

could go see it time after time.

"Now that's not for me. I see myself as an actor at least as much as a singer and I want to play a *character* when I do a film . . . That character will probably — I hope — be a musician. But he won't be David Cassidy!"

David was called away for a few minutes at that point and I had accepted that this would probably mark the end of our conversation on that subject. But in no time at all he'd come over to join me again and he just picked right up where we'd left off:

FALSE START

"Let me tell you something you might be interested in," he began. "The first time anyone mentioned the possibility of making a musical film to me, I just said 'No thanks!' instinctively . . . That was because my image of musical films was one where the guys strolled through the action with guitars slung across their hips, rescuing a few girls from the path of on-rushing trains or bank robbers or whatever from time to time. Then, every half hour or so, I saw the action punctuated by this guy breaking into song. And, to me, the whole thing seemed phoney."

GOOD QUALITY

Did that mean that David would be happier with a straight script, then? One where he would just be David Cassidy, the actor, and would leave his music out of it altogether?

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"Well, if a good enough script came up, I'd certainly be happy to take it," he agreed. "But I think it might be better timing to leave that till my second movie and have some sort of musical angle in the first one . . . If only so as not to disappoint the folks who'll only go to see it because they like my singing. You can imagine what a con trick they'd feel it had been if I never sang a note throughout the movie!"

"Anyway, if it's worked right, I shall enjoy the singing and guitar playing. So I guess it's still a question of 'wait and see'."

"One thing that *would* be nice would be if the action demanded some really exotic location — like Turkey or Japan! What an excuse for a trip abroad! But I guess I'll end up with a production schedule of a couple of months filming in Hollywood and any location film-

ing limited to California or something!"

We laughed, because we both knew that this would, in fact, be the least important consideration as far as David was concerned. His involvement would be with his performance, not with the setting.

BIG STEP

But he certainly doesn't underestimate the importance of his first full length movie in his career progress: "That's why it's so important to be absolutely certain that we've found the right property before committing ourselves to anything," he explained.

"This first movie could do a lot to help me establish myself as an international star on the acting side as well as the music scene. That's why I don't want to have to wait too long before anything happens. Ideally, this should follow up the concert tours I've got planned for 1973 . . . First of all Europe and then, hopefully, further afield to Australia, New Zealand and Japan later in the year."

PRODUCTION

What David would really like would be to move straight into production at the end of his European concert tour in the Spring. Time is getting a bit tight now, but it's still far from being out of the question. Because once things do start moving, they'll be able to move pretty fast.

So let's keep hoping right alongside David that 1973 will be a real move of a year!

