

# Cassidy's technicolor career

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**P**lays, TV, concerts, records, David Cassidy has done them all.

And now, at 33, after a complete break of three and a half years and almost as long again in regional theatre, it looks as if he is going to do them all again.

Differently.

On Tuesday he begins a two-week run at the O'Keefe in *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, a popular revision of the Tim Rice/Andrew Lloyd Webber musical that led to *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Evita*.

Cassidy has already proved himself in the title role with a run on Broadway (he replaced Andy Gibb), and he loves the play and the rousing reaction it generates nightly.

But he has turned down offers to do the part in most of the other cities the touring production is visiting.

"The theatrical schedule is so demanding and so exhausting you really have to live for it," he tells me.

And he is not prepared to live for any branch of showbusiness ever again.

Probably the main reason why we are being favored with his presence, therefore, is because it so happens that his fiance, Meryl Tanz, used to live in Toronto, and still has family and friends here.

The next branch he hopes to climb again is television. Early next year he will be starring in the pilot for a series of comedy half-hours; he is co-producing with a member of his old *Partridge Family* production team. Yes, pop music will again play a part.

Concerts? Well, he did do one in Philadelphia on July 4 — for the first time in eight years — with Jimmy Webb and the Philly Pops. He says some 50,000 people showed up. "It was very high, and we blew the roof off the town that night."

But he has no plans for another. Nor for another album. Yet.

About a year ago he went to Nashville and cut four or five sides with Larry Butler, "but I felt this wasn't the direction I wanted to take."

While country music would have been quite a switch from his 18 previous albums, the problem isn't image. "I've never done trendy stuff. If the suit doesn't fit me, I can't wear it just because everybody else is."

Nonetheless, he feels that he will probably have a record and concert career again, and that maybe a TV series will again pave the way.

"Pop music I love, and it's my fate," he says. But it's no longer his life.

His heart, professionally speaking, is with horses.

He and Meryl (who is where his heart is *personally* speaking) are partners in a private breeding and racing business in California.

**C**assidy has never been a gambler, though he dreams of winning the Triple Crown one day, and he's not much of a rider.

"No one in my family ever understood my fascination," he admits, but suggests it might have something to do with seeing a "Million-Dollar Movie" called *The Homestretch* some 15 times one week while he was sick at home. "It's a formula movie, but the romance of horseracing was there, and I fell in love with the game."

He started researching breeding, developed some expertise and today seems to remember this hobby more fondly than any of his more famous activities.

"My only regret about those old years was that *they* were in control of *me*. It's a great feeling now to be steering the ship. I like who I am now, and I like the way people respond."