

Those Weren't the Days

HOLLYWOOD — More than three years ago, David Cassidy was an international pop singing phenomenon and co-star of a popular television series who used to pack concert halls and stadiums with tens of thousands of shrieking, hysterical teen-age girls.

Suddenly, he decided to chuck the frenzied lifestyle at the pinnacle of his career for the tranquility of his Hawaiian estate and Santa Barbara horse ranch.

Cassidy then fell in love, married actress Kay Lenz, and now takes out the trash like the rest of his domesticated neighbors.

He decided to return to serious acting by starring in "A Chance to Live," a two-hour "Police Story" on NBC-TV's "The Big Event" May 28.

Now 28, Cassidy's "Police Story" role marks his first appearance on a television series since the cancellation of "The Partridge Family."

"People think I was just sitting around watching game shows all that time and saying to myself, 'What am I going to do today?'" said Cassidy, almost self-mocking. "Well, okay, I did catch a few game shows, but I had to stop performing because I was overworked. I was putting in 18 hours a day, seven days a week, and the point comes when you ask yourself, 'How much is enough?' I finally said 'Enough!'"

"Back then, I couldn't believe those masses of people," he said. "It was like, why are 80,000 people here to see me? I took it as far as I could; there was nowhere else to go but down."



DAVID CASSIDY

Cassidy, who is now cutting another album, maintains that although he is considering starring in a second television series, he would never let his work consume him again.

"I'm in control of my life now," he said. "I don't feel it controls me. I can understand the pressure that (the late) Freddie Prinze went through. I would never want to work every day all the time. I love my wife too much to do that."

Cassidy portrays an undercover cop who infiltrates a suburban high school and befriends many of the students while probing for the campus narcotics source. During the filming at a high school outside

Los Angeles, barricades had to be erected to keep out the curious students — most of whom were probably card-carrying members of Cassidy's fan clubs during his reign.

He admits that some hard-core fans can still manage a squeal when they see him.

"If you run, they chase," he said, shrugging. "If you stand there, they don't and you can just talk to them."

His half-brother Shaun, is often compared to David because of his recent success as a teenage heartthrob.

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