

THE SECRET DAVID CASSIDY

IT'S very easy to be way off the mark when you talk about David Cassidy. For one thing, he's not one of those people who can divulge his innermost feelings to every second person he meets. Many rumours about Cassidy have spread this way—what people can't find out, they make up. Secondly, sometimes even David isn't too sure of his own feelings and motives. By that we mean that he can say something one day, meaning it totally, but he might wake up next week and have a quite different outlook on the same subject. Which makes life very complicated for those trying to get to know him really well!

This makes David a difficult person to interview. One person who knows him better than most reporters is our own Janey in Hollywood. She has met him many times, and has this to say of David. "Of all the pop stars I have worked with over any extended period, David Cassidy is at the bottom of one of my personal polls, and at the top of another. On my list of fave folks to interview he is way down there somewhere. I have never found David able to talk easily about himself. It seems to make him nervous; uneasy. He'll even laugh at some of his own replies and say that he really doesn't know what he's talking about. He laughingly calls himself 'a bundle of misinformation'. His lack of ease immediately makes me nervous, and we go from there."

BUT as Janey says, David is top of another of her polls—we'll tell you about that one later!

So, unintentionally as it may be, David usually presents a false image to the press. So who does know the real David? Well, there ARE some people who do. Perhaps even they see him in different ways but as you can see, there is more than one side to the man!

His mother, EVELYN WARD, should know him better than anyone in the world. She is definitely one of the few people he really trusts. She goes to most of his concerts and he—unlike some pop stars who would HATE to have mum along—encourages this. In a way, he is desperately afraid of neglecting her. In another way, he needs her there anyway. She keeps him in touch with reality. She gives him advice. He doesn't always take it, but so what?

She worries about him but she doesn't ask much of him and that is why they are still great friends. "I used to worry about him a lot when he was little. I always felt so worried because he didn't have a father around. I tried to make sure I was always there when he needed me. I couldn't replace his father though. I used to worry because he was such a small, thin boy when he started to become known. I think all the pressures were too much for his physique and that is why he had spots."

His manager, RUTH AARONS, is another person David trusts

Nearly every week you see something printed about DAVID CASSIDY. Often it is only a half-truth, proving you really can't believe all you read. So we've been talking to 'friends and neighbours' and discovering the side of him that's not normally reported...

—not in a mother/son way, but he trusts her to know what is best for him at any given time. As you may know, David is quite a stubborn person and he'll never be a puppet on the end of someone's string. But he trusts Ruth to give him unselfish advice, and when he's thought about it he'll nearly always agree with her. He has good cause to trust Ruth in all ways, for there is no way you will get her to talk about David—she knows how he hates to be discussed!

And the third person on David's list of close friends is still his long-time pal, SAM HYMAN. Sam lives in a bungalow at the bottom of David's garden in his home in the San Fernando Valley. Their friendship proves once again that David would much rather keep his friends from way back than make new ones. The new ones know David to a lesser extent.

PEOPLE who have worked with him can fill in the gaps still there in the link that goes to make up this complex star. Roadies, support acts, TV crews, Bell people—all will give you varied pictures of David; sides of him that the world of press men never sees. But they all know that if David finds out that he has been discussed they are very likely to get the cold shoulder from him. He values honesty above most other things and he would call that sort of behaviour dishonest.

Why, you might say, not go straight to David and ask him about his secret self? Simple—he wouldn't say!

David hates 'opportunism' too. That means, he hates people who are out for what they can get in the way of glory, comfort, contacts, etc. off him. If you are a really close friend of David and you cross him, he'll most likely forgive you. On David's last tour, he took Sam Hyman along for company. But Sam—unusual for him—began to take advantage of the hospitality that David was showing him. Next thing you hear, Sam is on a plane bound for LA and David, so some of his tour companions say, was left smarting with hurt. Yes, he does get easily hurt. He's not like the archetypal big-headed superstar who thinks he can do as he likes to anyone. No way. He just knows when he's being taken and he won't stand for it. Anyway, the Sam story had a happy ending. David put in a phone call and soon Sam was back again, all smiles!

But newer acquaintances aren't always so lucky. David found—or should we say he found David—a new 'personal assistant' before his last European tour. He was nicknamed the Ant and he fixed up a meeting in New York with David and JOHN LENNON. They had dinner. After this, Ant accompanied David around, making sure he had everything he wanted in the way of food, wine and company. David obviously found this okay. But one day in Manchester, Ant pushed his luck. David and he had a very private chat and before you

knew it, the two had parted company. And if either had any regrets, you can bet it wasn't David.

You might think that David must have a lot of enemies. Well if he has, they are not of his making. David himself doesn't bear long-standing grudges. People may well bear him grudges and David admits that—but if they do, then those grudges were well-deserved and the people concerned aren't likely to meet up with David again.

DAVID can't think of one person he really hates. "Life's too short for all that. But I hope I never deliberately hurt anyone without a reason. One lesson I've learnt is that everybody is entitled to consideration."

The way David learnt this was to be hurt himself. He is virtually ultra-sensitive. He takes criticism hard and when someone lets him down he takes that hard.

His fear of being taken for a ride spreads to his lack of success in keeping a steady girlfriend for long. So says a security man who sees a lot of the 'other side' of David:

"He jokes about his short-term girlfriends, but I think what he would really like is to settle down with the right girl. Trouble is, he gets so worried that girls only want him because he is THE David Cassidy, that sometimes I think he labels them opportunists when they are not. He's packed up a couple

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