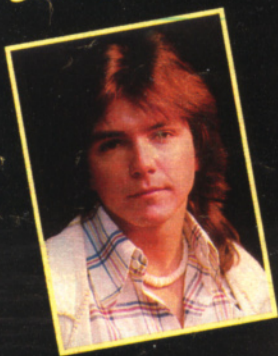


Living Daydream

He drove us wild then – and he's still doing it today! David Cassidy is back – so stand clear for the stampede of adoring fans!



By Peter Robertson

Happy with Sue, his wife.



AT venues all over Britain, thousands of 40-something women are converging to scream, cry, stamp their feet and generally behave as they did in their heady youth. For, more than a quarter of a century after hitting the heights as the world's biggest teen idol, David Cassidy is back performing pop concerts again.

David, who'll turn 52 on the first day of his UK tour, looks very good for his years. But just how aware is he that many of the young girls who used to live and breathe David Cassidy in the 70s are now mature, wonderful women?

"I'm very aware of it!" he declares. "I communicate with my fans and get loads of feedback. The fans were responsible for choosing some of the songs that I'm going to be doing live. It's been great.

"I receive an enormous amount of goodwill out there on the planet, from people on whose lives I've obviously had an impact, and who've made my life a blessed thing."

When asked why these women still go weak at the knees over him after all this time, David simply says, "I couldn't explain. I couldn't explain then why I had the largest fan-club in history, and why it was so massively successful for years in the Seventies. I can only say that the kind of loyalty shown, especially in the UK

where I haven't been for so long, makes it that much more special and extraordinary."

Even nowadays, it seems many of the women in David's concert audiences believe David is singing for each one of them individually.

"I don't know that's true," says David modestly (*Believe us, David, it's true!*). "But, if they do believe it, then that's great. I think any fan of any artist feels a personal connection with

their songs. I do wish I could see other artists."

David was born in York. His parents, who were both actors, split when David was a child and his father Jack Cassidy subsequently married the actress Shirley Jones. As a teenager growing up in Los Angeles, David appeared in TV series such as *Bonanza* and *Ironsides* before being cast as Keith, alongside his stepmother Shirley, in sitcom, *The Partridge Family*.

That show garnered a huge rating and several songs, including international No 1 *Time to Love You*. Above all, he made David a pin-up, a throb and a superstar singer.



There have been many money offers for reruns of *The Partridge Family* but I have turned them down. The only reason anyone would do it at this point would be for nostalgia. Fortunately, I don't care. And I think it will taint forever what I did away from and what I did perfect because it had a beginning, a middle and an end."

By the age of 21, David was the world's highest paid performer. As a solo artist, he had a string of hits including *Could I Have This One Forever*, *How Can We Be Sure?* and *Daydream*. He performed sell-out concerts at the large stadiums around the globe. Everywhere he went he was greeted with mass hysteria. And his fan-club became the largest in history, exceeding those of Elvis Presley and The Beatles.

BUT, to the shock of his fans, David ended his pop career in 1974 whilst at the very top, following the death of a 14-year-old girl who suffered a heart attack one of his London concerts.

"That tragedy did not have any influence on my decision to quit. I'd already announced my decision months prior to that. It was ending that chapter of my career," he explains. His main reason was that he was exhausted and had