



David Cassidy, a musical throwback to the Prince Charming tradition, is, with Donny Osmond, the most cuddly of today's screamybopper heart-throbs. Though older than he looks (his birth-date is usually given as 1950, in New York), he represents to thousands of teenage and sub-teenage girls, the ideal of an eternal sexual childhood in which relationships with boys will be soft, sweet-smelling and non-frightening. His manager, Ruth Aarons, comes close to the mark when she says he "really represents happiness".

She discovered her "super-puppy" in 1968 when his father, Jack Cassidy, a minor actor, told her his son was interested in the stage. After appearing in a short-lived Broadway musical, he auditioned successfully for a string of television serials, culminating in his 1970 appearance in a new series "The Partridge Family". As the sparkling-eyed 16-year-old son of Shirley Jones (who is his real-life step-mother), he soon began to dominate the

David Cassidy, who has made a career of looking dewy-eyed. His stand-in on television's "The Partridge Family" was a girl. His cuddly attraction appeals to thousands of teenage girls around the world.

show. Music for the rock-and-roll Partridge band was dubbed by off-camera musicians, but to everyone's delight, David revealed that he could sing as well as act. With the release of "I Think I Love You", which sold 5 million discs he became a concert superstar, first in the U.S. and then in Britain. Slight, (5ft 8in), with brown hair, hazel eyes and a perfectly-shaped dazzling smile, he projects a dewy innocence as yet undimmed by the hysteria of his fans who, when he appears in public, barely pause to remove their David Cassidy bubble-gum before shrieking in unison. David himself keeps his starry distance, prefers the company of his room-mate, Sam Hyman, admits to one unhappy affair, likes playing the piano, admires Paul McCartney and does nothing to spoil an image as wholesome as an apple.