'GODSPELL' MOVIE FOR DAVID CASSIDY



David Cassidy (back right) may soon temporarily leave the other members of TV's "The Partridge Family to make his movie debut-perhaps in the Columbia Films version of Godspell". Others in the group: Susan Dey (Laurie). Shirley Jones (Connie), Danny Bonaduce (Danny), Susan Crough (Tracey), and Brian Forster (Chris).

WHEN David Cassidy visited London earlier this year to look over the British music scene, one of his main objectives was to see "Godspell". David came away raving about the hit stage show so much that reporters asked him if he'd like to play the lead in the film version of "Godspell". "What a beautiful Idea!" enthused David. And film executives could well be sharing the idea and the enthusiasm.

For it's well known that "Godspell" is to be filmed by Columbia Pictures, which is part of the giant Columbia Pictures Industries Inc. Its Screen Gems television subsidiary produces "The Partridge Family" that phenomenally popular TV series in which David has risen to fame via the role of 16-years-old Keith Partridge. Realising David's phenomenal appeal, Columbia Pictures have been looking around for some time for a suitable movie to cast him in. What better than the lead in "Godspell" then, his adoring public may well ask!

And he definitely has tremendous popularity-ask any "Partridge Family" addicts. In America, David's popularity has led to the manufacture of special David Cassidy bubble gum, coloring books, shirts, girls' dresses, lunch boxes, and even Love Kits – whatever THEY are. Here in Australia, he's equally popular. Every month, "Movie News" receives stacks of letters and 'phone calls requesting information on him. So we've been almost "arm-twisted" into publishing this special story and pin-up, even though David Cassidy is strictly a TV star only. Hopefully, though, Columbia will soon rush David into a film-fast. For not only do they have an actor on their books, but a pop singer, too. David's runaway hit record "I Think I Love You" has sold over five million copies around the world.

But even if David doesn't get a film break immediately, he intends to press onwards with a musical career. In his own words "I'm a musician, man. I spend my time away from the studio practising and writing and playing my band." He also talks in the same breath of breaking out on his own... "And I think I'm going to surprise a lot of people, too."

David has already surprised a lot of people with his much-loved U.S. concert appearances. Mothers and fathers who'd approved of the clean-cut young soft-rock musician in the "Partridge Family" TV series must have adjusted their rose-coloured spectacles somewhat at the newspaper stories over one particular concert. Dressed in a right white jumpsuit with a neckline plunging down to navel depths, David was said to be "just too, too much". If it had been Eartha Kitt up there on stage, everyone would have admired her style. But this was different. This was David, the gentle partridge kid, gyrating so sexily up there. Words flew and newspaper references were generally less than kind, shall we say, to our friend Cassidy.

Nevertheless, fans still adore him-so much so that his private life has become a nightmare. He's had to move homes twice to try to keep some personal privacy. His fans found out the address of his first Beverly Hills home, and hounded him round the clock. Now he can't even go to a supermarket or a movie without some form of disguise thought out beforehand. Even his stay in hospital for a gall bladder operation earlier this year resulted in fans stealing into his room at 5 a.m.!

Fan letters pour into the TV studios which screen "The Partridge Family". Women 'phone wanting to speak to him. His new home address and private phone number are very close kept secrets they have to be now that David's working up to the million-dollar income bracket. "I want to be an actor, not a teenage idol", says this slim-hipped young man. Meanwhile, his looks and personality make David a target for the fantasies of woman of all sizes, shapes and ages.

Mr. Cassidy has only one real complaint to make about all this adulation. "I appreciate it, of course, but I find it difficult to function on an everyday kind of scale." According to Judy Strangis, one of his oft-times companions, David is handling his fame pretty well, though. "He's a very real person", she says. "He doesn't see most of the publicity about himself in the magazines, and he doesn't look at the record charts a lot of the time."

Judy is just one of David's girlfriends. The 22-years-old star has no intentions of marrying yet awhile. "Maybe I'll get married earlier or later than 30, but I don't want to rush into marriage", says David. "I'm not going to leap before I look. Right now, I'm looking" The type of girls he looks at twice are those he thinks look "earthy, honest, open, happy, and unaffected." And the right one needn't necessarily be an actress. "One girl I dated was an interior decorator, another was a registered nurse, and another an artist".

The fact that his parents (singer-actor Jack Cassidy and actress Evelyn Ward) went through a divorce when David was five is one of the reasons he prefers to wait before taking on a family life of his own. Meanwhile, he's been enjoying the independent life for hie last four years. From the age of 18, when he moved out of his mother's house, he has been completely free. Although they work well together on "The Partridge Family" David does not even consult his step-mother Shirley Jones about his personal problems.

Born on April 12, 1950 in New York, David has been in Hollywood since his mother took him to live there when he was 10. David went to a private school in Beverly Hills. A year after graduating he worked with a theatre group, and featured in a stage play "And so to Bed". After that he went back to New York and won a co-starring role in the Broadway musical "The Fig Leaves are Falling". Small roles in TV shows like "Mod Squad", "Ironside", "Bonanza", and "Marcus Welby" led to an audition for "The Partridge Family"--- and the rest is history. Films will be the next logical chapter in that history for David, and his movie debut in "Godspell" or some other picture cannot be too far off!