



David Cassidy, 40, who played a teenaged heart-throb on TV, has a hit record again.

# David Cassidy happy to have another a hit

He has said it 873 times during the past month but David Cassidy is sincere when he says it for the 874th.

"It's so good to have a hit again."

The hit is *Lyn' to Myself*, one of several songs the former idol of millions of teenyboppers wrote with Sue Shifrin and included on David Cassidy, his first album in 12 years. Released a month ago on the enterprising independent Enigma label, which is more commonly associated with Mojo Nixon or the Dead Milkmen, it drops Cassidy back onto the pop-rock expressway.

He's been travelling ever since, knocking off dozens of interviews each day and attending meet 'n' greet parties at night.

"Home is my suitcase these past four weeks," he says, tired but accommodating. "It's been a real blitz, it's been unbelievable. I'm real bleary-eyed now but it's great to be back."

Cassidy may have turned 40 years of age, but to many people he is still teenaged Keith Partridge, heart-throb leader of TV's Partridge Family, ersatz rock and roll band.

He still elicits screams of once-dormant schoolgirl lust from women within the music business. Recently, in Toronto, Cassidy wound up running down the street, Beatles-style, to elude his adult fans.

Like Donny Osmond, who last year made a successful return to recording, time has allowed Cassidy to capitalize on his past and transcend it at the same time. Cassidy is quick to point out, however, that he's been busy as an actor since 1978 and had not consciously sought to



Tom Harrison

Rock

make a comeback.

He is even prouder of the fact that, while Osmond hitched his career to the trend in dance music, he has stuck with the rock he always preferred even while the Partridge Family was recording light pop fluff.

"Probably because of my television career and the character I played, people assumed I was into all that stuff," he explains. "But I was playing in rock and roll bands all through high school and was into people like Jimi Hendrix and Jeff Beck."

"I was hired to play a part (in *The Partridge Family*)," he continues. "I wasn't even asked if I could sing. It's taken a long time for people to see through that. I've finally been able to shed that and be respected for myself and judged by my talent."

Cassidy's return is already media lore. When a Los Angeles radio station called him up on his birthday (April 12) and asked him if it was lonely at the top, Cassidy good-naturedly countered their smart-ass question by replying that it was even lonelier at the bottom.

That remark got him invited onto the station's morning show where he played a few of his demos, which were heard by a director of

Enigma Records.

Now the son of actress Evelyn Ward and the late Jack Cassidy is contemplating a return to performing — which he gave up in 1974 after a 14-year-old girl died of a heart attack at one of his concerts — with a program that will include a generous selection of blasts from his past such as *I Think I Love You* and *Cherish*.

After all, 20 million fans bought those records and are grown up and curious to know what happened to their Keith — er, David.

"I want to do some of that old stuff, too," he says. "I never became this sad old man who played his old hits in Holiday Inn lounges. I haven't played a lot of those for years and they'll be fresh for me, too."

"You know, I used to play (Hendrix's blues workout) *Red House* in high school. I might even stick that into the set, which people might find a little weird."

No weirder than the thought that David has one of his songs on the current album by Asia.

"Oh yeah," he exclaims. "I wrote *Praying For a Miracle* with John Wetton, which looks like it might be the next single. And it looks like I have a song on the next Cher LP."

"People gave me a hard time and couldn't respect me as an actor because they saw me as a rock singer," David Cassidy says of the public reappraisal he is undergoing.

"Other people gave me a hard time as a rock singer because they thought I was an actor. It was a real stigma. People were so concerned about being hip — pseudo-hip. There's less prejudice now."