In 2015, John Payne and his family act, the One Arm Bandit, were named Dress Act of the Year for the 14th time.

Photo by PRCA photographer Marty Welter
Jason Goodman’s Percheron Thunder

You’ve seen Jason Goodman at the Wrangler NFR before … under a former sponsor’s name. But in 2015, Goodman came in as his own act, Percheron Thunder.

Why Thunder? If you were lucky enough to be seated in the Thomas & Mack Center, you remember. When six huge, jet-black horses barrel out of the dry-ice fog of the tunnel and into the spotlight arena, it has an almost physical impact on the audience – just like thunder.

“I think the biggest thing they like is the sheer power,” says Goodman. “Those ranchers from Montana and the Dakotas don’t see anyone running a hitch of draft horses, so to bring them into the T&M arena at a dead run is pretty cool.”

But cool doesn’t mean easy. Although Goodman focuses his program on especially athletic Percherons, they’re still about 2,000 lbs. each.

“That’s a tough arena for a draft horse to work in, because it’s small,” says Goodman. “They get a lot of weight moving, and once you get that rolling, it’s like a freight train – it’s hard to make a 90-degree corner from the tunnel into the arena at a high rate of speed, plus there are always new challenges.

“Last year they lowered the height of the tunnel to only 1-1/2 feet above the seat. We had to put a rope light across it so we could see it, and we had to duck way down while at a dead run. We rehearse in the arena a lot, so the horses know how to get in and out safely, but it could be 15 degrees warmer or colder when the crowd gets there, which changes what the fog does. So it’s always neat to work the NFR.”

Experience helps. One of Goodman’s lead horses, Pilot, made his fifth trip to the Wrangler NFR last year. Like most of Goodman’s Percherons, Pilot is a former show horse whose high spirit shortened his career in the show ring.

“So many of them are too ‘hot’ for show horses; when they see the crowd, they want to go past that (show-ring) trot – they want to lope,” says Goodman. “Once they go down that path, there’s no turning back for a show horse, but those horses are perfect for what I do. They are athletic and they love crowds, so all I have to do is to point them in the right direction.”

If it sounds like Goodman thinks his Percherons are naturals for the arena … well, sort of.

“The Percherons are the blue heelers of the horse world. Imagine a very smart, very curious animal – that weighs 2,000 pounds,” he chuckles. “They get into trouble; they tear stuff up. But they love to work, they love their jobs, they love attention and they love being on display. A lot of people have no idea how athletic these big guys are, and to see them roaring around the Thomas and Mack is pretty cool.

“It’s neat that we get to showcase the draft horse at the NFR, because the draft horse built this country. Before 1920, everything was hauled from a train or a boat to its final destination with draft horses. In the 1940s, motorized tractors almost made the Percheron extinct, but now there are three or four thousand registered every year.”

Goodman’s happy to have a hitch that does the breed proud – in the historical sense and in his own career.

“To have re-established ourselves in just five years and go back to the NFR – that was a pretty good honor,” he says gratefully.
Madison MacDonald

Already the only specialty act to perform at four consecutive Wrangler National Finals Rodeos, in 2015 trick rider Madison MacDonald extended her string to five straight appearances at rodeo’s ‘Super Bowl.’

“I never thought this would happen,” says Macdonald. “It’s everyone’s dream to perform there, so I’m beyond lucky and beyond blessed. It’s always an awesome experience, and every year they surprise me. Last year they gave me my own opening with my trick riding students. That was stressful, especially since one of my horses got an abscess in his foot the day we left for Las Vegas.”

But a seasoned performer never lets the stress show, and at age 22, MacDonald has been trick riding for 17 years. In fact, she’s beginning to think about slowing down, maybe in a few years when she starts a family with fiancé Keegan Thomas, whom she will marry in May 2016. They live in Stephenville, Texas, where MacDonald teaches trick riding when she’s not on the road performing.

“I always wanted to be a teacher, but thought it might be junior high math and science,” says MacDonald. “It just worked out that I get to teach trick riding instead. Like any performer, I don’t always want to share my secrets, but it would be too dangerous to keep it to myself – so I tell them everything they need to know. It all started when I posted a video last year that I had worked really hard on; it went viral, and I got really busy teaching.”

MacDonald’s students come to Stephenville from around the neighborhood and all over the country – even overseas, as she had one student come from the Netherlands. She credits the increased interest to the appeal of the activity itself as well as lucky timing.

“It’s a sport for young girls, with costumes and fast horses,” says MacDonald. “And a couple of movies that featured trick riding helped too, like ‘Cowgirls and Angels.’”

That still appeals to the Wrangler NFR veteran herself – and, she says, to NFR general manager Shawn Davis.

“Mr. Davis loves the glitz and glamour, so I always try to come to Las Vegas with new costumes and new flags,” says MacDonald. “He tells me what he wants, and he doesn’t have to worry about me; I’m a perfectionist, and I guess I haven’t let him down yet.

“It’s like coming home to a family now, saying hello to all the grounds workers and the people backstage. But it’s also really exciting. It never gets old – being involved in that production – because it’s new and fresh every year, and there’s so much energy around that place. You just build off that.”
Unlike other sports, which have a single halftime or seventh-inning stretch, rodeo has many short breaks in the action. Specialty acts fill those gaps with entertainment ranging from hilarious comedy to breathtaking excitement, as well as opening many rodeos with spectacle and glamour.

Local rodeo committees hire specialty acts that will appeal to their local audiences, so specialty acts can range from large trick riding teams whose performers might do vaults and death-defying stunts to skydivers who bring flags into opening ceremonies to clowns who interact with props, the announcer and the audience.

Other kinds of specialty acts include comedians whose antics keep audiences laughing out loud, trick ropers and whip artists who manipulate their tools in spectacular ways, motorcycle riders who do tricks in the arena between events, expert sharpshooters – even chuckwagon drivers who control hitches of speeding horses while careening around tight arenas.

Other specialty acts feature trained animals – horses and dogs, of course, but also monkeys, bulls, goats, mules, ponies, oxen, llamas, buffalo and miniature horses – who perform astonishing tricks and seem to bask in audience appreciation.

This chapter provides some information about PRCA members who were qualified as insured specialty acts as of March 1, 2016.

Leon & Vicki Adams
Rodeo Acts
Leon and Vicki Adams


Rae-Lynn Armstrong


Steel Rodeo

Kenny Bartram


All-American Cowgirl Chicks

Trish Lynn and Sadie Lynn Carter

PRCA MEMBERSHIP: 2006. ACTS AND STUNTS: high-speed drill and stunts with pyrotechnics, Roman riding, singing, fancy trick riding. ACHIEVEMENTS: nominated for Specialty Act of the Year, 2010-11; performed in Tournament of Roses parade, 2006-11; ongoing trick-riding training with ProRodeo Hall of Famer J.D. Stoker; representing the U.S., performed at the International Horse Show in Stockholm, Sweden, 2011; Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show and Rodeo (Mercedes, Texas), 2009-11; Comal County Fair and Rodeo (New Braunfels, Texas), 2010-11; Mesquite (Texas) ProRodeo Series, 2009-11; North Dakota Winter Show (Valley City), 2010; Brawley (Calif.) Cattle Call Rodeo, 2010; Trinity Valley Exposition (Liberty, Texas), 2009; Butterfield Stage Days Rodeo (Bridgeport, Texas), 2009; July Fourth Celebration and Rodeo (Belton, Texas), 2009. RESIDENCE: Weatherford, Texas. BORN: Trish Lynn, April 30, 1968. FAMILY: Trish Lynn and PRCA bullfighter Donnie Smith, parents; daughters Georgia Lynn, Sadie Lynn, Hattie and Whitney. COLLEGE: Trish Lynn, Texas Woman's University (Denton). OTHER OCCUPATION: Trish Lynn and Sadie Lynn Carter, family real estate business, RFD-TV appearances; Sadie Lynn, raising bucking bulls. ADDITIONAL INTERESTS: Trish Lynn, singing country music – recorded five CDs, stunts, dance. WEBSITE: www.texastrickriders.com.
Roz Beaton

Sally Bishop

Jessica Blair

Rudy Burns

Charles Bush

Niki Cammaert-Flundra

Cody Cavanaugh

Cowboy Gone Wild
Binion Cervi

Brice Chapman

CrAsh Cooper
**Specialty Acts (continued)**


**Gena Cox**


**The Coppertown Clown**

Bert Davis


**Allan Dessel**


**Gerardo “Jerry” Diaz Productions**

NFR: 1998. PRCA MEMBERSHIP: 1985, Gold Card. ACTS AND STUNTS: horsemanship, rope artistry, charro performer, dancing horses. ANIMALS: Andalusian, Quarter Horses, Aztecas and a Frisian stallion. ACHIEVEMENTS: PRCA Specialty Act of the Year, 1998; director and producer, Mexican rodeo extravaganzas in Denver and Fort Worth, Texas; director, National Western Stock Show and Rodeo (Denver); lifetime member, San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo; first charro to perform at Summer Olympics (Atlanta, 1996); inducted into National Cowboys of Color Museum (Fort Worth, Texas) and Texas Trail of Fame (Fort Worth); performed in many TV commercials, several films. RESIDENCE: New Braunfels, Texas. BORN: Nov. 7, 1960. FAMILY: wife, Staci Anderson-Diaz; son, Nicolas. OTHER OCCUPATIONS: ambassador for Purina Mills; spokesperson for Hutchinson HW Brands; horse trainer. WEBSITE: www.CharroJerryDiaz.com.

**“Backflip” Johnny Dudley**


**Ginger Duke**


**Echapa Bareback Riders**

Nancy Weikel

Jim Bob Feller

“Texas” Jack Fulbright

Haley Ganzel

La Charreria
Tomas Barrera Garcilazo

Jeff “Slim” Garner

Rodney “Shotgun” Gaston

Percheron Thunder
Jason Goodman

Cliff Happy

Lecile Harris
PRCA MEMBERSHIP: 1982, Gold Card. ACTS AND STUNTS: piano act, baseball act, magic act, robot, taxi, shoot out, fiddle act, whip act. ACHIEVEMENTS: ProRodeo Hall of Fame inductee, 2007; PRCA Clown of the Year, 1992, 1994-96; seven years on TV’s Hee Haw; bullfighter for U.S. rodeo team touring Africa; RAM National Circuit Finals Rodeo (Pocatello, Idaho), 1991, 1997, 2010; RAM Great Lakes Circuit Finals Rodeo, RAM Southeastern Circuit Finals Rodeo, five times; Dixie National Rodeo (Jackson, Miss.), 32 times; Rodeo of the Ozarks (Springdale, Ark.), 30 years; Canadian Finals Rodeo, five times; Colorado State Fair (Pueblo), 1994-2005; Southwest District Fat Stock Show and Rodeo (Lake Charles, La.), 34 years; Semi-annual Ralph Morgan Rodeo (Lauderdale, Miss.), 43 years; Calgary (Alberta) Stampede, 1994-2002; Collierielle (Tenn.) Sports Hall of Fame. RESIDENCE: Collierielle, Tenn. BORN: Nov. 6, 1936. FAMILY: wife, Ethel; sons, Matt, Chuck; daughter, Christi. COLLEGE: University of Tennessee (Martin), animal husbandry. OTHER OCCUPATIONS: owner, sign business. ADDITIONAL INTEREST: golf, rodeo production. WEBSITE: www.Lecile.com.

John Harrison Specialty Acts

Kevin Higley
Specialty Acts (continued)


Robbie Hodges

Bryan Hope

Keith Isley

Josey “Hollywood” Kelley

Bobby Kerr

Mike “Kiep Kiep” Kieper

Rider Kiesner

Tricked Out Trickriders
Dusta Kimzey

Ted Kimzey
**Lil Bucks Rodeo & Co.**
Donnie Landis


**Wild Thang Productions**
Tim Lepard


**The Wild Child**
Troy Lerwill


**John Lewis**


**Anthony Lucia**


**Madison MacDonald**


**Gizmo’s Comedy Show**
Gizmo McCracken

Specialty Acts (continued)


Trent McFarland

Cody McGee

Cliff McLaughlin

Gene “Who” McLaughlin

Lyndee McMillan

Daredevil Darlings Kim Medicis

Matt Merritt

Miss Rodeo America
Katherine Merck
RESIDENCE: Spokane, Wash. BORN: July 22, 1990. COLLEGE: bachelor’s degree, finance and medieval studies double major, Notre Dame University; on leave from Gonzaga University School of Law during her reign. WEBSITE: www.MissRodeoAmerica.com.

Randee Munns

Pyro Cowboys
Randy Myers

Carmine “Cooper” Nastri with Carmine B. Nastri

Flying Arena Stars Trick Riding
Melissa Navarre

Lindy Nealey

Jerry Wayne Olson

One Arm Bandit & Co.
John, Mandy and Lynn Payne

Holly “Emily” Peebles

Abi Petersen

Meishja Petersen

Full Throttle Trick Riders
Bruce Pierson

Brian Potter

The Lone Indian Chief
Will Powell

Quadrille de Mujeres
Judy Blair
PRCA MEMBERSHIP: 1997. ACTS AND STUNTS: Drill team of 12 women in colorful, sequined outfits perform speed and precision maneuvers for three minutes; grand openings and sponsor flag presentations. ANIMALS: matching Quarter Horses and tack. ACHIEVEMENTS: performed at California Rodeo Salinas, Parada del Sol (Scottsdale, Ariz.), La Fiesta de los Vaqueros (Tucson, Ariz.), for 30 consecutive years; RAM Turquoise Circuit Finals Rodeo; Prescott (Ariz.) Frontier Days; Rose Parade; Fiesta Bowl Parade. RESIDENCE: Phoenix, Ariz. BORN: March 10, 1945.
**Red River Express Specialty Acts**

**Penny Walton**


**Ryan “Radical” Rodriguez**


**Ronna Sklar**


**Jennifer Welch Nicholson, Brandi Phillips**

JEFF REYNOLDS


**Entertainment to the Max**

**Max Reynolds**

performer, Calgary (Alberta) Stampede; five-time performer, National Western Stock Show & Rodeo (Denver); Tour Finale (Las Vegas) barrelman, 2003; Tour Finale Challenge (Omaha, Neb.) barrelman, 2004; RAM Mountain States Circuit Finals Rodeo barrelman, 2004. **RESIDENCE:** Phillipsburg, Kan. **BORN:** Feb. 11, 1972. **FAMILY:** wife, Lacey; son, Rad; daughter, Sadie. **ADDITIONAL INTERESTS:** pyrotechnics, hunting.

**Gary Sandstead**  
**PRCA MEMBERSHIP:** 2007. **RESIDENCE:** Platteville, Colo. **BORN:** April 15, 1952.

**Linda Scholtz**  
**PRCA MEMBERSHIP:** 1979. **RESIDENCE:** Boone, Colo. **BORN:** May 29, 1955.

**Wolffey Clint Selvester**  
**PRCA MEMBERSHIP:** 1998. **ACHIEVEMENTS:** RAM California Circuit Finals Rodeo, barrelman, 2007. **RESIDENCE:** Red Bluff, Calif. **BORN:** Oct. 6, 1979. **FAMILY:** wife, Katie. **COLLEGE:** Shasta (Calif.) College, Platt College (San Diego), associate degree in multimedia design. **OTHER OCCUPATIONS:** sound man, event DJ, freelance designer. **ADDITIONAL INTERESTS:** hunting, fishing, snowboarding.

**Nancy Sheppard**  
**PRCA MEMBERSHIP:** 1986. **RESIDENCE:** Globe, Ariz. **BORN:** Dec. 29, 1929.

**Frankie “Punkintown” Smith**  
**PRCA MEMBERSHIP:** 1998. **STYLE OF DRESS:** colorful jerseys, Wrangler baggies, hats. **VITALS:** 6-0, 175 pounds. **ACTS AND STUNTS:** clogging on Mini Pearl (the mule); World’s Smartest Horse. **ANIMALS:** trick riding, six-up Roman riding, liberty horse act. **ACTS AND STUNTS:** for trick riding. **ACHIEVEMENTS:** Salmon (Idaho) Stampede PRCA Rodeo, 2012-14; Preston (Idaho) Night Rodeo, 2013; Gem State Classic Pro Rodeo (Blackfoot, Idaho), 2012; Omak (Wash.) Stampede, 2015; Crystal Springs Ranch Rodeo (Clear Lake, S.D.), 2015; War Bonnet Roundup (Idaho Falls, Idaho), 2015; Thermopolis (Wyo.) Frontier Days; Calgary (Alberta) Stampede. **RESIDENCE:** Charleston, Ark. **BORN:** Dec. 28, 1974. **COLLEGE:** Southern Arkansas University (Magnolia), bachelor’s degree in agricultural business. **OTHER OCCUPATION:** ranching. **ADDITIONAL INTERESTS:** motorcycle racing, guitar.

**Cody Sosebee**  
**PRCA MEMBERSHIP:** 2003. **STYLE OF DRESS:** flame shirts, baggies, black felt hat, new-style jerseys, board shorts. **ACHIEVEMENTS:** nominated for PRCA Comedy Act of the Year, 2012-13, 2015; nominated for Clown of the Year, 2006, 2011-13, 2015; RAM Prairie Circuit Finals Rodeo barrelman, 2006; Wrangler ProRodeo Tour Summer Finale (Omaha, Neb.) barrelman, 2006; Cheyenne (Wyo.) Frontier Days; Calgary (Alberta) Stampede. **RESIDENCE:** Spanish Fork, Utah. **BORN:** March 31, 1972. **FAMILY:** wife, Amber; sons, Bonner, Nick, Taylor; daughter, barrel racer Gracie Basso. **EDUCATION:** Arkansas Tech (Russellville); OSHA-certified safety officer. **OTHER OCCUPATIONS:** building custom-made knives, horseshoe art. **ADDITIONAL INTERESTS:** deer hunting.

**Kyzer Stoddard**  
**PRCA MEMBERSHIP:** 2012. **ACTS AND STUNTS:** trick riding, six-up Roman riding, liberty horse act. **ANIMALS:** blue roan or gray horses. **STYLE OF DRESS:** cowboy attire, or cowboy hat with Spandex outfit for trick riding. **ACHIEVEMENTS:** Salmon (Idaho) Stampede PRCA Rodeo, 2012-14; Preston (Idaho) Night Rodeo, 2013; Gem State Classic Pro Rodeo (Blackfoot, Idaho), 2012; Omak (Wash.) Stampede, 2015; Crystal Springs Ranch Rodeo (Clear Lake, S.D.), 2015; War Bonnet Roundup (Idaho Falls, Idaho), 2015; Thermopolis (Wyo.) Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo, 2014; Gooding (Idaho) Pro Rodeo, 2013. **RESIDENCE:** Sugar City, Idaho. **BORN:** April 16, 1993. **FAMILY:** parents, former PRCA pickup man Jim and Kelly Stoddard. **OTHER OCCUPATIONS:** training horses, coaching gymnastics, instructor at school for disabled kids. **ADDITIONAL INTERESTS:** anything with horses or kids. **WEBSITE:** www.kyzerstoddard.com.

**Daredevil Sweethearts**  
**Bobbie Stone**  
**PRCA MEMBERSHIP:** 1976. **ACTS AND STUNTS:** trick riding, opening ceremonies. **ANIMALS:** Soda Pop, Slick, Mr. Grey, Quarter Horses; Bullseye, pony. **ACHIEVEMENTS:** Old Fort Days (Fort Smith, Ark.), 2012; California Rodeo Salinas, 1982, 1985, 1994, 2000; Santa Fe (N.M.) Rodeo, 1985, 1994; Cheyenne (Wyo.) Frontier Days, 1990; Vinson Ranch Rodeo (Thompson Falls, Mont.), 1977, 1985. **BORN:** March 3, 1954. **FAMILY:** daughter, Josey Lynn. **OTHER OCCUPATIONS:** state rodeo association secretary, livestock weighmaster. **ADDITIONAL INTERESTS:** leather carving, costume designing, crafts.
Specialty Acts (continued)

Mark Swingler


Timber Tuckness


Equine Extremist

Tommie Mack Turvey II


Whiplash the Cowboy Monkey with Kenny Petet


Trick Rider and Buffalo Act

Bree Worthington


Rick “Agin’ Cajun” Young