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LAS VEGAS — Keith Partridge is leaving the '70s behind and going high tech.

David Cassidy will replace an injured Michael Crawford in the starring role of "EFX," a \$41 million sight and sound production at the MGM Grand hotel-casino, the hotel said Wednesday.

Cassidy, best known for his role in the hit TV series "The Partridge Family," will take over for Crawford while the "Phantom of the Opera" star recuperates from a hip injury.

Cassidy, who just finished a performance in the Broadway play "Blood Brothers," will begin rehearsing "EFX" this week and is expected to debut next month.

In the high-tech, special effects journey through time and space, Cassidy will play several different characters including Merlin, the wizard; circus impresario P.T. Barnum; Harry Houdini; and H.G. Wells.