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For the St. Paul Rodeo

## ROMAN RIDING COWGIRL TO ENTERTAIN AT ST PAUL RODEO

Kentucky cowgirl, new mom is specialty act for  
Nation's Greatest Fourth of July Rodeo

St. Paul, Ore. (June 17, 2019) – Glamour, glitter, style and substance will entertain at the St. Paul Rodeo this year!

Roman riding cowgirl Jessica Blair Fowlkes will bring her brand of entertainment to the Nation's Greatest Fourth of July rodeo!



Fowlkes, a resident of Crofton, Kentucky, will perform a stunt that was done in the days of the Roman Empire. The rider stands atop a pair of horses, with one foot on each horse, as the horses gallop around the arena. Fowlkes, with her horses Moose and Wishbone, will ride into the arena, make some fast laps, do figure eights, and jump through a hoop of fire. She will also have fire stakes in the arena; she will split the torches between her legs as she rides. With the arborvitae in the St. Paul Rodeo arena, she will ride over them as well.

Fowlkes' two horses, matching gray geldings Moose and Wishbone, are her "boys," as she calls them. Moose is a former team roping horse who is the "backbone" of her roman riding but is a determined horse. He tries to buck her off when she first gets on him, but she doesn't mind it. "I just have to be ready for it. That's part of his spunk. I worry when he doesn't do it."

Wishbone, her other gray, was a horse who had been neglected when she purchased him. He was skinny when he came home with her. She turned him out into a 100-acre pasture of Kentucky bluegrass, and "two months later, he was fat and happy," she said. He replaced her previous horse, Goose, who wasn't crazy about the fire hoop he jumped through. Within two weeks of Wishbone's recovery, she had trained him to jump through the fire hoop. "He's been an amazing horse." She has a special relationship with her animals. "They're good boys. We performed really hard last year and they gave me solid performances.

Fowlkes and her husband Preston III, have a son who is nearly three years old, and a daughter, born in late April. St. Paul is the first rodeo back for Fowlkes, after having a baby about two months ago. After her son was born, she was back into the arena in five weeks. "I'll get back into shape and go back to work," she said. She and her husband planned this baby, so that it would come before the busy rodeo season, when she is performing and her husband is working at his family business as a rodeo producer and livestock provider. Fowlkes' mother will travel with her and her children to St. Paul. "My mom is my on-the-road nanny," she said. After she is done riding in St. Paul, she'll go onto Colorado Springs, Colo. and Cheyenne, Wyoming, to work those rodeos. "She'll have her work cut out for her this summer," Fowlkes said.

Fowlkes will perform during each performance of the St. Paul Rodeo. Performances are July 2-6 at 7:30 pm each night and a 1:30 pm matinee on July 4. Tickets are on sale and range in price from \$16 to \$26 and can be purchased online at [www.StPaulRodeo.com](http://www.StPaulRodeo.com) and at the gate the days of the rodeo. For more information, visit the website or call 800.237.5920.

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Cutline: Roman rider Jessica Blair Fowlkes will entertain during each performance of the 84th annual St. Paul Rodeo. The Kentucky cowgirl and her horses Moose and Wishbone do fancy footwork and maneuvers in the arena. Photo courtesy Jessica Blair Fowlkes.