



Staff Photo by Regene Radniecki

David Cassidy fans left the Minneapolis Auditorium after a performance by the entertainer Sunday night.

Cassidy concert subdued because of small audience

By GREG SCHMIDT
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The Supperpuppy Express rolled into Minneapolis Sunday but was slowed by a surprising show of apathy as a half-capacity crowd of only 4,000 people turned out to see David Cassidy at the Minneapolis Auditorium.

"I don't know what happened," said one of the promoters. "Maybe he has hit his peak." Cassidy has been the darling of the pre-pubescent set for almost two years, about as long as his predecessors, Davy Jones of the Monkees and Bobby Sherman were on top.

Although he played to two "near-capacity" shows in Chicago Saturday, he canceled a Hollywood performance two weeks ago because of slow ticket sales.

Those who attended, however, were as devoted as ever. They let loose a barrage of flash bulbs at the start of every song.

They stood up and reached for David when he held out his hand to the audience and begged

them "to meet me half way." They screamed in ecstasy when he moaned, "There must be some way to get us together."

And they gobbled up the \$1 autographed pictures and \$2 "I Love David" pennants on sale at the concert. (They balked, though, at buying the \$4 David Cassidy stereo cassette tapes. "A bit too steep for this crowd," said one vendor.)

Obviously fatigued, Cassidy gyrated around the stage in an uncharacteristically demure outfit: a plain white leather coat, brown leather pants and a patterned shirt. He sang many of his big hits including "Cherish" and "I Think I Love You" and unveiled David Cassidy the pianist on a new song, "Two Time Loser."

The combination of Cassidy's fatigue and the small crowd made for a rather subdued evening. About the only excitement was the escape as David rushed off stage even before finishing his last song and was whisked down an elevator and out a basement exit before his contact-hungry followers knew the act was over.

Helping to keep the lid on

things were the parents who seemed to comprise almost a fourth of the audience. Hundreds of other parents waited outside in their cars.

One couple reached a compromise by unloading their three young charges at the auditorium and heading to a local bar for the duration. "Now that," said the father, "is not such a bad deal, is it?"