

Will The Real David Cassidy Please Stand Up...

THIS is a very special week, one that all David Cassidy fans have been waiting and hoping for — the week David gives two live concerts in Britain! The first is on Friday night at the Shawfield Stadium in Glasgow, and the other is on Sunday night at Wembley Stadium in London.

It's a visit that means a lot to David himself, as he told me when I saw him recently at his home in California.

"I'm looking forward to my British concerts more than any I've ever done before.

"That big London concert should be fantastic. I've played bigger places — once I played to 80,000 people in the States — but this concert will be the best ever.

"It will be just me — the music I like, the musicians I respect, and no gimmicks.

"People have said I should use stage effects, but that just isn't me. I couldn't do anything that hadn't been done before, and better, by Elton John or Alice Cooper.

"Those concerts will be part of my new life. Things are going to be very different after the tour. I am going to live again, and start to feel proud of what I'm doing and confident in what I can do.

"Already I feel as though the air that I breathe has suddenly got a lot cleaner."

It was a very relaxed David Cassidy talking — a David who wanted to talk openly and honestly about his plans and dreams. He was even happier than when I'd spent the day with him last year, and the tension and the uncertainty that had always lurked in the background at our previous meetings, was totally gone. David knows what he wants from life, and he was happy to talk about it.

He told me: "In my dream, I see myself free of all the hassles that go with this crazy business.

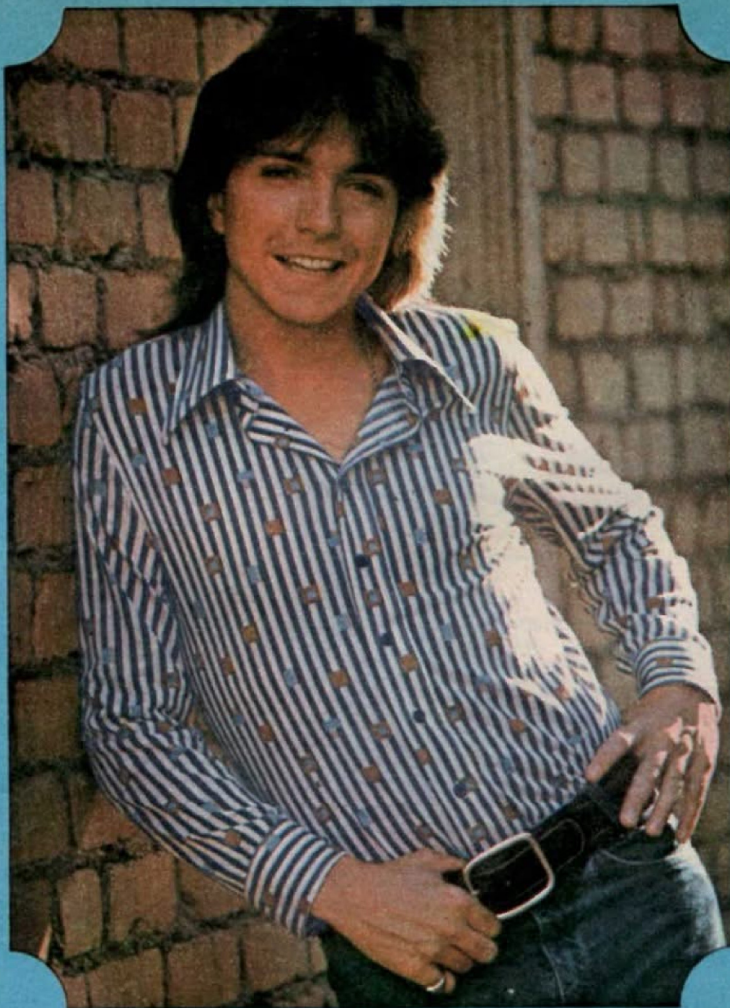
"I see myself just hanging out — raising horses, feeding chickens and having children.

"Yes, I see myself married. I want that to happen very much. I've always been a loner, but I'm tired of that.

"I've already experienced far too many of the good things in life on my own. I would rather share them.

"I know what it is like to be lonely, and I don't like it. I have gone through the frightening experience of being lonely in a crowd — more times than I'd like to mention.

"But I know that now that I am free of the ties that went with being in the Partridge Family, my life will take a turn for the better. The most important thing in front of



me now is my British tour. But after that, my new life is going to start. For real."

David was optimistic about his work as well as about life. We were soaking up some Spring sunshine at his Encino, California, home and draining several beer cans.

David had said goodbye to the film studios in which he had been working on the Partridge Family for just on four years, and he wasn't very sad about that.

"I'm really relieved to be finished with the show at last. I have run out of energy

and everything else it takes to go into a film studio and do a good job.

"For the last year or so, making the shows has given me no satisfaction at all. It has just drained me.

"I am not knocking the show — I know that it gives a lot of people pleasure. But I've done more than 100 shows. And after I had done five I felt I'd done enough!

"Having to work on the show has tied me down and isolated me. It has been very frustrating for me.

"In fact, I'd rather be doing your job. You

get to meet people all the time. But in this job, I don't meet as many people as I did when I was in school. People are just shipped in and shipped out again. They do their job, I do mine, and we never get to know each other.

"What I want more than anything in the world is to experience a normal life with normal people."

David explained how he found his first escape route from the loneliness of superstardom with his last album, "Dreams Are Nuthin' More Than Wishes" (Bell).

"That was the first album in which I've had any say. At last, I was singing and playing the sort of music I liked. And it worked.

"For years, I have ruined myself because with the Partridge Family I was so inhibited. I tried to sound as bland as I could. I just tried to sound like a backing singer.

"I was trying to please everybody involved instead of just trying to be myself. But not any more.

"Now I'm writing my own songs and producing myself. I have put down four tracks towards a new album, and I think they are easily the best things I have ever done. I wrote two of them myself, and one of my own songs may be my next single.

"I am not trying to sound like anybody else. I'm just trying to sound like me. And I am enjoying it."

David's appearance reflected his new-found happiness. He was suntanned from a week at his Hawaiian hideaway, and he wore a string of sea shells from Hawaii around his neck. He was dressed in the casual uniform of California — faded jeans and an open-necked shirt.

I mentioned the fact that he seemed to be taking life even more comfortably in his stride than he had on the last occasion we had met — at his home some six months earlier.

"Yeah . . . the new me, huh? I guess I am a lot more open to people than I used to be. And that is the way things are going to stay.

"I am never going to let my professional life or my so-called image get in the way of my REAL life again. I've always been caught up between living my image one minute and fighting against it the next. And never quite being myself.

"Now all that matters to me is my music and my friends.

"And that's why I'm looking forward to doing my live shows in Britain. I can look out into the audience and I'll know that every single person is a friend."

