

Nostalgic times for Cassidy

By Hannah Stephenson

David Cassidy talks to Modern & Mature about growing up in the spotlight ahead of a nostalgic new UK tour.

Anyone vaguely familiar with the pop world of the 70s could not have missed the two camps of teenybop female fans around at that time - one lot screaming for Partridge Family star David Cassidy and the other swooning over Donny Osmond.

At 21, David was the world's highest paid entertainer but unlike Donny, who had the protection and stability of his family throughout his early career, David, whose parents divorced when he was three, found the pressures of fame too much.

The baby-faced star whose hits included Cherish, I Think I Love You and Could It Be Forever, quit showbiz in the mid-70s at the height of his career, when he was mobbed by fans everywhere he went, had to exit hotels and other venues hidden underneath a blanket or in laundry baskets.

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He admits it took him some time to adjust to life in the real world. He spent a few years in analysis, gave up the drugs and alcohol which had supported him during his dark times and was twice divorced before finding his long term partner and wife, songwriter Sue Shifrin, with whom he has a 13-year-old son, Beau.

He has since resumed his career to great success, reinventing himself as a musical star and Las Vegas stalwart and in June will embark on a nostalgic Once In A Lifetime tour in this country, which also features The Osmonds, David Essex and The Bay City Rollers.

Although Donny won't be part of the Osmond line-up (Wayne, Merrill, Jay and Jimmy are performing), David recalls that he never felt the rivalry with Donny that was perceived in Britain during their heyday.

"We met up for the first time in the early 90s when we both had hits in America. He is completely different to me. He was the Osmonds, with their innocence and all that. I was playing a part on television."

"But I was 21 or 22 when he was 14 or 15. He loved all of it. I was like (he covers and covers his head protectively with his hands), leave me alone!"

"I was more of an adult, even though I looked young. I was dating women who were 25 or 30 when he was still 14. He truly was an innocent. I was not. It was pretty obvious when we were talking, even though we are both now adults and have kids and are married, there's a mutual respect for the talent. That's where our common ground is, not screaming girls."

The man who made his name as Keith Partridge in the hit TV series The Partridge Family may be 55 now, but women still scream and hold their hands out in the hope of touching their idol at his concerts. And despite

everything, he has retained his sense of humour, asking younger fans in the audience if they have any idea who he is. *"With my life, if you don't have a sense of humour, you'd commit hari kiri."*

For details of the 'Once In A Lifetime' tour, phone the national tour hotline on 0871 220 0260, or visit: www.tdpromo.com

