

Laughlin, Nevada

May 23 through May 29, 2001

entertainer

a guide to the area's casino scene

DAVID CASSIDY

AND '70s PARTY
AT HARRAH'S



FIREWORKS
At the **AVI**



BILL MEDLEY at
RIVERSIDE RESORT



RONN LUCAS at
RAMADA EXPRESS



COMEDY STOP
At **FLAMINGO**



SMOKIN' ARMADILLOS
At **RIVER PALMS**

Daily News/Booster Publication

ON THE COVER...

CASSIDY

RIDES AGAIN

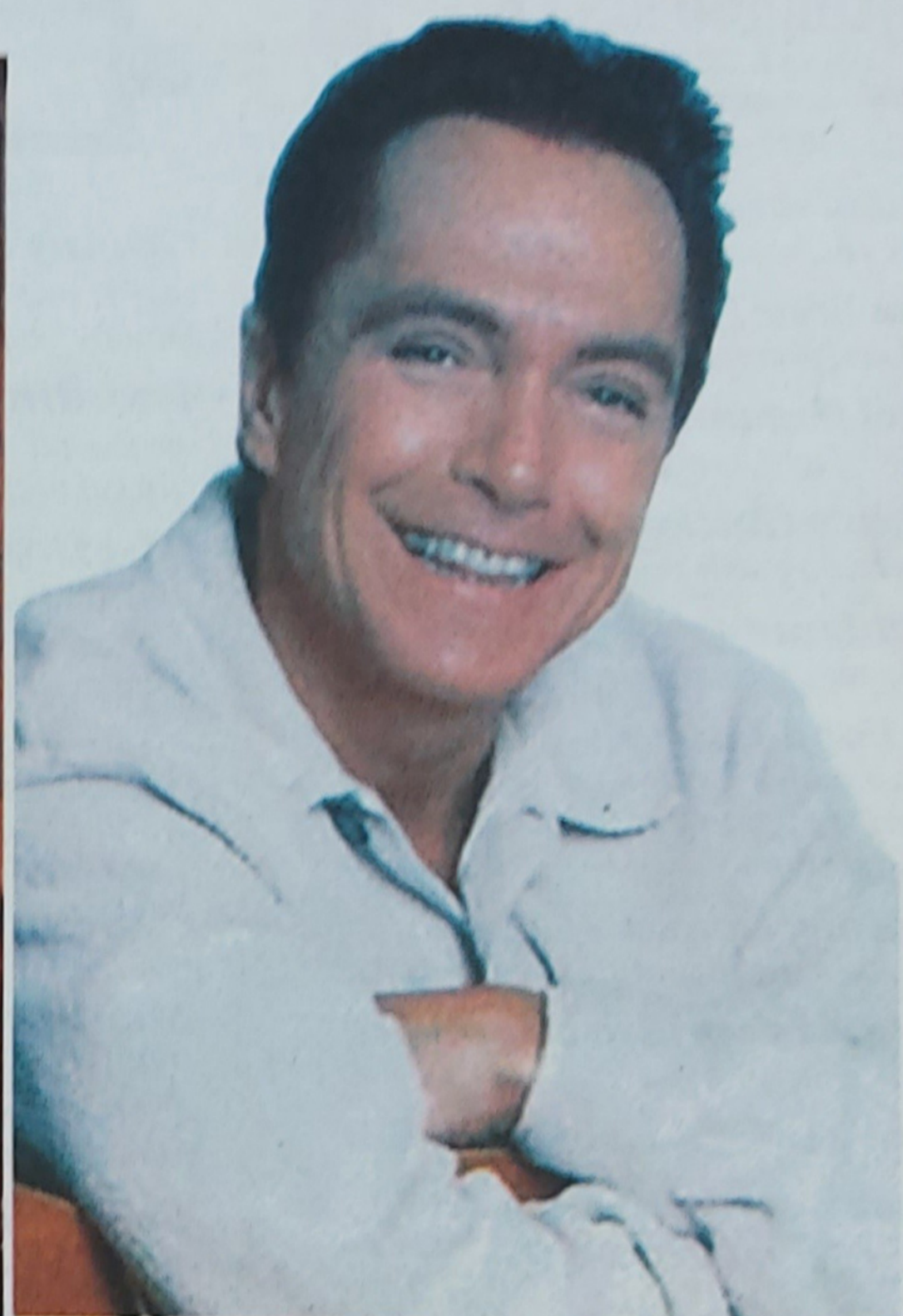
• DAVID CASSIDY AT HARRAH'S LAUGHLIN FOR ONE SHOW EACH NIGHT IN RIO VISTA OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATER, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

Harrah's Laughlin presents world-renowned entertainer David Cassidy, in celebration of '70s Week, appearing Wednesday and Thursday, May 23 and 24, in the Rio Vista Outdoor Amphitheater. Cassidy will perform one show per night at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$19.70 and available at Harrah's Box Office or by calling (702) 298-8510.

While David Cassidy is at Harrah's Laughlin this week to coincide with a salute to the 1970s, he is not one to dwell on that time. In fact, he only recently began doing interviews on the subject. It's not that he doesn't want to give a nod to the time when

he was an arena rock star, it's just that he'd rather focus on what he is doing now.

When you ride a tremendous wave of success on the energy of screeching adolescent girls, it is a fragile trip, indeed. David Cassidy the teenage heart throb reveled in it,



while David Cassidy the singer/entertainer walked away from it at its very apex. That says a lot about David Cassidy the man.

These days Cassidy is enjoying a quite comfortable ride flavored with the sweet taste that comes from success of his own making. He has found a new playground in the fertile show biz soil of Las Vegas. From his original appearance on the Strip in

1996 as the star of the MGM Grand's "EFX," to his show "David Cassidy At The Copa" with Sheena Easton at the Rio; and a run with the Las Vegas retro revue "The Rat Pack Is Back," Cassidy has become something of a toast of the town. He has earned numerous awards, new fame and self-respect.

Cassidy was also the toast of the town of Laughlin when he first appeared at Harrah's last November. With his 22-piece orchestra in tow, he wowed the crowd to the point of earning a quick return booking this week.

Cassidy's life finally seems to be going the direction he wants after tumultuous success at an early age. The son of actor Jack Cassidy and actress Evelyn Ward, he became a pop star after appearing with his stepmother, Shirley Jones in the television show *The Partridge Family*, from 1970-1974.

Almost from the beginning, the *Partridge Family* began adding up hits in their own right, such as "I Think I Love You," "Doesn't Somebody Want To Be Wanted," and "I'll Meet You Halfway."

In a case of life imitating art, the

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ON THE COVER...

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scenes in the show where his character Keith became the obsession of teenage fans, David Cassidy found himself fleeing the Clearasil crowd. Within a year of the show's launch, Cassidy was a huge teenage idol. Huge as in having a fan club bigger than Elvis' or The Beatles'. Huge in that he was soon to launch a solo career that saw him playing booked out stadiums around the world.

This was heady stuff for anyone to absorb, let alone a 20 year old.

The network discovered how huge Cassidy had become when in the off season of the first year they discovered he wasn't under contract (due to a loophole). When he resigned for the second year, he became the highest paid actor to ever play a sitcom.

The *Partridge Family* continued on its merry way but its star was becoming increasingly less and less merry. Cassidy wanted to play the music that he really liked..R&B tinged stuff, Bob Dylan style stuff...but he was stuck playing "bubble gum" music.

After the show ran its course,

For information on all the "happenings" going on at Harrah's Laughlin as part of the "70s Celebration," see page 20

Cassidy took to touring full time. But this too became a disenchanting thing. David Cassidy was burnt out and decided to leave show business when he was on the top. He took two years off and dropped out of sight in Hawaii.

"When I returned to work, I specifically chose not to compete with my earlier fame," he states.

In 1982, he tackled Broadway playing the title role in a long-running revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Two years later, he took over the leading role from Cliff Richard in Dave Clark's stage musical, *Time*. In 1993,

he was cast with step-brother Shaun Cassidy and veteran singer Petula Clark in Bill Kenwright's ailing New York production of Willy Russell's gritty musical, *Blood Brothers*. This trio's performance stopped the show's otherwise imminent closure,

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and David Cassidy recreated the role of Mickey in subsequent productions of *Blood Brothers* in the West End, and on US and UK regional tours.

In 1996 Cassidy's next major assignment was on a somewhat larger scale, taking over the lead from Michael Crawford in the high-tech musical "EFX" at the MGM Grand in Vegas. He's thrilled that the success

is, at last, about his work.

"I think it's wonderful," he states. "I'm fortunate that people want to come here to see me ... families, moms and dads, who have grown up with me ... which is phenomenal. Few in my business have

enjoyed the longevity and I don't take that lightly. I had never taken for granted the people who have supported me over the years.

"They've seen my work on Broadway, in theater, films, television...my days with *The Partridge Family* ... they've stayed with me and it's been a great journey, I have to say, both personally and professionally.

"I think ultimately they see the work. They know you're successful and famous, but it's really about the work. If you produce good, quality work, people will come to see it. I've always tried to keep the integrity and put out work I'm proud of ... it's entertainment ... we get them to laugh, we get them up and moving."

The best part of all is being taken seriously as an artist and musician.

"The fame isn't something I sought, and the money isn't the driving force ... it's all about the work," he explains. "When I get acknowledged for my work it feels like the best. It's more than I could ever have asked for."

It has always been about the "work." That is why Cassidy is not to be found dwelling on the *Partridge Family*...though he acknowledges the flowery printed T-shirts made the current silk suits possible.