

# CASSIDY FOR LOGIES!

FROM OUR HOLLYWOOD BUREAU

**DAVID CASSIDY**, the world's top pop star, will be a guest of honor at the TV WEEK Logie Awards.

He and several other top international stars yet to be named will present the awards in a live telecast on the Channel 9 network.

The Logie Awards will be held at the Southern Cross Hotel, Melbourne, on Friday, March 8.

David Cassidy's appearance at the Logie Awards in the middle of his Australian tour has been arranged with Harry M. Miller Productions.

David, star of the hit TV series *The Partridge Family*, begins his Australian tour with a concert at Randwick Racecourse, Sydney, on Saturday, March 2.

His other concerts are:

● **Brisbane** (Milton Park Tennis Courts), Wednesday, March 6.

● **Melbourne** (Melbourne Cricket Ground), Sunday, March 10.

● **Adelaide** (Memorial Drive Tennis Courts), Tuesday, March 12.

● **Perth** (WA Cricket Association Ground), Friday, March 15.

In Sydney last week Mr. Harry M. Miller said that David Cassidy was thrilled to be attending the Logie Awards.

"He has told me how much he is looking forward to the Logies," Mr. Miller said.

"He has heard a great deal about the Logies and had no hesitation in accepting the invitation to be a guest of honor."

In Hollywood, a secret scenario for *The Partridge Family's* future has already been written. Australia-bound David Cassidy will be replaced by not one, but two "hot" new teen idols, Andy and David Williams.

The final fate of the plan, TV WEEK's Hollywood bureau has learned, now rests on the fate of the show itself which, like all American series, is facing a renewal

decision. This is expected soon.

*Partridge Family* producers would only confirm the Williams twins had been signed to guest star in one show. However, their uncle, Andy Williams, talked openly.

"The boys did the 13th episode of *The Partridge Family*, but with the provision that if the show is picked up by the network (in America) they will be on every week," he said.

"I guess David Cassidy is ducking out and Andy and David will be, well, the new twin David Cassidys.

"The plan ends long months of searching and auditioning dozens of hopefuls as a replacement for David Cassidy who has resisted all attempts to keep him in the series he complains of 'suffocating' him.

"I've been deprived of things I need to grow emotionally," he said reiterating his vow to quit recently.

"Because of show business I've lived in a vacuum. I want to get back to living because I feel I've missed a lot."

The star is presently resting up at his isolated Hawaiian retreat for the long-anticipated Australian tour he revealed exclusively to TV WEEK a year ago.

The Williams twins would come to the *Partridge Family*, in contrast to some past teen idols, with an already large and growing following and a solid musical background.

They already do many of their own arrangements and their manager-father, Don Williams, boasts they were "singing contrapuntal harmony in the crib" and Uncle Andy is deeply impressed with their professional growth in the past year.

"Andy and David want to sing and they want this success and I think they're going to have a great success," said Andy.

"They sing very well. In fact, I lured them across to my own recording company about three months ago.

● ABOVE: David Cassidy . . . guest of honor at the TV WEEK Logie Awards.

● RIGHT: The *Partridge Family's* . . . new members in 1974.

We've just finished an album with them which is much better than the things they've done in the past and they're going to keep getting better.

"I have to shake myself occasionally. I still think of them as children. But no, their success doesn't make me feel old. Last night makes me feel old."

Despite David Cassidy's exit, virtually all the other *Partridge Family* stars, including his real-life stepmother Shirley Jones, will remain if the show is given the seasonal go-ahead.

"I'll stay another year if we survive," Shirley said. "So far I don't feel cheated about not being in serious acting."

However, many have predicted the show couldn't survive without David and his huge teen following—the deal with the Williams Twins may change that—but the fragile-looking star has never shared that point of view.

"I think if anyone left the show it would detract," he said last year. "But I don't think it will die without me. It's strong enough, good enough to go on and I hope it will."

"I really do like the folks on the show, and I really like doing it. It's fun, I like to be silly . . . looney and do crazy

things. However, it doesn't give you a chance to stretch your muscles."

The big challenge for him now is to bridge what Aussie star Rick Springfield calls the double generation gap of music—between adults and young adults and between them and "teenyboppers".

David fired the first salvo of the assault last November with *Dreams Are Nothing More Than Wishes*, an album which critics called a "major departure from the bubble-gum music" and a "turning point in maturity for the singer".

But despite this musical breakout and the rave reviews, David has already run into barriers that even his own recording producer Rick Jarrard confesses he is guilty of contributing to.

"When David first came to me I was very closed minded, very negative about the *Partridge* sound," said Rick who has produced for stars ranging from Harry Nilsson to the Jefferson Airplane.

"The album was different, but that means nothing unless you can get someone to listen to it. To get some radio people just to listen to David was a victory, and then to get them to play it on the air was an even greater one." #