



DAVID CASSIDY AT 40

David Cassidy ready to rock again with new film and album

By Ryan Murphy

Night News Wire

David Cassidy is a pop-culture pioneer. As the star of the smash TV show "The Partridge Family," which ran from 1970 to 1974, the bell-bottom-wearing Cassidy ushered in the era of the lunch-box icon. Over one million metal meal totes stamped with Cassidy's pimple-free face were sold in the early '70s, along with zillions of David dolls and coloring books.

And then there were those records. As Keith, the lead singer of the Partridge clan, which also featured the background vocals of Shirley Jones and Danny Bonaduce and the zesty tambourine skills of Susan Dey, Cassidy was, in his heyday, a one-man version of the New Kids on the Block. As a solo artist, he had several gold records, including "I Think I Love You," which sold an astonishing six million copies. Sadly, the music literally died in May 1974, when, at the height of his career, a 14-year-old fan got carried away at one of his shows in Great Britain, had a heart attack in the stands and passed away to the strains of "Cherish." "I wanted to close the book on all the madness," Cassidy says of his sudden retirement.

Years of reclusion

After years of reclusion, Cassidy moved to London. "I didn't fancy myself doing Love Boat guest-shots," he says, "so I did some theater and worked my a--- off to get some credibility." His skills polished, his hair more feathered and luxurious than ever, Cassidy returns to the American spotlight propelled by a comeback that roars into full gear this month.

He has two new movies coming out — including "Spirit of '76," a bicentennial/disco spoof — not to mention a new album, the appropriately titled David Cassidy. "It's the best album I've ever heard! It rocks!" boasts Cassidy. And what's the second-best? The Chipmunks' first album."

QUESTION: What's your favorite article of womens' clothing, David?

ANSWER: What? Um ... well, if I had to choose one ... Oh boy, that's a hard one. I have so many favorites. Yikes! I guess I'd have to go with a teddy or a camisole ... they slip off so easily.

QUESTION: To you, what is the most exciting thing about your comeback?

ANSWER: People are listening to the songs. People are coming up to me and saying, "I never thought I'd buy a David Cassidy record. I know 'The Partridge Family' was really successful, but frankly I hated the old stuff you did and I love this." When you can turn it around — how great! When people come up to me, I wish I had a camera to capture the looks on their faces. They light up — it's like seeing an old friend.

QUESTION: If you could immerse yourself in a bathtub full of any hot liquid, what would that liquid be?

ANSWER: Warm Jell-O. There's something sexy about heated gelatin.

QUESTION: Tell the truth — did you and Susan Dey ever have anything going on the set of "The Partridge Family?"

ANSWER: We had a lot going,

but I was always on the road, she was always going out with older men, so we had to settle for being really close friends. She's like a sister. And I'm thrilled for her success on "L.A. Law."

QUESTION: You're renowned for your tremendous hair style. What are your grooming secrets to get that feathered look?

ANSWER: It's weird! I don't know why people make such a fuss over my hair, but they do. My hair tips for guys are try and hold onto it! I've had so many different looks. I've had it short, shaved, everything. Now it's longer again. I don't pay too

That 'Partridge Family' star has come out of hiding and is ready to roll again

much attention to it, really. If I'm just hanging out, I wash it every other day. When it gets longer I blow dry it only because it bothers me to put clothes on and have wet hair hanging on your collar. I don't use a lot of junk, just a little mousse or something.

QUESTION: In the '70s, you were constantly surrounded by ravenous groupies. With a new album out, how do you feel about the possibility of a resurgence in David Cassidy mania?

ANSWER: Groupies are scary, man. People have always been kind of weird with me. I attract strange people.

QUESTION: Can you pinpoint one specific scary groupie incident?

ANSWER: You would have had to have been there, I guess, to believe the madness. I did have one unbelievable thing happen. There was this one girl who moved from Greece to Los Angeles in 1977 to be near me. Somehow she found out where I lived and she moved into my air-conditioning unit for six weeks. Honest to God! I'm not lying, ask my ex-wife. She lived in the air-conditioning unit on the outside of my house!

Wild ...

Totally wild! And I only found out because one night she left the unit to take a walk and somebody tried to rape her and she was screaming bloody murder and I came out and saved her. I took her to a hotel, put her up for five days. I called the Greek consulate and said, "Look, this person came here, she's not well-adjusted, she's been living in my air-conditioning unit and I insist that you fly her home."

QUESTION: You are the most youthful 40-year-old I've ever seen. What moisturizer do you use?

ANSWER: There's this stuff that I buy at the Thrifty Drug Store for \$1.99 ... It's got aloe vera in it. I buy a big tub, rub it in, and that's that ... I highly recommend it.

QUESTION: If you could be reincarnated as any man's fingertips, whose would you be?

ANSWER: Ha! Who's doing Liz Taylor now? (It is explained that she's dating an ex-construction worker.) Oh yeah, him. I guess I'd be his fingertips. I've always had a thing for Liz. She looks like my mother.