

BENTLEY...Lights, Camera, Action!!!

By Taylor McCreedy

The thing I love most about the movies is that you can get lost in the magic and you become part of a story that sweeps you away. I absolutely love the journey a movie will bring to life! There is something magical that exists between my Appaloosa horse, Smooth Ridin Criminl (aka Bentley), and I. With Bentley, there is the connection between an animal and a human that I had only known to exist in the movies. I think of Roy Rogers and Trigger, Gene Autry with Champion, and the Lone Ranger and Silver when I think of the perfect pair. It is a special relationship that I never dreamed I would have, and I think my Appaloosa, Bentley, would be added to this list if he were a movie star.

I am a huge fan of old western movies, the ones where the hero rides into town on a beautiful horse and saves the day from whatever evil is threatening it. My favorite movie star is John Wayne, who was born in Iowa, just like me. I think Bentley missed his calling as a movie star, because he is the equine version of John Wayne! Bentley is simple, rugged, down to earth, and aware of everyone and everything around him, (just like John Wayne), and he would choose to appear in movies with substance and purpose. Bentley would want to restore faith in the good, earn trust with the audience, and show that evil can be defeated. Bentley would be a humble movie star, a quiet but mighty

soul, and would always do heroic things without making a big deal of it. Bentley is a good old boy, just like all the heroes in classic western movies. He prefers simple things and as long as he has food and a place to sleep, he is happy! He could care less if his hair is combed or not, and skipping a bath and brushing the dust off is just fine with him. But, he also has a huge goofy side and likes to have fun. He would jump at the chance to do something funny and make others laugh! Bentley would always understand the importance of doing his job well and would give 100 percent each and every day. If Bentley were a movie star, he would be the obvious choice to be the trusted horse who will carry the hero into the action, and relied on to get everyone safely out. Loyal to the death and fiercely protective, Bentley would be the hero everyone knows, but he would be humble and not flashy about his popularity. Like John Wayne, he would always protect those who need him, and outsmart those who are up to no good! Bentley would also use his popularity in a giving way to bring joy to others. Just like he does now, Bentley would do anything anyone asked of him in order to make others happy.

I think Bentley is the greatest horse, just like I think John Wayne was the greatest actor. I am sure I have heard Bentley quote John Wayne with the looks he has given and say "*Courage is being scared to death... and saddling up anyway.*" Even when I am nervous, Bentley remains calm and steady, just like the lead in a movie. He is definitely the star of our show!

I have no doubt that if Bentley were a movie star he would be the most beloved horse in western films, and as popular as Trigger, Champion, and Silver! I know Bentley would be a natural in the movies, but I am thankful that he is my trusted Appaloosa and together, we will make my dreams and our story come to life!