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# KNOW WE'RE TALKIN

By Helen Marketti

## Catching up with John Schneider

Many will remember John Schneider as Bo Duke on the television show, *The Dukes of Hazzard* (1979-1985). While John continues to have a successful acting career, he is also an accomplished musician. His recently released single, *She's Worth It*, is a patriotic homage to America that was released on February 14th of this year. It was a Valentine's Day card to our country to remind us of our freedom and privileges.

John will be performing at Lorain Palace Theatre on Saturday, May 25th along with his friend and country singer, Cody McCarver.

John took some time to chat by phone recently while he was traveling to Nashville. We dig right into his new single, *She's Worth It*. It is a beautiful tribute to the United States of America. He discusses the inspiration for the song. "It had occurred to me that a lot of young people are being taught that our country is fatally flawed. I think it's worse they are

being taught that our country is intentionally flawed. I take exception to that. I do not believe it. I am not a believer in this revision of history nonsense. I wanted to write a song about this beautiful country of ours and remind people of how lucky we are to live here. So, I got together with another songwriter, Brandon Will, and our specific mission was to write an anthem so people know in their hearts that we live in the greatest country in the world. We can shout it from the rooftops. Others may think twice about this nonsense they have been taught."

He continues, "We need to express in a bold way what we will and will not put up with. There was something in the news that the Constitution is an old and tired document that should be replaced. I disagree. The Constitution isn't just words. It's the glue that holds everything together. I really feel that young people need to listen to *She's Worth It*, especially if they have never read the Constitution. They may just go by what they hear and may tend to believe it's an old and tired document. I think it's one of the greatest documents ever written. Everyone needs to learn and grow at their own pace. I think some of the older generation is misleading the younger generation."

John has definite emotion and feeling for America. He will release a patriotic album later this year. We discussed his inspiration for songwriting and his thoughts on country music. "Inspiration for songwriting is usually what I feel. I listen a lot. I look around a lot. I pay attention. When inspiration hits you, you can't stop it. When you work with another songwriter, there is a synergy between you. You are inspired by each other. You are throwing ideas back and forth and eventually something evolves whether individually or together. Country music seldom hides under production. I believe country songs tell the story at its core. The star is the story. The singer is the story teller. I love all music, don't get me wrong but in other forms of



music the production of the song is the star. In my experience, it seems that visual effects take over and the story is lost or at least placed on the back burner. I think country music is harder than other genres of music because you have to let the lyrics shine on their own."

John does not follow a set list when performing. He lets fan know what to expect on May 25th at Lorain Palace Theatre. "I'm not a set list kind of guy. Cody and I will feed off of the audience and that's how we decide what we will play. There are 200 songs between Cody and I so we have plenty of material to choose from. We hope to get people standing up and singing along to *She's Worth It*. It's important to leave the stage one song too early rather than one song too late."

An interview with John Schneider perhaps would not seem complete without discussing a little bit about *The Dukes of Hazzard*. "I think *The Dukes of Hazzard* is still popular because the show had a connection to people. There was an importance of community which is mostly the population of this country. People understand friendship. That was true in 1979 and still true to this day. When people watch *The Dukes of Hazzard*, they are watching themselves. Except if they try to jump their car like the General Lee, it's probably going to break!"

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