



HOW DAVID MAKES HIS HITS

When most folk are getting to wind down after a hard day's work—that's when David Cassidy starts keying himself up for a recording session extending well into the night, and often into the early hours of the next morning.

The cluster of clued-in Cassidy fans start to build up at around 6.30 once the news has spread that their idol is going to be in session that night. They've got to know the ropes over the past couple of years, and, sure enough, David himself arrives between seven and eight most evenings.

Usually he drives himself to Western Recorders' vast complex of studios at 6000 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood, so that he will have his own car there to drive back home at the end of the session. Occasionally, he will call in at one of the nearby clubs, like the Whiskey A Go-Go, with some of the other guys who've been on the session. But that doesn't happen often, because David usually prefers to head straight for home afterwards.

HIGH STANDARD

Well, that's understandable when you've just come to the end of a nineteen or twenty hour working day!

What is so amazing is that David's recordings attain a consistently high standard when all the laws of probability would suggest that he comes to the studio jaded and played out — often at the end of a hard day's filming.

Wes Farrell pays tribute to David's stamina and professional attitude to his music: "David never wastes a moment once we're in the studios," he comments. "In fact, he's a true professional in the very highest

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sense of that word. From the first time David stepped into a recording studio with me (when he had only just been given the part of Keith Partridge) second best has never been good enough for him. He's a perfectionist all the way.

"If he's worried about a note or a phrase, he'll go over and over it till he reckons that it's just right — and he expects the other folks involved in his records to do the same."

GOOD PLAYERS

In fact, David thinks that he's been very lucky to work with such a great bunch of musicians on his sessions:

"They're all really good players in their own right," is his view. "And we occasionally get together at other times just for some really good jam sessions — as friends."

The result is the fantastic atmosphere that pervades the studio whenever David is recording... It's an atmosphere of electricity and creativity. And, always, David is right there at the centre generating that atmosphere.

"David has always liked to be in on all the stages of recording," recalls the Sound Engineer, Bob Kovach.

OLD FRIENDS

Bob has worked with David on all his recordings from the earliest Partridge Family discs through to "Rock Me, Baby", so he should know.

"At first," he continues, "I guess he was just fascinated by the whole works. He used to

hover round me when I was mixing, evidently crazy to know how it all happened. So I told him. And instead of making him drop his interest, like it does most people, it seemed to grab David all the more once he knew the basics.

"Yes, you know, a lot of the big-timers come in to record their tracks and leave everything else up to their producer and don't show any more interest in the product till they hear the acetate. But David's one of the real artists who like to feel involved in the whole product."

It may mean a lot of extra time spent at the studio, but David feels that it is definitely worthwhile:

"I like to be on the spot when they're laying the rhythm tracks, even though I'm not, strictly speaking, involved in those for the most part," he'll tell you. "That way I guess I'm really into the whole sound and I'm not just a part-timer coming in to slot in my vocal track!"

MANY TALENTS

In fact, on his "Rock Me, Baby" album David has done a lot of his own instrumental backing too on guitar — although he wasn't credited for it on the sleeve which seems a bit tough. "That's not the important thing, though," David points out. "It wouldn't bug me if nobody else knew that was me on guitar, so long as I know and the other guys who were on the session know — and provided that folks reckon that the guitar work on those songs is good!"

When he's recording, David's voice and guitar are recorded