



David on stage at his Madison Square Gardens Concert

glossy brown hair.

I made my way to my seat. Madison Square Gardens has row after row of balcony seats fixed in a circular position (like the big stadiums they use for athletics). It is still used for a few special boxing matches, but mostly for pop concerts, since the other large concert stadium, the Fillmore closed.

DAVID'S BIRTHDAY

The seats are set on four floors, which are reached by something that is not found in concert halls in England; moving escalators. I found my seat, and sat down, marvelling at the amount of people patiently awaiting their idol - David.

The compere stood under the blazing lights and announced that it was David's birthday on April

12th, and how about singing Happy Birthday to him, as he had the TV on in his room which showed him the audience. So the entire crowd sang Happy Birthday to him at the top of their voices.

Opening the show were Kim Carnes & Dave Ellingson, who are good pals of David's. They also sung vocal backing when David appeared. They are husband and wife and sang a very good selection of other people's hits. Dave has a very good traditional pop/rock sounding voice, while Kim's voice could be compared with Carole King. So David knew that he had got the best there helping him out (not that he needs any help).

Of course, it was unfair to compare Tony Orlando's group, Dawn with anyone else, when we were all agog for David Cassidy to

appear. It also gave the males in the audience something extra to enjoy as there was a very glamorous female vocal pair backing Tony who opened with their hit, 'Knock Three Times,' sang three other songs, and closed with his opening number.

And then what we were all there for, all 22,000 of us clutching programmes, impatiently awaiting a glimpse of HIM!!!

It was Cassidy all the way - from the moment he was introduced to the now screaming audience, already on their feet, before he had even started singing (not even Led Zeppelin, when they played to a full-house audience had this acclaim). David is a natural performer, no gimmicks or dance routines worked out . . . He was wearing a tight-fitting white costume, with a cut-out V-shape, and white-fringing attached to the sleeves, which trembled to the movements of his body, bathed in the brilliant lights.

David ran through no less than a half dozen of his million selling hits. I especially liked the tender way he sang, "I Think I Love You," and the feeling that he put into, "I Woke Up In Love This Morning."

EXCITEMENT

The audience was with him all of the way, but the most excitement seemed to be generated during his rendition of his (in my opinion) most moving single, "Cherish." The ecstatic cries reached a crescendo, and a young 13-year-old crashed through a dozen security guards and climbed onto the stage to wrap her arms around David and plant a kiss on his cheek that 22,000 fans enviously watched. As well as Kim, and Dave, David Cassidy had a 7-man backing group who played very fine music throughout. David made his exit to the echo of thundering applause.

Suddenly the seats emptied, as the audience rushed out to try and see David when he was leaving. The nearly empty building seemed even larger, as my footsteps echoed around the network of dusty grey corridors which led backstage.

But the magic lingered on . . .