



sold out for TWO shows one whole month in advance. And he says: "What knocks me out is that whole families are coming to see us right now... not just the youngsters. It means we're increasing the age limits of the fans, up and down, and that's a nice feeling. After all, I can't stay a seventeen-year-old television character for the rest of my life..."

And he said: "Since I had the luxury of choosing just what I like to do, I'm a pleased sort of fellow. I don't have to worry about the gas and phone bills anymore. When things like that get on top of you, they hamper creativity. So many fantastic things have happened in the past four years and I say that gratefully. I'm pretty pleased with life."

"I like to think that my fans go for my music rather than for my face because that's what it's all about."

He's always been a Beatle fan. He says: "What happened was that I grew into them. They were fun at first, and different, and great, but I was very young and not all that into the music scene. Later on, though, I grew up a lot and so had they. I just re-discovered them, that's what."

"It was after they'd proved to everyone what incredible talents they had that I really got turned on to them. And I still play more of those Beatle albums than any other kind of music. I'd say that Rubber Soul is the greatest album I've ever heard. One day I'd like to meet up with all four of them, and just swap stories about how life has been."

And he says: "The only thing that sometimes bugs me is when I listen to some of the early records I made. I'm not saying they are bad, exactly, but they sound so different to what I'm doing right now. But then I know that the fans who really care about me will realise that I've really developed quite a lot over the years."

Of his songwriting, he says: "I try to write a little in my lunch-hour at the studio, mainly because it's the only free time I have, but I'm not very disciplined about it. I'd like to write more."

"Most of the worthwhile songs I've written have come from experiences I've been through - and the words just come pouring out when I've been badly hurt by something."

"It's hard, sometimes. You're feeling brought down by something and along

'I'D SAY RUBBER SOUL WAS THE GREATEST ALBUM I'VE HEARD'

come the photographers and they want you to smile, darn you smile... and it almost hurts to try and crack a smile. Still, if there's a bit of time afterwards, then I maybe can get a song down. Like when one of my dogs died... I wrote a song about it. I guess it proves that you can get just a little bit back, even out of tragedy."

And how do you sum up this fantastic pop superstar? When all the words have been written, all the ideas churned over, how do you, in a paragraph, sum up what and where the amazing David Cassidy is at?

Surely it's this.

He found fame not easily, but as a result of a lot of hard work and effort. He has not let that fame change him as a person, because he knows full well that things change... that, maybe, one day he'll fall from favour.

He is genuinely concerned about other people, animals; is sensitive to what hurts others. He has talent way above the average chart-topping singer, because he is first an actor, second a singer. And he is completely honest about his weakness and his problems.

That's what marked David Cassidy out in front of the others. Talent, yes. The right kind of exposure, sure. But most important of all the strength of character to cope with whatever life threw at him, whether in his private life or in his public career.

David Cassidy, THIS is your life! And a few million fans are so grateful that you've shared it with them.

