

# "I'M ALL ALONE"

IN the spotlight, our Darling David Cassidy looks on top of the world. And, in the eyes of the world, that's just where he is. David has everything a pop star could want — money, fame, acclaim . . . Yet there is a secret sadness in his life — the moments when the love of his fans is far away, and he is alone.

"It hits me just after a concert," explains David. "One minute I'm out there with thousands of fans in the middle of all that excitement. It's like a fever, and I'm totally engulfed in it. Then, all at once, the concert's over, and I'm being hustled into the back of a van, and driven off to some hotel, way off the beaten track! I've given everything I've got, I'm drained dry — I'm alone.

"I don't mean to sound sorry for myself, but it's a kind of tragedy

if you think about it. It's the rock stars' dilemma, not just for me, but everyone who earns his living that way. When I'm singing," says David, "it's like chemistry. My audience can really get me going. They can really turn me on! If I'm not feeling in the mood for doing a concert, or I'm very tired, the intensity and energy of the crowd charges me like

an electric current.

"I give a little more and then, if they respond, they give a little more back, and suddenly, something terrific happens . . . a kind of blast strikes me, and I start feeling out of this world. Then I just let myself go completely."

During his last trip here, David said he really enjoyed performing for his British fans of all ages! "It doesn't matter if someone is 10 or 30," he said, but I do feel that the younger fans are more honest than adults.

"If they feel like clapping, that's what they do — none of this looking to the right or left to see what everyone else is doing before letting their appreciation show.

"Adults are so preoccupied with their own image and self-importance, that they're too afraid to be spontaneous — kids really let you know whether they like you or not."

In America, as it happens, David is, if anything, a bit too popular with his

female fans for safety. Around the gates of his house in San Fernando Valley, California, there is always a group of fans who can be ruthless in their attempts to see or touch their idol.

According to David (and he ought to know) their adoration, while flattering, can be a nuisance, and sometimes dangerous.

"When I first caught the public eye as Keith in the *Partridge Family* TV series, I was appealing

strictly to pre-teen kids," he said.

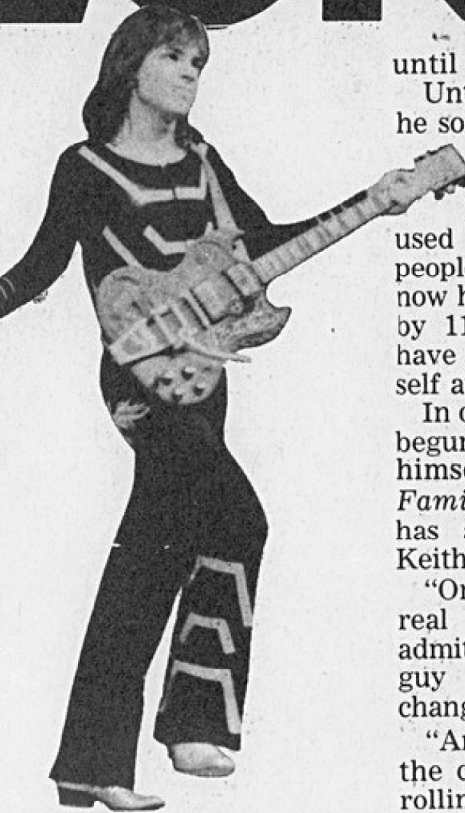
"But nowadays, by the time they're 15, girls are no longer in that fantasy world.

"It's the little girls who say, 'He's really cute'. The older girls are more serious. In America, I often have to be smuggled to the studios under a rug in the back of a car," he laughs.

"Some of them think of the most amazing tricks to get into my dressing room. One girl came in through the window waving a pair of scissors, and saying she wanted a lock of my hair.

"I told her there was nothing doing, and she started chasing me around the room. I was surprised, I can tell you!"

Despite the admiration he attracts, David's show business schedule keeps him too busy to allow for



dates. His role in *The Partridge Family* would, by itself, be enough to exhaust most people, and on top of this, he has his recording and singing career.

The fourth and last *Partridge Family* series begins soon, and, by the end of it, he will have completed 104 shows. His working day starts at 7.30, and ends at 6.30 pm.

From the film studios, he goes directly to recording studios, often working

until well into the night.

Until recently, in fact, he sometimes didn't finish until 1.30 am. Now, he's taken a stand.

He confided that he used to do everything people told him to, but now he insists on finishing by 11.30, so that he can have a little time to himself at home.

In other ways too, he has begun to stand up for himself. In the *Partridge Family*, for instance, he has altered his part as Keith to suit himself.

"Originally Keith was a real dull character," he admitted. "I said, look, this guy is a loser. And I changed him a bit.

"And things I'd do when the cameras had stopped rolling, you know, falling over, and doing things to make the cast laugh, now go into the show.

"It gives me a lot more satisfaction to do things my own way." And what of the future? David realises he can't go on forever as a pop star, but he's not worried about it. "I just want to be remembered by a few as being loved by a couple of people I really care about," he said softly. "It's nice to know people care about you.

"But I don't want anyone to hang a plaque over my grave saying 'Here lies one of the world's big pop stars'. I mean, who cares? I just want people who care about me to remember me as I am.

"And someday," he says, "I hope to have the time to spend my lonely hours with those I really love — maybe a special someone — if I ever get the time to find her!"

