

# Launched again

by GILL PRINGLE

♣ LOVE has given David Cassidy the courage to go back to singing... after ten years running away from stardom.

In the mid Seventies, David was the biggest pop pin-up since The Beatles and The Rolling Stones, until mysteriously, he dropped out and stopped making records.

"I was too frightened to go back into the music business, until my wonderful wife Meryl persuaded me to return," reveals David, who is looking forward to a tour following the release of his new album.

David took on a family when he married Meryl during a secret ceremony on December 15 and he now treats his wife's nine-year-old daughter

Caroline as his own. He says: "I'd actually been dating Meryl for about three years, although I'd known her from the horse racing circuit a lot longer. We actually met when we were both still married."

At the height of his fame, David had married actress Kay Lenz, recently seen in a Rod Stewart video.

"I think she is a fine actress, but it just didn't work out. With Meryl it's very different—she is a great support to me.

"We married secretly in a friend's house in Baltimore, Maryland.

"We have no plans for children of our own. Raising a child is a major commitment, and I'm far too self-indulgent to take that sort of thing on. Having Caroline is a tremendous responsibility,

but I've accepted her gladly—she's a wonderful child."

David says his belief in re-incarnation helped him through his ten-year enforced retirement.

"My great fear was that I'd end up doing a pathetic golden oldies tour if I'd stayed in the business. You see these people and it's really sad," he says.

"I lived like a recluse for months. I was locked up in my own private mansion in my own private world."

David is glad to be back in the business, and looking forward to the release of his album... entitled *Romance*.

He feels he has seen the last of the black years and says:

"I've won through now, and look forward to the future.

"I've been very lucky—I'm still around and fighting it."

# —by love

## How romance revived drop-out star David



SO CLOSE: Happy David enjoys a night out with his new wife Meryl.