

Stallion Boot Company

Sterling silver stars twinkle harmoniously with a classic horse and good-luck motif; co-designed by Pedro Munoz of Stallion Boot Company and Nathalie Kent. Courtesy Nathalie Kent.

Pedro Munoz cannot remember a time when cowboy boots were not a part of his adult life. In the late 1970s and early '80s, he was swept along by the *Urban Cowboy* craze and soon gained a reputation among friends for his flair in flashy custom footwear. One boot led to another and Pedro soon found himself measuring up feet and carrying orders over the border to oversee their construction. While still at college, he began selling leather and hides to these boot-makers he had befriended. As it so often does, a personal interest turned into a profession. With one boot over the line, Munoz had hopelessly been bitten by that old cowboy boot bug.

With a combined sixty plus years in the boot business, Jose Gallegos and Plutarco Rodrigues, owners of Gallegos Boots, welcomed this new boot blood, with his enthusiasm and inspiration. Pedro became their protégé and third partner.

Like Sam Lucchese and so many other company owners, Pedro learned all the processes and ins and outs of boot making, but more importantly for his position, he learned *how* a cowboy boot *should* be made.

When Gallegos retired, Jerry Black (now with Tres Outlaw) bought his boot share and they agreed to change the name to Stallion Boots. In 1990 Mr. Rodrigues decided to sell his portion of this boot pie yet chose to remain as Stallion's master boot-maker. Then a split with Black left Munoz as the sole owner of Stallion in 1994. With a stable of



eighteen craftsmen, a steady stream of boots, belts, and leather accessories flow from their artful hands. Pedro estimates that more than 40 percent of

Fabulous full-gator boot with a truly original inlay concept. Jewelry maker and sculptor Lee Downey hand tooled this prehistoric walrus ivory, excavated by Eskimos on the Bering Sea coast. This fossilized material can be 500 to 8,000 years old. Boots by Stallion Boot Company; courtesy Lee Downey.

their production is made from alligator—their specialty. And they have retailers throughout the U.S., Canada, France, and Japan.

“Over the last few years, the trend has shifted,” says Pedro, “from inlays and peewees to a more classic, traditional style of boot with a standard twelve-inch top. Exotic skins are hotter than ever, and I have noticed a sizable movement from a focus on women’s boots back to men’s.” Pedro continues, “My sole inspiration and mentor was Sam Lucchese; his dedication to his craft was limitless. Our goal at Stallion is to emulate the style and quality of those earlier Lucchese boots. I believe boots are functional art. I appreciate who I make them with and who we make them for.”

P.S. Pedro, you have a great talent for taking on a single vintage boot detail, superimposing a contemporary idea on that design, and making a new and improved classic.

This heavenly sterling-silver-studded heart boot, called “Harpo,” was co-designed by Pedro Munoz with Nathalie Kent for sale at her friend’s store in Paris. Boots by Stallion Boot Company; courtesy Nathalie Kent.

