

Cassidy gambles on tour success

ELEVEN years since he quit at the peak of his popularity, David Cassidy is making a British comeback in September.

It's a huge gamble — how can he hope to repeat the success he had when he reigned supreme as the 'Seventies teeny-bop idol?

Despite recently having one hit single, the Last Kiss, and Romance, a top-selling album, 34-year-old Cassidy agrees: "It's a terrible risk.

"I've always been rewarded by risk-taking, both in relationships and in my career. Without risks there are no rewards.

"But on a professional level, I no longer have a fear of failure. Over the past few years I've done some very successful things on Broadway. And I was nominated for an Emmy Award for a part I played in a TV movie.

"I've also done some things I was roasted for! But in the future, you gain a tremendous amount of strength and character."

I travelled through Europe with Cassidy in the early 'seventies, when he was virtually a prisoner of his fame. Girls, in their thousands, mobbed him.

Sometimes he had to spend days in his hotel suite or TV studios when he wasn't being smuggled into a concert hall — because his hotel would be completely surrounded by hysterical fans.



Cassidy... comeback

It's not surprising that he now reflects: "I quit to save my sanity. I reached a time when I had to have people relate to me as just a guy — as opposed to being some kind of a god.

"I ran away from it all after five years of working 18 hours a day.

"During all the incredible

success in my early twenties, I was alone. I wasn't able to have a relationship with anybody.

"And when I had sorted that all out, it was only really a matter of time for me to come back and decide I really wanted to make records again.

"For the first time in my life I have a very good balance," said David, who looks considerably younger than his 34 years. "I have a great relationship with my wife. And now I'm going to do the kind of things I want to do."

David starts his British tour at the St Austell Coliseum, in Cornwall, on September 21 then goes on to play the Royal Albert Hall on October 21 and 22.

There is only one thing he hopes will not happen — "I hope the mobbing doesn't happen again," he says.

"I hope that this time the audiences will come and listen — to me."