

I thought they were some of the best songs I, and Sue and I, had ever written," he says.

For Cassidy, who achieved fame of gigantic proportions with the 1970's ABC-TV series *The Partridge Family*, becoming the world's highest paid solo performer with the largest fan club in history by the age of 21, his current Rio project holds a much more personal meaning. At 24, burnt out and having lost his identity, David had walked away from it all at the height of his fame, assuming that when he wanted to come back, he could.

But with the failure of an ill-conceived TV series he starred in, *Man Undercover*, culled from his Emmy-nominated TV performance in the film that marked his return to the public eye, *A Chance to Live*, he found that the perception in Hollywood was that he was through. He spent much of the '80s in the depths of despair, despondent over the fact he wasn't being given the opportunity to do the kind of work he thought he could do.

Making a decision to do nothing to compete with what David Cassidy, complete with all the fame and adoration, had been, Cassidy went back to his beginnings, hoping to create a reason for him to get up in the morning. That reason was the work itself - and the object was to find something he really wanted to do. He began taking acting and writing classes and found his passion returning. *David Cassidy at the Copa* exemplifies that passion and signifies how far David has come on his journey to self-awareness. He has come to terms with the forces in his past that so impacted his life, including his rocky relationship with his father, Jack Cassidy, whom he says was "an alcoholic and a very self-destructive creative genius" who resented his son's success and fame.

"Five years of analysis will help you come to terms with things if you have a good analyst," Cassidy smiles. "Just time and having my own son and being a father has helped. I think that after my dad passed away, I pretty much forgave him, although the pain and hurt were still there as was the sense of loss and despair. I carried a lot of that with me for a long while. But I want to wake up in the morning and feel good and feel happy and, fortunately, that's what my life is now. I think I've forgiven myself for the mistakes I've made and have been able to pat myself on the back for what I've been able to accomplish. I have a loving, wonderful partner in my life and we have a great son and I have a career that's never been better."

Most importantly, Cassidy adds, he has no fear of failure now. He feels that it is

necessary to take risks and that to do anything great, he has to be able to challenge himself. He has never forgotten his father's rare advice, which raised the bar for him professionally. "He told me at the height of my fame, in my dressing room at Wembley Stadium where I was playing in front of 40,000 people, that someday all that was going to go away and it would be very difficult for me," Cassidy recalls. "But he told me not to give up because the only thing that survives is talent and I had it." Cassidy's life and career was portrayed in an NBC-TV movie, *The David Cassidy Story*, which aired last month, for which he was executive producer and was given creative control.

Where Sheena Easton is concerned, she is thrilled that Cassidy has the bulk of the creative control over *the Copa*. When Cassidy presented his vision of the show to her, he kept using phrases like "the integrity of the show" and "the quality of the show." "That's wonderful, because I've worked with producers where the box office was what was important — the dollars, let's save a penny here," she says. Easton sees the production as an opportunity that comes along very rarely. Having gotten her first recording contract while she was still in drama school, she found herself getting burnt out after 10 years of recording and touring. And the theater has always been in her blood.

"After a decade of doing the same thing, I knew if I was going to stay interested in this business that I'd have to go in other directions," she says. "After a while, how much money can you make? I thank God that I'm in a business where I get paid to do what I'd do for fun, so financially I'm doing fine. I don't need to work for that reason so I work for what stimulates me, for what gives me that rush I don't get anywhere else. As a result, I'm much more selective with my projects, especially because I'm a single mother with two young children that I take with me wherever I go."

The Scotland-born Easton, who has won two Grammys, was the first

artist to have five top records on all five of Billboard's charts and has had all of her albums certified Gold or Platinum, began breaking things up, doing a combination of her own concerts and acting. She starred in *Man of La Mancha* and *Grease* on Broadway as well as doing acting roles on TV. Now 40, with two adopted children, a boy, 5, and a girl, 4, she remarks that things have changed greatly for her since she had her first hit, "Morning Train," when she was 21.

"I had to be very single-focused back then," Easton says. "It was make a record, tour, tour tour, then make a record, tour, tour, tour. It takes six months to make the record, then you're on the road touring for six months. Each year goes by and after a while, it's like constantly using a battery without recharging it. I've been offered quite a few tours in the last couple of years, but that would have meant schlepping my kids all over the country and I just didn't want to do it. My kids have changed my life completely — everything is about them; they come first. And we'll be in Las Vegas for at least a year. It's a wonderful opportunity to have that Broadway experience but in Las Vegas, which is a wonderful place." ◇◇

