

Talent In Action

DAVID CASSIDY

*Madison Square Garden
New York*

After over a year of personal appearances across the nation, David Cassidy mounted his first New York concert on March 17. The last time he had appeared here was as a supporting actor in a quick-run Broadway comedy "Fig Leaves Are Falling" three years ago.

Enhanced by the pre-sold notoriety that a weekly TV series can earn for its star, Cassidy accomplished what only the fewest of Superstars have achieved—the 22,000 seat Garden was a sellout.

His choice of material and involvement with a lyric is maturing from the early Partridge Family sound. Particularly effective were his handling of a pair of Adam Miller tunes—"Where is the Morning" and "Blind Hope," and Paul Anka's lyric to "One Night Stand."

Visually, Cassidy is packaged in

a tight-fitting white costume and introduces a series of sensually-athletic gyrations that don't fail to stir up even the youngest of his early teen fans. Most of his tunes express a search for, or expression of, young love, and his Gold record versions of "I Think I Love You" and "I Woke Up in Love" turned the Garden into a Canyon of ecstatic squeals. But his message was perhaps best realized during the second stanza of his recent hit "Cherish," when a buoyant 13-year-old crashed a dozen security guards to wrap her arms around him and plant a kiss that 22,000 others had wished was reserved for them.

Everett Gordon led the hard-driving 7-man back-up group for both Cassidy and a fine set by the opening act—Tony Orlando and Dawn.

PHIL BURRELL

DAN B. TISTEIN