

a quick word with **David Cassidy**

As Keith Partridge, he was the boy who had everything: looks, success, Susan Dey for a screen sister. Then he became David Cassidy, the first teenybop idol. Now 51, married and a father, he's back to promote his new album and his first UK tour in 15 years.

Who did you look up to?

Elvis and The Beatles. The Beatles had each other to share their success with, but for me it was like living in a vacuum — as I'm sure it was for Elvis and it killed him.

What was the maddest it got?

I guess the time I got most freaked was when I found a fan living in my air conditioning unit. She'd been there six weeks.

You found an unlikely friend in John Lennon. What did you talk about?

There were things I was going through that he could relate to. To leave a hotel, to get on a plane, to be anywhere. It just became more than I could bear. We used to wear disguises. It was the only way to get around.



So why the new album?

I've always gone on and done different work. So people's perception of me is that I've turned my back on the past.

Why do it now?

There's a time to look back at your work and your life and say this is a wonderful thing that I've been able to do. I loved it, I loved you for loving it, it was a great thing and I still enjoy singing.

● *Then And Now (Universal) is out now. David Cassidy plays Manchester Apollo Nov 9; Glasgow Clyde Auditorium Nov 11; Newcastle City Hall Nov 14; London Hammersmith Apollo Nov 16, 17.*

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