

New David Cassidy Is on the Horizon

NEWS AMERICA WIRE SERVICE

NEW YORK — An old model David Cassidy is on the way out. His fans in the United States will not get to see the new model right away, however.

Like a Broadway show, he is going to try it out of town — way out. His fans in Australia will be the first to see the teeny weeny popper idol's new look.

For his forthcoming tour, the 23-year-old superstar has skillfully blended some of his own personal favorites, which helped take him to the top, with a succession of new ideas he has been working on.

"It's going to be much more of a show," he said.

"I'll be showing far more of myself—it will be very different to the shows I have done in America and London."

Rumors of the new Cassidy show format have dominated show business gossip in Hollywood.

Promoters from four European countries are vigorously vying with each other in a rush to be first with it on the Continent.

David and his team are keeping them at bay till the show has completed its Australian run.

Plays It Close

"Naturally we're playing it close at this time, but after Australia the secret will be out," David grinned.

"I can't say too much, but it may be something that my fans aren't completely prepared for.

"We've been lucky in keeping it a secret so long. It's a real mystery and everyone is snooping and trying to find out what we have come up with.

"I will tell you this: I never wanted to be the only one on all the time. It will have other people in it.

"You could say it may be more of a musical comedy song and dance show," he allowed.

"Like a two-act play with me in both acts."

David said he would still slip into his white Partridge Family suit during the Australian tour but it would no longer be the focal point for his act.

Turning Point

"This tour may mean more to me than any other," he said. "It marks the turning point in my career."

"My hopes for my show business future are wrapped in the success of this trip." David Cassidy has hinted that his image will undergo an overhaul when he returns from Australia.

"There comes a time when everyone must decide which way they wish to go," he said.

"Unfortunately no one can really be a Peter Pan forever."

For the past six years the world's top teeny popper idol has lived the jealously guarded existence of a million-dollar investment in human nature.

His secretaries, managers and press agents have discussed every move and every public word David Cassidy has uttered.

"I can't say honestly that I enjoyed going along with the other people every time," he said.

But the dynamite success of the formula made up for any personal misgivings the top pop star had.

Amply Rewarded

He has certainly been amply rewarded: every record album and single released became a gold disc overnight.

"It was the people around me as much as myself really,"

said David modestly. "They recognized which markets I would appeal to, and the sort of songs that would go down best."

"They kept me on top and kept me going with records that topped the charts."

As part of the new David Cassidy image, David's first move was to announce he was leaving the Partridge Family.

"When I get back from Australia I want to live a little. I plan to relax and perhaps make a film some time."

"I feel that I have the potential to be a good actor," he said.

One of his dreams now is to appear in a film with his father, actor Jack Cassidy.

"He's an excellent actor and I respect him very much."

"We've never done a vehicle together, and I'd love to work with him."

"Our careers have been too hectic to plan anything in the past—but in the future the opportunity may well arise," he said.

David said he had looked at a lot of screenplays without finding anything that he really liked.

"I'm not going to do a movie unless it's really, really good," he said.

While he still puts out Partridge Family albums, he has recently released his first album with a new producer, Rick Jarrau.

In a striking departure from the previous album covers, "Dreams Are Nothin' More Than Wishes . . ." features a dripping David emerging from a swimming pool.

The music inside includes songs like "Bali Hai," from South Pacific, Peggy Lee's old hit "Fever" and John Sebastian's "Daydream."

American music critics have responded to his new style favorably—even adult reviewers have warmed to the extended David Cassidy.

While David Cassidy remodels his show and looks to new goals, other teen pop stars are beginning to find the going a little slow.

Voice Change

Donny Osmond's voice has changed. Merrill Osmond became the first of the singing brothers to get married (the fans took it beautifully) and two of the Jackson Five are now married.

Gloria Stavers, who edits the leading U.S. teen magazine, "16", said there had been no drop-off in David Cassidy's popularity rating.

"There are hundreds of girls who say they are in love with Donny Osmond, but we can tell a lot of them are getting bored," she added, pointedly.