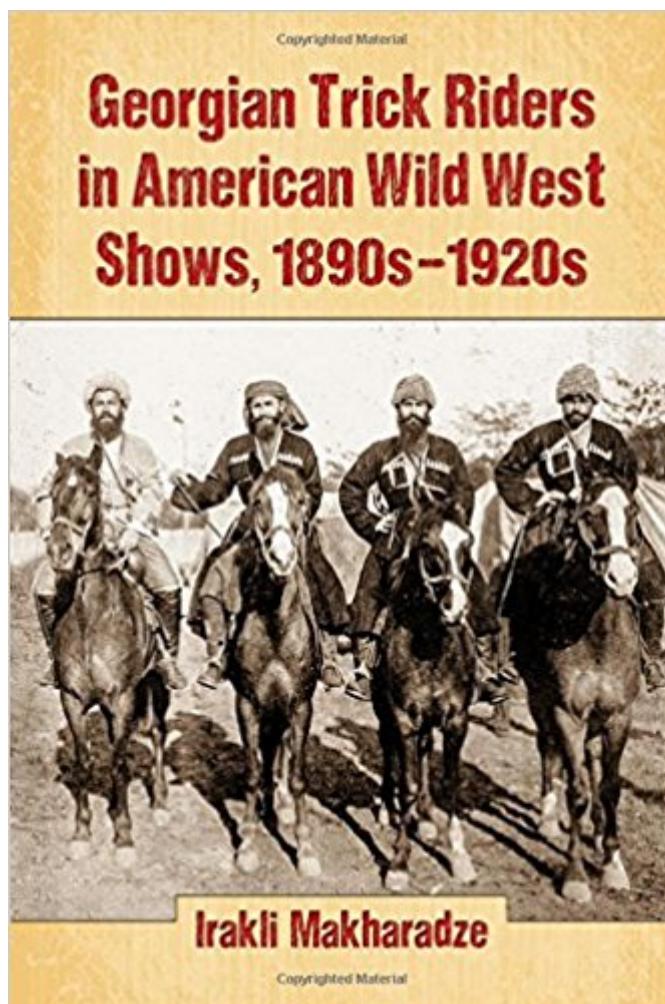


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# Georgian Trick Riders In American Wild West Shows, 1890s-1920s



## **Synopsis**

In 1893, Georgian horsemen from the Caucasus immigrated to the United States where for more than 30 years they performed in circuses and Wild West shows under the billing of "Russian Cossacks." The connection between Buffalo Bill Cody and the Georgian trick riders represents one of the earliest relationships between Georgia and the United States. Western historian Dee Brown wrote, "Trick riding came to rodeo by way of a troupe of Cossack daredevils imported by the 101 Ranch. Intrigued by the Cossacks' stunts on their galloping horses, western cowboys soon introduced variations to American rodeo." This is the story of the men who came in search of financial support for their families in Georgia and, without knowing it, influenced an essential fixture of American culture.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"insightful...a great many photographs throughout"--ProtoView.

Irakli Makharadze is a filmmaker and author from Tbilisi, Georgia.

This is a wonderful topic, and the pictures (mainly from the author's collection) are remarkable. The writing is ingratiating but not very well organized. It's not so easy to rate--five stars for photos, four for the topic and three for the writing. Browse the book before you decide to buy it; it has some wonderful stories but as history, it's lacking. What I mean by writing isn't diction, specialist vocabulary or approach, the book is, well, not very well organized. It has the basic story, and a

couple of chapters are in fact well organized, but there should be a chapter on Georgian riders and their horses--what's so special about that saddle? where did the horses come from and who trained them? what kind of tricks did they do? There's some of this, but it's chatty, and could be so much better. There should be a chapter on relations overall with other riders, the cowboys, gauchos, Mexicans, Indians, Arabs and all. How were they all organized? How did they deal with food, travel, language, costume? There's a little on this but it's anecdotal. There could be a list of which Wild West shows featured Georgian riders. There could be a better chapter on what happened to the riders after the show days passed (there is a little of this, both in Georgia and the USA). And how profitable was it? There's a little on pay and pay schedules, but were there special stars? Was there one or more brokers?

This book is such a fascinating read about one of the most colorful and unknown characters of Wild West shows - Georgian horsemen from the mountainous region of Western Georgia, Caucasus. Well written and researched book with great photos had lots of interesting information I never knew about so called Russian Cossacks and Wild West shows.

This book is written in an elegant and absorbingly readable style. A panoramic festivity of the flamboyant characters that made up the Wild West shows, with terrific black and white photos throughout.

Lots of great stories about the Wild West shows and so called Russian Cossacks - was Georgians (not from the state of Georgia, but country in Caucasus). It was interesting getting a feel for that time period and the people of that era. Great Book!

I really enjoyed this book. It has many stories and pictures about Georgian horsemen aka Russian Cossacks who were involved in Wild West show business.

that was great book there was some really interesting things that i found about Georgians in America. Highly recommending to everyone.

True and amazing story. 5 stars! Highly recommend !

good true story

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