

Former teen idol back on prime time

By DAN LEWIS

ATLANTA — At the unexpected sight of David Cassidy emerging in to the hotel lobby several teen aged girls began squealing. Cassidy was startled by the recognition and noticeably uncomfortable in the midst of the man hysteria.

Cassidy has resurfaced after four years of seclusion. He plays an undercover policeman in NBS's Thursday night series "David Cassidy — Man Undercover."

This new series isn't looking for the very young audience. And while Cassidy says it would be nice if his old fans turn to his new series, he hopes he doesn't become "the hot test T shirt item."

"I've gone through it," he says ruefully. "You really get sucked in to that audience. This new series is not designed, sketched or directed, or fixed for kids," he adds emphatically.

For 4½ years, David was a superstar to the young. From one of the kids on "The Partridge Family," he quickly rocketed to an international pop hero for screaming young girls. His records quickly sold in the millions.

The adulation and the hysteria, however, were not music to his ears. As a result of his extraordinary popularity, David was forced into an agonizingly compressed existence. On tour, he was a prisoner in a hotel room wherever he went.

"It was frightening," David recalls. "You stood there on stage, and 30,000 little girls were



DAVID CASSIDY

screaming, trying to get to you. One little girl died of what they claimed was a heart attack at my funeral concert. The press blamed me."

He was a young man with great success but not time for himself.

"I was working seven days a week. A television series, recording at night, concerts on the weekends. Press interviews during lunch and

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Fire!