

# ROYAL ALBERT HALL

## David Cassidy

DAVID CASSIDY suddenly walked out of the spotlight at the height of his career and it looked as though he was just another short-lived teen idol who couldn't stand the pressure.

To launch a comeback after so many years takes a great deal of nerve and the fact that it has so far been very successful must be admired.

However, when seeing him on his comeback tour it is difficult to shake the feeling that he's still being treated like just another product that's been repackaged and reshaped to suit today's audiences.

With his dyed hair and discreet make-up it's difficult to recognise the clean cut all-American boy of the '70's who projected an innocence which was well suited to the kind of bitter-sweet love songs that made him a star.

Obviously he is older and he couldn't be expected to wander around the stage dressed in dungarees singing about teenage love affairs, but instead of developing into the kind of performer who could do justice to his highly listenable voice, he seems to have stopped somewhere in the middle.

We were presented with a professional performer who was just a little too slick to be appealing.

Arms outstretched, he started the show in the spotlight and remained there giving a performance that was competent but seemed empty - it was almost as though he was on automatic pilot. The lack of sincerity was all the more noticeable and worrying because he does have a fine voice which has matured over the years and has given new depth to old hits like "How Can I Be Sure".

For the fans, though, it was as if he had never been away - if they were aware of the differences, they certainly didn't seem to care as they screamed and rushed at the stage with a regularity that seemed almost stage-managed.

At times it was a little distracting to realise that many of the women who were carried away by security men, while attempting to get closer to their idol, really were of an age where they should have known better.

He was the man they'd come to see and hear and in their eyes he really could do no wrong, although at times even his voice was swamped by the backing so that it was impossible to hear his lyrics. And occasionally there was a glimpse of the kind of performer he could be, without all the Las Vegas style falseness.

Angela Thomas