

'I CAN ONLY GUESS AT THE SORT OF STORIES THEY TELL ABOUT ME'

"It's always interesting to note peoples' reactions. But just occasionally I have to admit it can be a bit annoying. You see, they write these things about me, and it means that the people I meet have preconceived ideas about me. They've thought it all over and built so much on it... well, no-one for good or bad could possibly live up to all of it.

"I'm an everyday person. I know that. I wear everyday clothes. I'm a human being, and think that's what just a few people tend to forget.

"What I hate is when I'm criticised because I have so many real young fans. I'll tell you this - those young fans are more honest than adults. If they love you, they really let you know it, whereas older people tend to be more involved in themselves and their own image. They just can't let loose at all, but the younger ones... boy, they don't care what's going on, or who's watching them, they just want to let go.

"Still, I'm very aware that being in my position means that I have some very big responsibilities.

"I love to go out, but I hate causing anybody any bother. So I find that more and more I just stay in my own home. And you'd be surprised just how much pleasure I get from going out on a drive, just watching the miles tick by and listening to the radio... and, honest, still getting a fantastic kick out of hearing one of our own records being played. You get blasé about this business, and it's better that you get out of it."

"Listen - and I don't want this to sound bigheaded - everybody likes to turn on somebody else, whether it be in a sexual or a mental way. There was a time when I felt I could not cope with all this, and I was looking at it all in a negative



way. I kept thinking: 'Gee, I just don't WANT to go out and face all that', but you have to balance things out properly. If I didn't think it was all worthwhile, I wouldn't be travelling round the world.

"Another hang-up of mine is that there are so many reporters who just try to trap me into saying something that they can blow up into a nasty headline. Take you - you've got a headache, so you don't feel like laughing and singing away. But if you're being interviewed and feel a bit down, then they can write about you as being some real nasty kind of guy.

"If I thought I was getting bigheaded about all this, I'd feel I should give it up. But I honestly, truthfully, don't think there's any magic about me. Well, if there is - I have no idea what it is. In the beginning I was really taken aback by all this. People say what do I think about it, but all that happens is you adjust. If

you're poor, you adjust to that, same as you do if you're wealthy... but heck, I've said all that before, a million times.

"Maybe another hang-up that comes from the Partridge Family success is that I am likely to get poison-pen letters - real abusive stuff. But I'm discreet enough not to get into a situation where I could be vulnerable to the blackmail kind of thing. A lot of people ARE really vulnerable, being wealthy or attractive and so on, but no matter what, you never get used to the idea that people can batten on to you in that way.

"Listen I know that there are girls who'd manufacture some kind of association with me, but I don't hear the stories I'm sure they tell about me at first hand, so I don't know much about that... I can only guess the kind of stories they tell."

David is very proud of his home. No

doubt about that. It's a Spanish-style house, up there on the hills above Hollywood, and the lawns are well-manicured and there's a swimming pool, and he was glad that when he moved in he didn't have to make too many changes from the decorations that the previous owner had put in.

There's wood everywhere. Stained wood in a variety of different colours, and antique bits and pieces, and a huge fireplace in which he burns logs and admits he dreams he's in bygone days. There are red-brick floors over most of the ground floor, and the curtains and walls are mostly in blue and white, two of his favourite colours.

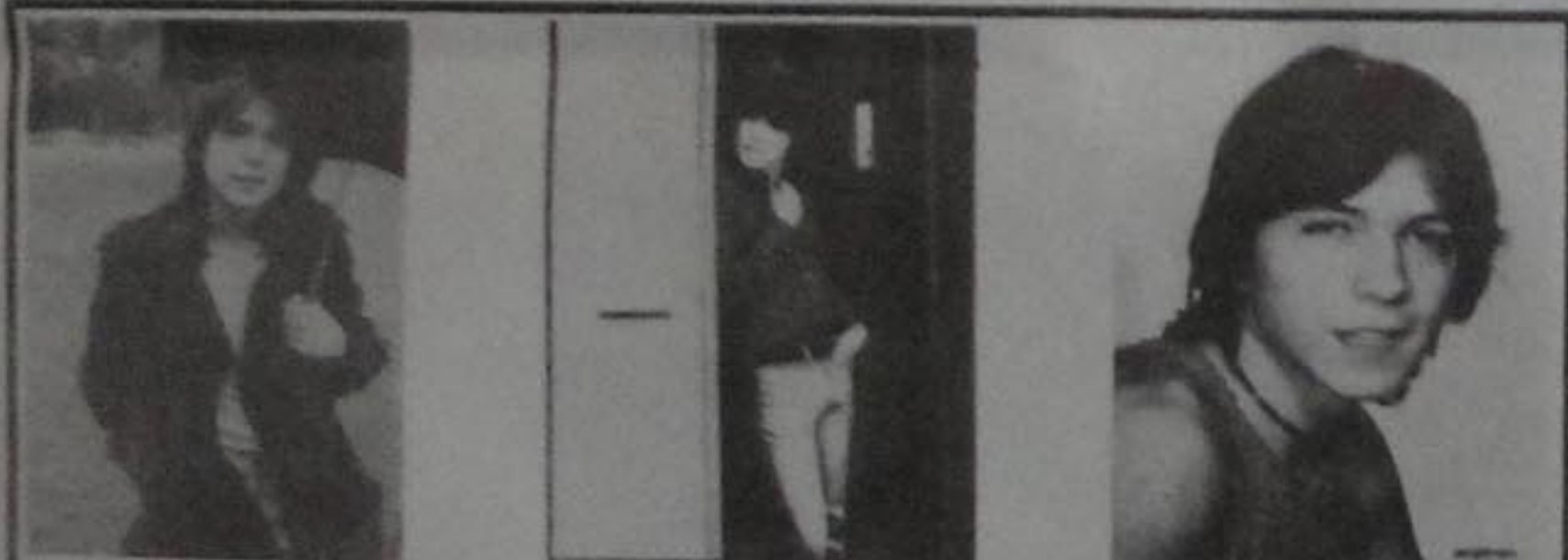
Another favourite colour is brown, which explains why he's so pleased that there's so much wood around the place. And the carpets are brown. They're thick pile, too, reflecting the truth that David now has all the money he needs to indulge in a little luxury when he's not sweating away at work.

And there's his bedroom with all the different materials, leather and chamois, and the multi-coloured coverlet, and the photographs of his family and some of the artists David has worked with during his show-business career.

A telly set, too, but then you'd expect that.

The thing is that David's house reflects the man himself. He hates complete formality... likes a house to be a home, not a place where you're scared to spill a drop of coffee or let fall a flake or two of cigarette ash. He's house-proud, but he insists on being comfortable, too.

And he loves having his parents over to visit, because he knows that his house brings them feelings of pleasure, too.



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