

David Cassidy:

Did He Plan To Be Idol?

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Somebody once said of David Cassidy that he looks like a person whose high school guidance counselor predicted he had a future as a teen-age idol.

It's a good line and everybody in the room laughs at it — Cassidy, the interviewer, two press agents, a girl writer from Rolling Stone who is following him around for several days and a couple of people who work for Cassidy. Cassidy related it when asked whether he set out to become a teeny-bopper idol. "No. Does anybody? Can you imagine somebody saying, 'Someday I'm going to be a teen idol?' I never ever did."

But Cassidy is an idol, to pre-teens and even little girls more than to teen agers. At his Madison Square Garden concert, sold out three days after tickets went on sale, many members of the audience were astonishingly young — 6, 7, 9, 11. Parents brought the young fry, because they consider Cassidy's image wholesome on the TV show, "The Partridge Family."

Cassidy, who started as an actor, non-singing, doing mostly TV, is from a show business family. His parents, Evelyn Ward and Jack Cassidy, who were divorced when he was 5, and his stepmother, Shirley Jones, are in show business. Miss Jones plays the mother on "The Partridge Family" and member of its family rock group. Cassidy's voice and



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hers are heard on the five "Partridge Family" LPs; the other voices are not those of the young actors seen in the TV series. The first Partridge Family release, "I Think I Love You," featuring Cassidy's voice, was a hit and his first one under his own name, "Cherish," last October, also was a hit.

On the April 18 best-selling charts, Cassidy's "Could It Be Forever?" was No. 18, down from the previous week's high of 15 and the Partridge Family's "Am I Losing You?" was

No. 44 and climbing. On the LP chart, his first LP in his own name, "Cherish," was No. 15, down from 12, where it had stayed for three weeks, and "The Partridge Family Shopping Bag" was 29 and climbing.

Cassidy doesn't say anything startling when interviewed, but he works up steam a couple of times. For instance, he says, "People say to me, 'Give our kids something to follow, something to believe in.' Everybody wants to make me the Pied Piper and I'm not.

"Adults say, 'You have all this influence on our youth. What are you doing to save them from this wicked world?'

"How can I tell anyone what to do? How do I know what is right for them? What is right for me is not necessarily right for you. It's only right for me at this time.

"Sometimes the kids themselves ask. They write and want advice and say, 'I know you'd know how to handle things like this.' How would I? I couldn't handle things like that when I was that age."

Cassidy also enjoys talking about times he has disguised himself to get to stages with no easy entrance, such as at Atlantic City. "And I've had to move three times in the Los Angeles area. Kids come to my house, which I can't tole-

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