

TIME OUT WITH TONY



A
MELANIE
SUPERSCOOP!

Specially for you, Tone talked to the off-stage David Cassidy . . . the guy few people ever get close to!

WHEN Elvis Presley opened up a whole new sound the younger generation idolised him . . . and a whole lot of older ones frowned as if they were hearing a dirty word for the first time. The same happened on a global basis as the mop-haired Liverpoolians, the Beatles, and the lank-haired Stones took the music world by the ears and the record buying public by the pocket.

They were just not on — the older generation were not having any of these pop changes. "Stick to moon-'n'-June" seemed to be their

universal cry.

So what's happening today in this year of pops 1973? Well — the very worshippers of El, John, Paul and Co. and Mick Jagger seem to be the ones to run down the Osmonds and the rest of the teeny bopper idols up to David Cassidy. You may ask yourself what is Cassidy really like to cause all this controversy? So for you I went along to find out — and this is my opinion . . .

David Cassidy is very, very unaffected — an especially nice person . . . I was struck by the change that had come over him since our first

meeting on Top of the Pops six months earlier. Now he was much more friendly, much more co-operative; perhaps he was being allowed more freedom than on the last trip.

Personally I think the stories of the tight security around Cassidy were overblown and overdone by some sections of the Press. Neither do I agree with some newspaper views of David's concerts. As I sat there at Wembley I couldn't help but think back a few years to the days of Beatle-mania. But the Cassidy mass-hysteria had nothing of the wild intensity of the Beatle era. Of course there was cheering, screaming, but in the main the audience were much better behaved . . .

I can remember those New Musical Express Poll Winners' Concerts with the Stones and Cliff Richard in the heyday of mass-mobbing. None of David's shows were at this kind of pitch.

But off stage, and away from the screams, both Tessa and I thought David a really nice guy — she says he is a 'nice mover' I agree. He puts on a good show, his performance and presentation on stage are excellent and, for those critical writers, he happens to sing in tune.

Tessa and I went along to see David at his hotel with Radio One-derful producer Roger Pusey. So many of you had written to me with questions for David — about his life,

his likes, his dislikes — that for a while I was in danger of dominating the conversation on your behalf!

For starters. What about the Partridge Family? Yes, David is doing another series, in spite of what you might have read elsewhere. But somehow I got the impression that he is not completely interested in it. This will be the last series — after all, it's been going these past three or four years in the States and I think David is conscious he isn't as big in America as he was . . . in Britain today his popularity and fan fervour matches the halcyon days of the USA two years back.

As I spoke to David I felt that he is conscious that he could be a passing phase. He doesn't seem to think about himself lasting — even another year. He says he is not really worried about his records going to the top (but I have my doubts about that!).

What of his future, after the nine months that this last Partridge series will take to film? He plans to develop his career in another direction, a different way — and he did say he would like to make a film alone.

I got the impression as we chatted about the Partridge television series that his little boy image is something of a horror for him, and I don't think I misunderstood David's analysis.

What about David's likes in pop music? Well, he has only recently 'discovered' the Beatles — and he has flipped. He likes both the early and the later Beatles' discs; he is an avowed big big fan — especially of John and Yoko. And whenever he's here he watches Top of the Pops avidly and was amazed by Slade . . . he made something of an unusual remark, in that he said that he thought that Noddy Holder had been influenced to some degree by John Lennon. Perhaps he meant in the attack, tone and aggressiveness of his voice?

Too soon it was time for us to go, and to close I asked his opinion of Top of the Pops as a show. "There's nothing as good in the States . . ." he said very definitely and sincerely. So take a bow producer Johnny Stewart and company.

Back to my normal column next week. See you then. Love,

Tony Blackburn

