



Shirt, Pants & Tie: Saks Fifth Avenue Collection
(Saks, Short Hills NJ)

MATT CZUCHRY

LIVING “THE GOOD LIFE”

By Alexandra Anastasio

Photographer: Fernando Forero
Grooming: Stacy Bland of BELLA ON DEMAND
Styling: Mindy Gura & Paula Orlan, The Style Duo
Location: No 8, New York City

“Do what you love!”

This powerful statement, heard many times from his family [which include two older brothers and a sister], has motivated actor Matt Czuchry to take risks and make decisions he says has guided his life and career.

“It’s the best advice I’ve ever been given,” says “The Good Wife” (and BELLA!) favorite.

Born in New Hampshire and raised in Tennessee, the idea of becoming an actor wasn’t something Czuchry consciously thought about. He was actually a history and political science major in college, and says he was on track to go to law school. That is, until he scored horribly on the LSATs and was forced to reevaluate his path in life.

“I found myself looking back at how I was as a child,” Czuchry recalls. “What I discovered was that I had always loved telling stories, creating characters, and connecting with people.”

With the love and support of his family, Czuchry found the strength to honor his child within, although he admits that if his loved ones hadn’t believed in him, he’s not sure he would have taken such a life-changing risk. After graduating from the College of Charleston, the future star packed up his things and moved to Los Angeles to pursue this new career as an actor.



Sweater & Pants: **Hugo Boss**
Shirt: **Armani**
Tie: **Saks Fifth Avenue Collection**
(Saks, Short Hills NJ)

THE GOOD AUTHOR

Fans might be surprised to know that Matt Czuchry is also a published author. Growing up, he and his brother Mike exchanged journals, writing about challenges, obstacles, joys, pain, and everything that comes along with experiencing life. As adults, they took that premise and wrote the book, "Brothers On Life," which is an extension of those journals they exchanged as kids. Told in three acts, it contains short stories, pictures, and poems, all with the intention to capture both the magical things and the difficulties life can bring.

Pursuing a Dream...

Czuchry, then age 22, found himself with no job, no friends, and – as he says – "no idea what the hell it meant to be an actor." Yet the fear of the unknown did not win out, Czuchry explains. His gut was telling him, "you are in exactly the right place." Armed with that powerful feeling, he pushed forward in LA and put everything he had, day by day, into pursuing his craft.

It was then that Czuchry began to build what's now quite an extensive resume. He's not only guest-starred on numerous television shows such as "Hack", "7th Heaven", Friday Night Lights", and "Veronica Mars", he also has two major TV roles under his belt. For three years he starred on the popular hit show "Gilmore Girls" as billionaire Logan Huntzberger, a role that earned him three Teen Choice award nominations. Then in 2009, he joined CBS' "The Good Wife," and for the past six seasons has portrayed the character of Cary Agos, a young, good looking, ambitious, Harvard-educated lawyer. You can say art began imitating life and, in a sense, came full circle.

Perfecting His Craft...

Through each season, Czuchry's character has gone through a myriad of situations and circumstances, from being fired by the original law firm that hired him, working for the State's Attorney's office, then back to his old firm, only to leave and start up his own practice. With each new season, Czuchry takes what's given to him, episode by episode, and delivers the most honest, believable, and interesting performance.

He's always looking to learn and grow, he says, and reflects on what he describes as the most "emotionally demanding" work he has ever had to do on the show in the beginning of this past season. With Cary going to jail and then his impending trial, Czuchry says it was a "massive challenge" to bring that story arc to life. "Virtually every episode, I would read the script and say to myself, I don't know if I can pull this off ... I don't know how to do this. As an actor, those are the kinds of challenges you live for."

In watching his performance week after week, it's clear Czuchry's found a way to not only pull it off but draw in an audience that's clearly rooting for his character. He says his preparation for the first half of the season revolved around one main question: "If your life was taken away from you in an instant, how would that shape your thoughts, emotions, and experiences?" In order to answer honestly, Czuchry was forced to go to some very dark and personal places within himself to bring believability to the character and the storyline. His research included reading a blog written by a former inmate and watching the show, "Lockup," which documents real prisoners. Due to the limited time in which the actors have to turn each episode around (usually two to three days), he incurred a lot of sleepless nights as well, he says.

Matt vs. Cary...

Czuchry says that trying to balance his character's vulnerability on one side of the coin and his ambition on the other is a favorite aspect of acting for him. "The biggest similarity I can draw between myself and Cary is that I feel both are highly competitive."

Czuchry attended college on a tennis scholarship, and admits that he's always loved the extreme highs of winning or the extreme lows of losing hinging on his performance. "I feel like Cary feels the same way about the law. He's passionate about it, loves protecting his clients, and is inspired by the high stakes game that the legal profession provides."

As he makes it a point to focus on the work directly in front of him, Czuchry says that discipline and determination and his push to continually learn new things within his craft have resulted in consistent work in a competitive career. When the subject turns to "making it" or not as an actor, he feels strongly that there truly is no such thing. "It's an unachievable label," he says. "No matter where you are as an actor, your work is always evolving, jobs come and go, the level of attention comes and goes, and so nothing ever stays the same in this career."

Still, Czuchry does admit to having those rare moments when he takes time to reflect on where he's been. "When I allow myself to do that, very simply, I am just grateful that I took that risk in 1999 to move to LA and become an actor. And I am grateful that this career has resulted in so much good stuff personally and professionally for me and those around me."

For all things Matt, visit MattCzuchryOfficial.com

Starting Over...

After living on the west coast for 10 years, Czuchry faced another life-changing event when he moved to New York for "The Good Wife."

"That move was one of the hardest things I have ever done because I had to reinvent myself," he says. As a result, he says he discovered a new passion for his work and life as a whole. "New York's energy and multicultural influences have become the fuel for my newfound creative spirit."

"I have New York life experiences that I would have never had if it were not for my work. This career has given me so much beyond the work, and the work itself is left for the audience to hopefully make a positive connection with," says Czuchry.

For a man who is constantly striving to improve and move forward in his career, Czuchry is extremely focused on what's ahead. While he's committed to doing the best work he can, the actor finds peace and happiness when he's surrounded by what matters most. **B**