

full of jokes, and always trying to make sure that everybody's having as good a time as possible. His mask on those occasions is that of a super-friendly guy who never thinks about anything more important than other people's fun! He's a great talker, a really fantastic listener, and, in general, about as open and happy a guy as you'd find anywhere!

But then, if you met him backstage before a concert, you wouldn't believe it. He seems completely closed off, unapproachable, and if you talked to him you'd have the feeling that he was a million miles away, looking at you through the wrong end of a telescope! There have been more than a few people who've met him under those circumstances who have come away feeling like they'd just shaken hands with an icicle! Of course, they don't know that David was only concentrating with every ounce of his being on the show coming up, and he's more worried about giving those fans a good show than he is about being a nice guy to everybody who



comes up to him! He's got to keep his mind on that performance, and so he puts on a mask that discourages people from getting too close.

David Cassidy at a party for the press—where he meets writers from papers and magazines all over the world—is still another person. He's so charming that a few unkind journalists have even suggested that the whole thing is an act! Usually, David has worked a full day and he'd really rather be at home! Also, he's been hurt a few times (more than a few times, in fact) by things journalists have written about him, and so he's a little on his guard. There he is, facing a room full of strangers, some of whom may go home and write terrible things about him, and he's got to be charming and act as though he doesn't have anything on his mind except having

a good time!

But they should see him when he's meeting a fan. His total interest in the person he's meeting... his patience and understanding when the girl can't even find the words to ask for an autograph... the way he glows when they tell him they love his singing or his acting... his willingness to talk to his fans for hours if his schedule allows him to... surely all that can't be a mask, too?

Well, sometimes it is. There are times when David's had a terrible day, or when he's worked fourteen hours straight, and all he really wants to do in the world is go home and crash onto his bed—and suddenly he's spotted, and surrounded by a dozen eager fans, and he knows he'll be there for half an hour. If he was being completely frank, he'd sign their books and go straight home, but he can't do that. He knows how important it is to those fans, and so he puts on his nicest mask and stands there until they can't think of anything more to say, and he can go on his way again.

REAL DAVID

Does that mean he's insincere? Which one is the real David?

Well, all of them are, and sure, there are times when he's a little insincere, when the things he says aren't quite what he really feels. But every one of those people is a part of David Cassidy, and to say that any one of them is more "real" than the others just doesn't make sense!

After all, we're all more than one person, aren't we? We have our good sides, and then there are things about us that we might not like so much, that we might want to change. And, since we want people to like us, we put on masks from time to time.

For example, think about the way you are with your teachers—and then think about the way you are with your best friend. There's quite a difference, isn't there? But that doesn't mean that one of those ways to be is "phony." It's just that one situations calls for one thing which wouldn't work in another situation!

So don't condemn David for wearing his masks—because everyone has several! "Variety is the spice of life" it's said. And all the different Davids is what makes David Cassidy so very special!

