

something they've never seen the likes of before," says Cassidy. "In a perfect world, I'd like them to walk out of here high-fiving each other. That is our intent — to move them, to make them feel that this is the best that I can do. I have dreamt about doing this for years."

The "our" Cassidy refers to his partner Don Reo, who is the co-creator and co-producer of the show, which takes place in the Rio's Copacabana Showroom. Don is also David's writer and producer partner in *The Rat Pack is Back*, which has left the Desert Inn but is expected to soon have another home on the Strip. Cassidy is going two-by-two into *David Cassidy at the Copa* in another way. He has chosen recording and theater star Sheena Easton as his co-star. The main intent here is chemistry.

Easton explains, "That's what excites you; that's what the audience is feeling — that mutual excitement of the performers on stage who are delighting in not only what they've been given to do because it's a challenge and it's stimulating, but also in the other person's performance. "You feed off each other. David's so dynamic and it makes such a difference to go on stage and have that to play off of. When you're doing your own show and you're on stage singing an hour's worth of your hits, that's thrilling in a way. But it's great to have someone driving the show with you."

It will all come together in the storyline which takes place entirely in the nightclub setting of the Copa and spans the second half of the 20th century dramatically and musically. It is actually a story within a story and features many musical standards from various genres beginning with the swing era. It will also include some Cassidy and Easton hits, as well as original songs written by Cassidy, all within the confines of the nightclub. But it is the behind-the-scenes love story between Johnny Flamingo and Ruby Bombay, Cassidy and Easton's respective characters, which spans five decades, that is the focus of this steamy show. Cassidy hopes to convey the message that time has no meaning and true love always perseveres — it never dies.

"My character is somewhat autobiographical — humorous, ironic, tragic and a survivor," Cassidy says. "The story has a wide and dramatic arc. We never take ourselves too seriously. It's about making people laugh while blowing the roof off the joint."

In choosing a co-star to play the female lead character, Cassidy was looking for someone who was a "triple threat" — someone who could sing, dance and act and who had her own persona and stature as a per-



Cassidy feels that it is necessary to take risks and that to do anything great, he has to be able to challenge himself.

former. Though he felt her fame was a wonderful asset, what really drew him to Easton was her talent.

"How many actresses can really sing?" he asks rhetorically. "I'm not talking about record singing; I'm talking about get-out-on-the-stage-and-really-belt-it-out singing every night. Sheena has an incredible instrument. I think she's going to blow a lot of people away because they've never seen her do in this town what she is going to be doing in this show. I can't wait to sing with her."

The concept for the show was something Cassidy actually came up with four-and-a-half years ago. He was working on a self-created album in the studio that he called

"Welcome to Coolsville," inspired by the fact he had begun going to New York in the winter and writing songs singly and with his wife, Sue Shifrin. In the process, he also started taking beautiful standards and "tearing them apart" and putting a contemporary spin on them for the album, which he saw as musical play in which all the songs would work. Then David ended up doing "Blood Brothers" on Broadway, eventually going on tour with the show to the West End in London and to Toronto. The day after he closed in Toronto, he came to Las Vegas to star in *EFX* at the MGM Grand. So the project remained unfinished.

"I never forgot about it, though, because