

THE

# GAY JOURNAL

FALL/PREMIER ISSUE

LIFE | JOURNEY | STYLE

LEHIGH  
VALLEY  
PRIDE  
ISSUE

CANDIDA AFFA  
MATT ZARLEY  
BILLY CLIFT  
SVET

Kennedy  
Davenport

THIS  
AIN'T YOUR  
GRANDMA'S  
KENNEDY

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## SNEAK PEEK!



**Royal Rehrig** is currently hosting karaoke every Friday night at the Stonewall. He also performs with "Another Lousy Cover Band", a Lehigh Valley based cover band.



**Chad Roarbaugh** is a hard working ER physician assistant. He loves his family, America, knitting, baking, and walks on the beach. He also makes jam and enjoys canning.



**Mark Bodkin** has long history of community service including fundraising and serving on the board of Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley and FACT. He is active in local theatre.



**Lenora Dannelke** is an independent journalist who covers food, travel or anything fun. She lives in Old Allentown and loves a good Bloody Mary.



**Martene Fay Bruder** (Cheap Shots with...) is so utterly amazing she can't possibly describe herself in a mere two sentences. She also like cats and champagne and plaid.



**Jim Brown** (Letter From a Healthy Man) and his wife Christine live in Breinigsville with their golden retrievers. Jim is an avid skier in the winter and loves to kayak in the warmer months while serving as the principal of Kutztown Area Middle School.



**Adrian Shanker**, Executive Director of Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, activist, organizer and fundraiser for the LGBT community for more than a decade. He served as President of Equality Pennsylvania from 2011-2013 and on the Allentown Human Relations Commission from 2009-2012



**Daniel Mare**, is the Creative Director at a fragrance company, often mistaken for Tony Stark thanks to his expensive taste in all things and his inability to sugar-coat anything, except his quad-espreso. Loves free diving, parkour and going to the movies.



Interview by Stephen Libby

Photos courtesy of Caprio Media Design

## Matt Zarley is a hopeful ROMANTIC

hopefulROMANTIC is an original musical film about one man's emotional journey through love, heartbreak, and healing. It's a universal story about loving, letting go, and holding onto faith that there's somebody for everybody. It may sound like a somewhat familiar story...but what makes hopefulROMANTIC unique, is the way in which it is told. The nearly dialogue-free narrative is articulated solely through Matt Zarley and Andy Zulla's soulful pop score. Is it a music video? Not really. Is it a musical? Sort of.

hopefulROMANTIC is best described simply as a love story...with music as its guide. Matt Zarley (*The Romantic*) co-stars with Chuck Saculla (*The Boyfriend*), Jolie Jenkins (*The Best Friend*), and social media/pop culture icon, Star Trek's George Takei (*The Mentor*).

MATT ZARLEY

**Stephen Libby:** I read over your bio. Where do we begin? Let's go back before the accolades and Fire Island fundraisers. As a young gay man, who spoke to you as a performer? Male or female. Straight or gay. And why?

**Matt Zarley:** Well as a kid, my first obsession was The Captain & Tennille. I'm not kidding. I was like 5 years old. "Muskrat Love" was my jam! LOL Seriously, I thought that their music was amazing. Musically, Daryl Dragon (The Captain) was sorta ahead of his time. He was using the synthesizer in ways that never had been done. He was kinda brilliant. When I got to be older and more aware of life, I would have to say that Whitney Houston prob spoke to me the most. She was the platinum standard for every aspiring singer of my generation. In her prime, she was untouchable. Simply the greatest vocalist ever in pop music.

**SI:** What was the moment that you knew you had made it? Where were you?

What were you doing?

**MZ:** I don't think I've made it really. I feel like I'm still pushing that rock up that hill. It never ends. I think the moment when I felt like I was going someplace, career wise was my opening night in A CHORUS LINE on Broadway. It's engrained into my memory forever. Totally awesome moment. :)

**SI:** All of your collaborators are impressive, but I think our readers would appreciate you sharing some memories of your time with Whitney Houston.

**MZ:** I didn't get to really work closely with Whitney even though we did the same movie together. I was in the Disney TV movie, "Cinderella" w/ Whitney and Brandy. I worked w/ Brandy alot and she was a real sweetheart. Two people that I worked closely with that were 2 of the most unbelievable people I've ever met were Reba McEntire and Chaka Khan. Reba is definitely the hardest working and kindest woman I've ever worked with. Chaka is hands down the most amazing vocalist/ musician I've ever worked with. Unreal.

**SI:** What inspired Hopeful Romantic, your new album and original music short film? How did George Takei get involved?

**MZ:** The film was inspired by a sudden break-up of my last relationship. I was so in love wit that person and they dumped me completely unexpectedly and heartlessly. hopefulROMANTIC is drawn from that experience. A mutual friend of George and I did an email intro. I sent George a synopsis and a demo of one of the tunes and he said "yes". I couldn't believe it.

**SI:** Are you in a relationship? Do you wanna be? Describe your ideal guy.

**MZ:** I am not and yes I do. My ideal guy is someone who's thoughtful, romantic, creative, passionate, dog lover, music lover, movie lover, close with his family, funny, fun, sexy, confident, cute, and scruffy.



**SI:** Where do you go from here?

**MZ:** You tell me. LOLLOL I'm doing my music webseries, UnCOVERED, where fans make requests for songs they wanna hear me sing. It's sort of like a reinvented Pop Up Video. I'm also developing a tv series that I've been tossing around in my head for a few years. Finally taking the steps in making that dream a reality. But before all that, I'm finishing up the festival circuit and traveling to Cannes to screen hopeful ROMANTIC in the Cannes Short Film Festival. CANNOT WAIT!

## Quickies

### Comfort Food:

Mexican Food and  
Trader Joe's Cookie Butter

### Gay TV show:

Project Runway (tho not technically a  
gay show) or anything on  
Bravo

### Song:

"Gravity" by Sara Bareilles (I'm  
releasing my version in August)

### Sexiest Male Celebrity:

Chris Pratt

### Sexiest Female Celebrity:

Rihanna

### Underwear for you to wear:

Boxers or Commando

### Underwear for him to wear:

Boxers or Commando

### Cocktail:

Irish Mule

### Political Figure:

Hillary

### Comedian:

Amy Schumer

### Ice Cream Flavor:

Ben & Jerry's Chubby Hubby

### Flower:

Sunflowers

### Car:

My Cadillac SRX

### Sport:

Gymnastics

For more of matt check out  
<http://www.mattzarley.com>