



# DAVID CASSIDY

by **GINA**

# LOLLOBRIGIDA

ABOVE: Cassidy turns on fans at Melbourne Cricket Ground.

BELOW: Smiling portrait is a favorite shot by La Lollo.

**Screen sex-symbol Gina Lollobrigida played the role of photographer and reporter when she met the US pop superstar in Melbourne. She writes:**

**DAVID CASSIDY**, the 23-year-old American pop singer, drives young girls mad.

I met him in Melbourne, when I was there to promote my book, "Italia Mia," and to attend, as a guest of honor, a TV award ceremony. I discovered that David was coming to give a series of concerts.

The concert took place in an open stadium — the Melbourne Cricket Ground — and was filled with about 50,000 young girls, their ages ranging from 12 to 18. At least 300 girls fainted during the concert, and many of them were taken to hospital. I saw all this with my own eyes.

David Cassidy is the son of an American actress, Evelyn Ward. At only ten years old, he went to live in Hollywood with his mother, and there he attended lessons at a drama school.

He made his debut as an actor with a television series, "The Partridge Family," but his success really came to fruition when he became a singer.

Over a period of six years he sold 17 million records, received seven gold discs, and earned himself lots of dollars. He

had quickly become the adolescents' idol.

I wanted to photograph him because it is not so easy to drive 50,000 young girls mad, and cause 300 of them to injure themselves. He really is something of a phenomenon.

In Melbourne Cricket Ground, the stage was in the middle of the stadium and there was a space all around the stage. The girls, anxious to see David close-up, left their seats and began to push their way up to the stage. I was there, on the stage, and I could see the poor policemen who had to carry the girls who fainted or were hurt out of the crowd to take them to hospital.

The whole time, David kept saying, "Please don't push. Stand back! I don't want you to hurt yourselves." But there was nothing one could do; the young girls were completely crazy.

I photographed David while he was singing, and later, at the hotel, before leaving. I wanted to photograph him in bed, surrounded by fruit, looking like an adolescent who has just woken up, all fresh and scrubbed, like his young fans.

Because David, indeed, does not look 23 — more like a young boy of 16. Perhaps that is the secret of his success.

