

SEX AND DRUGS AND  
ROCK'N'ROLL - THE  
PARTRIDGE FAMILY  
STAR DAVID CASSIDY  
HAS DONE IT ALL

# THE PRICE 0



David lived  
in a bubble in  
the early days.



David has now  
found more  
of a balance  
in his life.

David Cassidy swept through Australia in 1974 - the start of a world tour he now describes as a 'sexual playground'. Wherever in the world David went he was mobbed by thousands of girls, all clamouring to get closer to him. When David toured Australia in the '70s, a few of those girls found their dream of getting close to their idol come true.

"There are a couple of Australian girls who stick in my mind, but I'd never mention names... But yeah, I remember there was a beautiful, young girl in Sydney, David smiles.

"I had 30 people touring with me then - mostly heterosexual males - and we thought Australians were the most beautiful women in the world. The people with me sometimes brought a girl to me after the shows.

"It sounds hard to believe but often all I wanted to do was talk. I'd been removed from society by my fame, so when I met girls I wanted to find out what their lives were like," David says.

"Everyone assumed my life was so fantastic and theirs was mundane, but I longed for that. I wanted to talk about what it was like to go to work, queue at the bank or go out on a date because I couldn't do any of those things. People probably thought it was nutty, but often with those girls I wanted to talk about things like that."

When David arrived in Australia in 1974 he was kicking off his final world tour. He was the world's highest paid solo performer and his fan club had more members than ones for Elvis or the Beatles.

Soon after he arrived Down Under he hooked up with Italian actress Gina Lollobrigida who was fascinated by the star of *The Partridge Family*.

"The Italian sex goddess was about twice my age, but very attractive," David says. "The first time she met me she said: 'I hear you're a monster. I want to meet the monster.' And she looked down at my crotch."

When David played to a crowd of 65,000 screaming fans at the MCG in Melbourne, Gina introduced him. After the show she persuaded David to feature in a book she was producing of photos of fascinating men. So David found himself lying on a bed, draped in a sheet, and covered with fruit while the Italian actress photographed him.

"Today I often talk to my son Beau about my time in Australia," David says. At the age of 56, David has written about his whirlwind life in *Could it be Forever? My Story*. He talks about the fame, the unseen pressures, the groupies, his flirtation

with marijuana and his time in Australia.

"For so many years I'd worked seven days a week from morning until night," he says. "The early '70s were a blur and I lived in a bubble. I couldn't go

anywhere, walk down the street or have a relationship. There weren't 15 minutes in the day free. I was lonely.

"But finally, in Australia and New Zealand, I could go water-skiing, see the sights and go to a restaurant for dinner. And I was introduced to some beautiful women," he says.

To the outside world, David's lifestyle appeared idyllic. The reality was different. His work schedule was gruelling and David had little control of the multimillion-dollar business growing around him.

The saccharine-sweet *The Partridge Family* image that catapulted him to fame wasn't the real David and

**“I never became a drug abuser. I found myself thinking: ‘You stop or you die’”**

