

F F A M E

he wanted to have more control over his image and his music. But all the time the cash registers were ringing, the people controlling his career refused to give him his freedom.

For a brief period, as he hung out with other musicians in the '70s, he experimented with marijuana to find an escape from being David Cassidy.

'When I was young and in LA, almost everyone at school was turning on to smoking marijuana. It was an innocent thing in those days - peace, love and let's have a joint. But I never did any other drugs and I rarely drank. I couldn't because I was working all the time,' David says.

'I saw drugs as a one-way street. I never became a drug abuser. I soon found myself thinking: "You stop this or you die." So I stopped, but a few people I knew didn't survive.'

After his 1974 world tour, David, then 24, stepped out of the spotlight to focus on finding normality and happiness.

'I was burnt out emotionally, physically and mentally,' he says. 'I had to step away to survive. I got to meet Elvis - I guess that frightened me a little. I saw a really genuine person who'd been lost. There was a sadness in him. I thought: "Well, this could be you in 10 years if you don't stop now."'

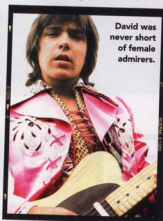
David and his wife Sue have been together for 20 years. They

live in Florida and have a 16-year-old son, Beau, and David also has a 20-year-old daughter, Katie, from a previous relationship. David still tours, he's just released a new album and he now breeds and races thoroughbred horses, a passion he shares with Beau.

'I still have fans coming to see me from Australia,' he smiles. 'Last weekend I performed in Chicago and there were Australians there. They were in the front, screaming and yelling, and it was great.'

'I don't know when I'll be back in Australia, but I want to return with my family to show them the places that mean so much to me.'

● **Could it be Forever? My Story** by David Cassidy (Headline, \$35).



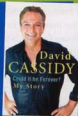
David was never short of female admirers.

WIN

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● For your chance to win one of 30 copies of David Cassidy's book *Could it be Forever? My Story* (Headline, \$35), tell us who is your favourite famous heart-throb from your youth and why. Send your entry to New Idea/Could it be Forever? My Story, Private Bag 9960, North Sydney.

■ David's new book offers insight into how the rich and famous often long for a life away from the spotlight.



For full terms and conditions, visit www.newidea.com.au. Competition commences on May 28, 2007, at 9am and closes on June 8, 2007, at 5pm AEST. The winners will be the entries selected, having regard to skill and originality, at the promoter's premises by June 13, 2007. Total prize value is \$1050 as at May 21, 2007. The promoter is Pacific Magazines Pty Ltd, 35-51 Mitchell Street, McMahon's Point, NSW, 2060 (ABN 16 097 410 898).