

INTERVIEW:

From teen idol to mature star

David Cassidy proves there's life after 'The Partridge Family'

By Lori Hoffman

David Cassidy knows what it is like to be shadowed by one's own success. He also knows what it is like to take advantage of that success and use it to launch yourself into different career directions.

While many people still think of Cassidy as the teen idol from the TV series *The Partridge Family*, 30 years later the 50-year-old singer/actor has re-invented himself as a star in Las Vegas. First he earned acclaim in an already established Vegas hit, *EFX*, then he conceived (with partner Don Reo), co-wrote, and provided songs for his current hit show, *David Cassidy at the Copa*, co-starring Sheena Easton. He has also had a career as a respected Broadway actor, starring in *Blood Brothers*, and before that in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. In between these gigs he has continued his recording career, most recently with the 1998 release, *Old Trick New Dog*.

Cassidy is taking a brief hiatus from his



David Cassidy now has a hit show in Las Vegas, co-starring Sheena Easton.

Vegas success to appear at Harrah's Atlantic City this Friday and Saturday. In an interview in *Las Vegas Weekly*, he talked about his current life and career. Noted Cassidy, "I can honestly say that this is the best time of my life and career because now I'm doing more stuff that I've always wanted to do, and throughout, my fans have proven loyal over the decades. They pay to see me, buy my records, see my shows . . ."

Cassidy's fan base is amazing. In doing research, this writer found an incredible number of David Cassidy and Partridge Family Web sites. The volume of fan sites is as varied and passionate as those devoted to any of today's hottest new stars — Britney, Christine, 'N Sync and the rest.

In the same interview, Cassidy talked about achieving stardom at such an early age. "It is a double-edged sword. We all want to be successful, but I never had any designs on being a 'superstar.' I just wanted to act like my father (Broadway actor Jack Cassidy) and have him appreciate me for my talents. Both my parents were actors/singers . . . my frame of reference in this business has always been the work itself, not fame, not money. I survived a remarkable experience at a young age. During my last concert appear-

David Cassidy in concert

Sept. 8-9 at 8 pm

Harrah's Broadway by the Bay Theater

Tickets are \$49, available

at the Harrah's box office or by calling

1-800-2HARRAH.

ance in the '70s, I was playing to audiences of 40,000-60,000 people, and then I left. I wanted to see what else David Cassidy could do."

What Cassidy is doing right now is enjoying success in Las Vegas in a show of his own design. In an interview in *Play Rio* magazine, he explained that the show is a combination of a Broadway musical and a headliner concert. "I want the audience to walk away with the belief that they're seeing something that they've never seen before. This project has been my dream for years."

For his Harrah's show, Cassidy will be making his Atlantic City headliner debut, accompanied by a 12-piece orchestra. He'll perform all his fan favorites like "I Think I Love You," and "I Woke Up in Love This Morning" plus highlights from his post-Partridge career.

David Cassidy is a survivor whose work ethic allowed him to weather the ups and downs of a career that started so high, and survived a crash or two along the way.