

THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY—PART THREE

WHAT DAVID LACKS— 'FINISHATIVE' says Val Mabbs

WHEN DAVID CASSIDY was last in Britain, he was banned from the Dorchester because of the hordes of fans who besieged the hotel and caused untold problems to guests and staff. So on his visit this time, David stayed on the yacht Ocean Sabre, in the middle of the murky waters of the Thames, out of reach of the clamouring fans.

Just one week before his arrival, fanmania was bubbling more tempestuously than ever and the Record Mirror phones were jangling like fire engines as feverish fans constantly rang to ask, in slightly tongue-tied manner, whether David would be making any public ap-

pearances and, if so, exactly where could they get their eager hands on him?

Four bright young girls also arrived in RM's Carnaby Street office wanting to know all about the movements of their idol (Marc Bolan and Dave Hill were also strong favourites, incidentally) and advising us with a giggle: "We're going down to the river at four o'clock in the morning — and we'll shout across at David so he'll have to come out and see us."

GENUINE FERVOUR

There's no denying that they were genuine fans with a genuine fervour and love for David; and they felt sure that he would know that and not be dismayed by their behaviour at all. But where David Cassidy is concerned, there are hun-

dreds of thousands of fans with equally strong convictions.

They are fans that David doesn't want to lose — and he is well aware that he owes his present success to them. But, at the same time, he owes a great deal to himself. For that reason he has been constantly striving to improve his voice — and now feels that his struggle is showing results.

"My new single is really breaking over here," David told me from America before his trip to London. "And it's really a

lot different from the stuff that people have heard me doing before. It's quite rock 'n' roll influenced and has made a lot of people open their eyes. People are now picking up on me, when they weren't interested before."

One thing that has particularly pleased David is that his single, Rock Me Baby, is being played by the FM stations in America as well as by the AM stations. Usually his material, both his solo records and the Partridge Family discs, are strictly

limited to the AM stations — the pop stations. But now David is in among the heavies! It will be a little while before we hear this number in Britain, as David has just had How Can I Be Sure realised here.

"I liked the tunes that I was doing before," David says, "but it wasn't... well everyone was sort of only seeing a piece of the pie, that was the only piece that I was allowed to show. This time I'm showing a whole different side of me. I've been playing the stuff for a

long time, though I've never recorded any rock 'n' roll songs. But it's different for me to do that, and I like it.

"There's a lot of rock 'n' roll on my next album, and as reaction to my single has been incredible, I'm not worried about putting it out."

Life at the top of the tree, is not particularly easy for David Cassidy. He has a rigorous filming schedule to keep to, and this means waking almost at the crack of dawn to be at the film studio by six in the morning. Often filming for the Partridge Family series goes on for twelve hours, and then, sometimes, David has the evening free. But more often than not he spends his time in the recording studio with his producer, or preparing for his concerts.

GOOD INTENTIONS

His weekends are taken up with live performances more often than not. And amid all that hustle and bustle, David has somehow found time to devote more hours to writing his own songs.

"I've written two of the songs for my new album," David told me, and when I wondered if he had held back on his songwriting because he is offered so many compositions by notable writers he explained: "It's not a question of that, it's almost a question of me not having time, because I'm always playing, or something! I can't sit down at any time and write, but I am trying to do more than I have been. However, if someone asked me, am I a songwriter, I would say no."

During our conversation I got the im-

pression that David often started out on a project with good intentions and a genuine interest but left things mid-way. I asked him if he felt that assessment of his character to be true, that he lacked 'finishative.'

"I start something I really like, then I do just leave it, yes," he agreed. "Then, like with my songwriting, I get another 'lick' that will fit in and I go back to it and write it in. But I don't have that much discipline in me, as a writer. I don't set about it deliberately. A lot of writers can sit down and write two to three songs quite easily, but for me it doesn't come easy!"

The demands made on David's vocal chords also create some difficulty for him.

"I sing a lot and sometimes when I go on stage I sing too hard," he told me. "Often I'm doing 'back-to-back' concerts and my voice gets really hoarse. Now I think I'm singing pretty good and my voice can take a lot. I give out a lot and my voice has got a lot deeper too."

"It's really working with my voice every day that's made the difference, and I've been singing with a lot of really good singers. I don't think I've had any formal training as such, nothing really professional, but I've worked a lot with my voice."

NEXT WEEK: As a postscript to Record Mirror's exclusive three-part series on David Cassidy, Val Mabbs reports on an exciting meeting with David aboard the 120-foot yacht, Ocean Sabre. Don't miss it!!