the center of a busy city, and it's a jewel in the crown of the prestigious and traditional fall indoor circuit. Hunter riders strive all year long to qualify to show in the Capital One Arena in the heart of Washington, D.C., and equitation riders work to be included to compete in the Lindsay Maxwell Charitable Fund WIHS Equitation Finals. Top international grand-prix riders mark WIHS on their calendar, not only for the precious World Cup qualifying points of the \$135,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup

1. Hunter riders make WIHS a year-end goal. Lindsay Maxwell traveled from California to earn the Grand Amateur-Owner Hunter 3'3" championship with her Belgavia. 2. Beezie Madden and Bretling LS topped the \$135,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup Washington. 3. Australian horseman and bush poet Guy McLean enchanted the WIHS crowds. 4. The pint-sized racers of the WIHS Shetland Pony Steeplechase Championship Series, presented by Charles Owen, are a crowd favorite at WIHS. 5. With its urban setting, WIHS makes new horse fans from city-goers. 6. Kids' Day at WIHS gives young fans the opportunity to get up close and personal with horses. 7. Brian Moggre rode MIM Flutterby to the top of the \$35,000 Accumulator Costume Class dressed as a character from Grease. 8. Groups of local equestrians compete for prizes on Barn Night at WIHS.

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It's not just the competition in the ring that makes WIHS so special. The entertainment—like Guy McLean's horsemanship performances and the ever-popular WIHS Shetland Pony Steeplechase Championship Series, presented by Charles Owen—keeps the crowd hooked. On Barn Night, the stands are packed with groups of local equestrians vying for fabulous prizes, including a clinic with a top trainer, presented by BarnManager. And Kids' Day brings the joy of horses to fans young and old, with free activities like pony rides, horseless horse shows, grooming lessons, and more.

The 61st Washington International Horse Show returns October 22-27, 2019, at Capital One Arena in Washington, D.C.

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