

Cassidy enjoys concert tour, but desires acting challenge

By JOAN E. VADEBONCOEUR

London's elegant Dorchester Hotel manager breathed a sigh of relief when he discovered that David Cassidy had chosen to rent a boat while spending a week in London.

Last January, when the singing idol had been in residence, the hotel's security force was increased and still tested beyond endurance with females trying to reach the star.

But the undaunted young female population of London wasn't to be thwarted without a try at their idol when he visited there two weeks ago.

Cassidy reported, in a telephone interview Monday, "I had rented a yacht and it was out in the Thames about a hundred yards. There were kids on the docks. It was fantastic. They were singing and chanting. And a couple tried to swim out."

He sounded almost disappointed when he explained that the river security police retrieved them before they might prove to be the female equivalent of Mark Spitz.

Teen idol

After more than two years as the idol of the teenyboopers, the 22-year-old slender

youth maintains an amazing ebullience about his work.

Coming from a show business family, he is wise enough to realize he is fortunate to have such early, phenomenal success and to know that it will not last more than



DAVID CASSIDY

a few years. For this, he is willing to sacrifice privacy and a large chunk of his young years. It will bring him relative monetary security in later years.

The London visit, during which he filmed a short documentary for the BBC, brought another thrill for the young man. At the airport, there is something called "the queen's booth" at which he was the first since the Beatles to be permitted to conduct a press conference.

"It was fantastic, really incredible. There were a couple of thousand girls," he said. Yet, The Partridge Family, the series which, combined with its recordings, made him a star, is scheduled to be filmed in England presently.

Touring time

During the week's stay, Cassidy devoted one day to a flying trip to two cities on the European continent—Amsterdam and Hamburg. "I see half day in each and I'd love to go back to both and see them, especially Amsterdam. That looked beautiful!"

No doubt he will. Each year, he takes six weeks and travels totally alone. Last year, he managed to get through Italy and France before being recognized in London and mobbed. "It was great," he said, "I didn't have to be any place at any certain time and I could go wherever I wanted."

The youth sounds wistful occasionally about his life, just as he did a year ago when discussing his lack of privacy with me, he observed, "There are no more supermarkets or movies for me."

Years to act

But the mood does not last long. "I do my job just like a cop who puts on a uniform or a fireman does his trip. It's a job with risks."

Admittedly, he's bored with the ABC-TV show and looks forward to the time when he can play "anything that's different." It requires little of his acting ability. "It's so casual now. I don't put much energy into it." The energy is saved for the concerts which occupy almost every week end, even during filming the series.

Since his experience prior to Partridge Family was strictly as an actor, he is anxious to get back to something more challenging. "I don't like to think negatively about my acting," he commented.

Cassidy believes he can follow the route of Elvis Presley who he believes has gone from teen idol to "a very good singer" who is enjoyed by a wide range of audience.

At least, one thing is better about weekends, he said. He can sleep later than the 6 a.m. rising time required by his series schedule. That means he'll arrive in Syracuse from his Saturday night engagement in Springfield, Mass., just in time for his 3 p.m. appearance here at the War Memorial.



SONGSTRESS. Sultry Lyn Collins, who has a hit record with "Think," will be featured with James Brown, his J.B. Blues' Band and Bobby Byrd, when Brown pays his annual Syracuse visit Saturday at 8:30 p.m. in the War Memorial Auditorium.

SRT auditions to begin

Syracuse Repertory Theater's managing director Rex Henriot begins auditions in New York today for the new fall portion of SRT's season.

Henriot will interview prospective stage managers today, followed by three days of screening approximately 35 actors daily.

He is searching for actors and actresses for "Child's Play," the opening attraction of Season Seven, and for "Miss Lonely Hearts." Also, Henriot will be negotiating for a guest artist contract for one of two shows which SRT will present in conjunction with the Syracuse University drama department.

Managing the audition sessions will be Judy Schoen, who left her properties mistress position with SRT at the end of last season to become stage manager for the New York company of "Godspell."