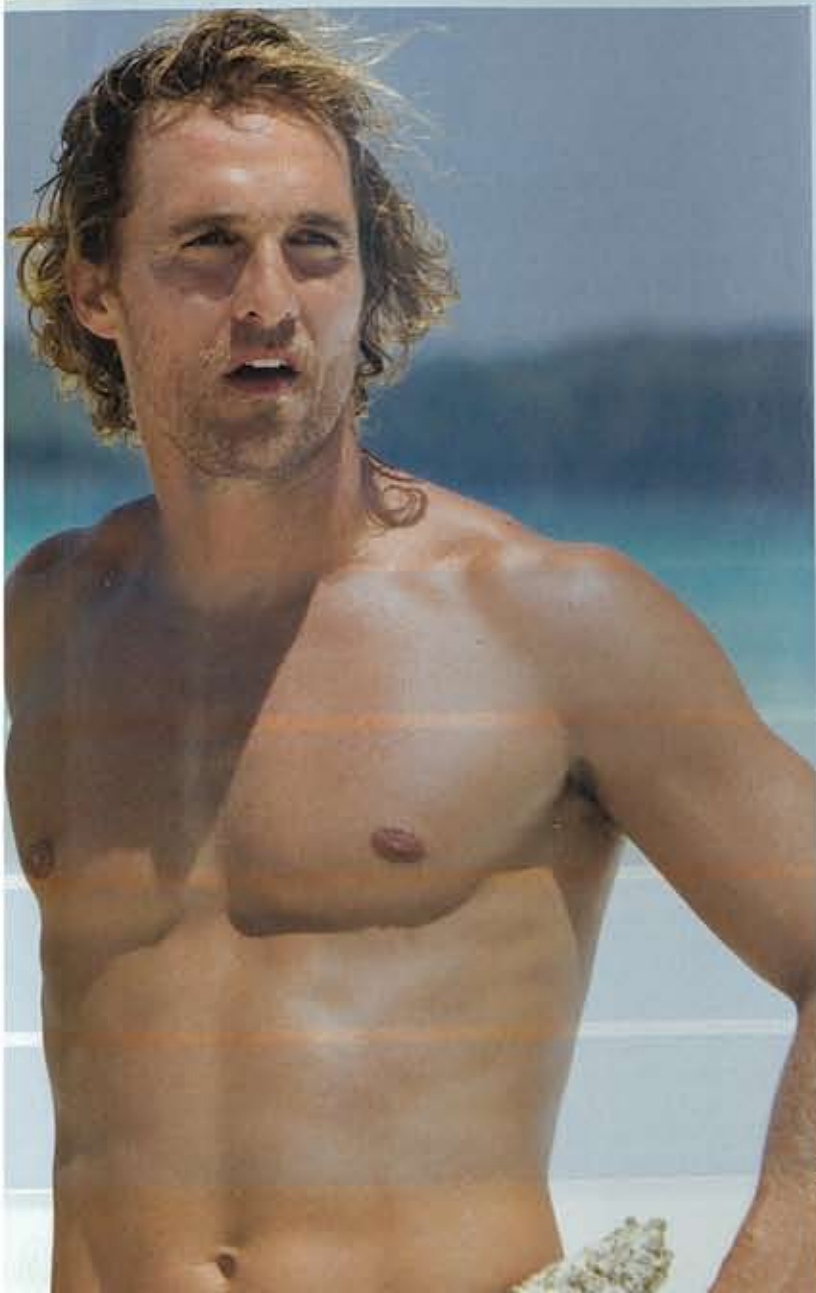


MATTHEW McCONAUGHEY

A TIME TO CHILL

WORDS PAUL SALFEN



OR JUST MAKE MORE MOVIES, MUSIC AND BABIES

Matthew McConaughey is not your typical Hollywood leading man. The handsome 38-year-old may have been named *People's Sexiest Man Alive* and has played the lead in a handful of romantic comedies, but it may start and end there. The Longview, Texas native is often seen shirtless and barefoot, usually with an unkempt beard and wild hair coming out all sides of a bandanna.

This was how he looked backstage at a Gomez show at La Zona Rosa in Austin during the Austin City Limits Music Festival. If it weren't for his statuesque physique and striking blue eyes, he might have just blended in with the other scruffy types milling about. Wearing a j.k. livin—his production company based on his motto, "Just keep Livin"—t-shirt, shorts and sandals caked in mud, he was flanked by the members of Mishka, j.k. livin's band. As it turns out, he was working with them, but that night, he was just one of the guys—telling stories, laughing and sipping drinks while unshaven and unwashed as the rest of the assorted musicians in the room.

McConaughey cleans up well, though. Fast forward a year and a few odd months, and he sits in a Santa Monica, California hotel room, well-dressed, clean-cut and shaven looking like, well, a leading man.

He's here with his co-stars and director to talk about his new movie, *Fool's Gold*, which re-teams him with *How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days* co-star Kate Hudson. They are plainly very comfortable together. Sitting next to each other, Hudson's hand often rests on his leg, and they openly rib each other and laugh freely. With this kind of chemistry off-screen, it's easy to see why the two were eager to work with each other again. "We didn't want to do a repeat. But it sounded like a lot of fun," he says. "I think if it works, which it did in *How To Lose A Guy*, you look for other things that work, and I think people want to see McConaughey and Hudson get back together again... Hopefully, it's what people want."

In *Fool's Gold*, McConaughey plays Ben "Finn" Finnegan, an endearing but bumbling treasure hunter who truly loves his wife (Hudson) but can't seem to keep her from divorcing him for her own good. He says of his character, "I persisted though, kept dreaming and stayed in her eye line as much as possible. I was just a little bit late for things."

The big question of the day, though, is the pregnancy of his girlfriend, Brazilian model Camila Alves. After high-profile relationships with the likes of Sandra Bullock and Penelope Cruz, McConaughey is happy to avoid

the tabloid spotlight, saying, "There is only so much energy that you want to spend on an illusion." So at the end of the day, like anyone else, it's just him and family. And the consensus among his co-stars and director is that he'll make a great dad.

He seems to think so, too. He's even got a pretty clear picture of what his child will be like. "Make no doubt about it," he proudly states, "My kid will dance, he will be on the beach, and he will take wild hikes." He adds defiantly, "I don't want a child that is going to come out and be afraid of the water."

Keeping with his adventurous ways and simple lifestyle, McConaughey doesn't plan on parking his famous, cross country-traveling trailer just yet. "We are definitely going to keep the trailers. This child is going to know travel. It's got everything," he says convincingly. "You grow up and take weekend trips with the family. You go down and go camping."

He's clearly optimistic and excited—but is he ready? He shrugs. "My instinct will take over when the little one greets the world. The one thing that I've heard that's consistent: All the grand plans you want to make? You can throw them out, buddy." He adds: "We've all got projects, dreams and goals—we're architects, and the greatest thing I can think of is to be the architect of a child. It's going to be

brand new every day. I'll raise them right, and then let them go and watch them from afar. And then we'll come back together, and we'll see them as an old man and old woman. That's the greatest miracle in the world."

In the meantime, McConaughey concentrates on the j.k. livin production company, which includes this summer's *Surfer, Dude*—what he calls the "first homegrown thing from beginning to end." He's also a producer for the aforementioned band's—Mishka—debut album, *Above the Bones*, and proud owner of his own website. He says of entering the digital age, "The first thing we did was get a real website, matthewmconaughey.com, which I'm real proud of... that's a world I'm excited to get into." His site features a personal journal, Mishka's music, a gallery of magazine covers he's graced and—best of all—multiple parodies done by the media on McConaughey's shirtless status, which gives a genuine glimpse of the star's sense of humor about himself.

All in all, Matthew McConaughey seems like he'll always be Matthew McConaughey—a loose, fun-loving, bongo-playing hippie at heart that happens to be a movie star. He may age, but he'll always be a young soul. "I don't feel any older. I actually feel a little younger," he offers, just as you'd expect from him. "I'm a happy man. Well, so far, so good."



Mishka: Beyond Borders

WORDS HENRY ADASO

PHOTO APRIL NASLUND

Mishka is what you might call a global citizen. He was born in a sailboat to a Bermudan father and a Canadian mother, who gave him a Russian name. (Mishka means "Little Bear.") "I grew up in a sailboat, and we traveled a lot," says Mishka. "I don't really fit into any particular society. I have a kind of roaming attitude to life. I don't really belong to anyone."

No wonder the acoustic-driven singer/songwriter has a Chinese food approach to music: a little bit of this, a little bit of that. "I get to see a lot of different cultures. A lot of that comes into the music as well." Sure enough, his music is an amalgam of reggae, soul and folk elements.

"I'm into warm songs," admits the Canadian-based singer. "I grew up listening to a lot of acoustic and folk stuff, but as I got older, I started listening to a lot of reggae music." With influences that range from Bob Marley to Bob Dylan, one word that best describes Mishka's style is "eclectic."

His upcoming sophomore album, *Above the Bones*, promises an organic sound bolstered by "straight musicianship." As for the title, well, Mishka jokes that he doesn't fully understand it, because his wife coined it.

She's also the brain behind the title track "Above the Bones," which spots lyrics like "Let us rise above the bones/Let us remember the memories/Passion not scarred by anger, neither blinded by the actions of the past."

Adds Mishka: "It's about a lotta the atrocities that people have been through, you know, and how we can transcend that and wake up to a new day for the future generation. Not to forget but definitely to forgive—and to have compassion for one another as human beings. Every time I sing it, I learn something new."

Mishka's ambition lies not in the arc of his career, but in the quality of his music. He has no delusions about crossing over to US mainstream charts. And, frankly, he doesn't care.

"If people love it in America," he says. "That's great. I'm not gonna bang my head against the wall in America saying, 'Yo, listen to me.' If they don't get, they don't get it. If people love it in Japan or Europe, I'll go there and play it for them. I mean, it's only 250 million people in America, a bunch billion more in the rest of the world. Sometimes, America sees itself as the biggest, most important place. It's a big country, yes, but it's just another place. But it'd be good if it breaks through. I think my message would be good for America."

Above the Bones releases March 21. mishka.com