

# Talent In Action

**DAVID CASSIDY,  
KIM CARNES,  
DAVE ELLINGSON**

*Civic Center, Charleston, W. Va.*

Bell Records president Larry Uttal, who insists a property "must be able to stand on its own away from the TV screen," should be pleased. The Partridge Family's David Cassidy handles his between-taping weekend concert dates like a seasoned trouper.

Cassidy makes the transition from sound-stage Family member to center-stage star with aplomb. Confidence obviously bouyed by mature back-up musicians, he renders the rearranged Family hits without hitch. And he's learned to play to segments of a large house to minimize arena audience alienation.

A female-dominated house of 4,500 here Oct. 9 responded by proving they can scream as loudly for David Cassidy as their big sisters once did for the Monkees. The decibel level topped out late in the show with "I Think I Love You." While the Partridge Family's appeal is demographically broad, the average Cassidy fan appears to be between 9 and 15.

Those Bell hit singles, backbone of the show, deal with sex on a level that Cassidy has obviously outgrown. The cut of his jump suit leaves no doubt that David is a big boy now. It's not boyish charm he projects with moves that are a lot closer to Tom Jones than Davey Jones.

Credit for solid ensemble backing goes to pianist-conductor Everett Gordon.

Former New Christy Minstrels' Dave Ellingson and Kim Carnes (now husband and wife) have the ticklish job of warming up the

house and at the same time preserving some semblance of artistic identity. They succeeded well here, even getting the little girls to sit still (between mandatory whoops for their fave) for some Steve Stills. Impossible.

Ellingson and Carnes are signed individually to Amos Records and each has a single and album scheduled. They're seasoned, young and versatile, and are valuable properties.

**RAY BRACK**