

MUSICBOX

Will the real David Cassidy stand up? That was the question superstar pop idol David asked himself a year ago when he realised the public image of Cassidy was submerging himself. So he announced his "retirement" and set out to rediscover himself.

A new recording deal with R.C.A. helped him to shrug off some of the associations of the past, and the therapy was completed with a recording session in Hollywood for which he gathered around him musicians and writers far removed from his former life.

The result, an album called "The Higher They Climb",

released this week in Britain, which loosely follows a theme describing the rise and fall of a pop superstar.

Guesting with Cassidy on the album were Bruce Johnston and Carl Wilson (Beach Boys), Flo and Eddie (ex Turtles, Zappa), Jerry Beckley and Dewey Bunnell (of the group America), Harry Nilsson and Richie Furay.

David handled the production himself with the help of Bruce Johnston and the album comes across as a successful attempt by Cassidy to prove to the world that he can rock 'n' roll with the best of them and he is now a man to be taken seriously.

The album opens with a Cassidy original, aptly titled "When I'm a Rock 'n' Roll Star", and moves on to an excellent work of Gene Vincent's "Be-Bop-A-Lula" complete with tasty

guitar break from West Coast musician Bill House. Side one also includes his current single "I Write The Songs" (written by Bruce Johnston), plus an early Nilsson song "This Could Be The Night", re-written by Cassidy, and a splendidly musical re-work of the Brian Wilson-Mika Love song "Darlin'."

Side two opens with the controversial Ned Doherty song "Get It Up For Love" (originally the 'A' side of the single), a drivingly rhythmic number with an almost soul feel to it, followed by "Fix Of Your Love", another Cassidy original, and a spoken dialogue piece "Massacre At Park Bench" — a touch of satire about a fallen idol. There's also "Common Thief", a Bill House song which is David's favourite track, and "Love In Bloom", written by David and Richie Furay.

A final comment from David himself: "This album is me emerging on a new level. It's a first step and it was a therapy album for me, spitting it all out".



DAVID CASSIDY... climbing high with new album.