

thoughts — cos as fans you are very important to me — you've given me the chance to express myself, to do what I want to do — and I certainly hope it's going to meet with your approval, as I'll explain.

"For example, you probably want to know why I'm leaving the Partridge Family. Well, I've become more and more uncomfortable playing the role of Keith, of playing someone who's much younger than myself. Also I didn't want the identity of Keith to take me over, so that people thought of me as Keith rather than myself, so that I almost BECAME him and lost my own personality. "And basically this is what I want most — the chance to be myself — for better or worse — and not some image that someone has dreamed up. As Keith, and generally in the part of my life that I'm leaving behind now, I was little more than a puppet — I played Keith as I was told; I had to record songs that perhaps I didn't like cos these were the type of songs that were 'expected of me'; I had no say at all in my career — my life was bound up in contracts and business deals and pieces of paper. I wasn't being

true to myself at all — how can you be in a situation like that?

"So that all these business hassles built up, plus the fact that I was always in the public eye — which could be OK, except that I had to pretend all the time, I always had to keep my halo shining, I had always to be aware of 'my image'. And you all know what happened — you've all read above my hives on my last European tour, but that was only a minor symptom really. All these pressures built up until I became completely tense and overwrought. I could feel myself heading perhaps for a total nervous collapse.

"So I sat myself down and asked if it was all worth it. I mean, I even have some grey hairs already! And I decided that it wasn't; that the rewards of, say, playing live concerts to thousands of people — which is

an incredible buzz, like absolutely nothing else — isn't worth all the downers that go with it.

"But it's not just concerts and touring and recording — it's my whole life. When I started singing on 'The Partridge Family' I never thought the whole thing would snowball like it's done, that it has taken over my life until it's bigger than I am. It's a really strange feeling — one of total unreality — that I've lost my personality, my identity. I was like a cardboard cut-out really — I wasn't a real person at all. I was in a situation where people expected everything from me, I wasn't allowed the mistakes and failings that other people have — but I'm only human and I just couldn't live up to these expectations.

"So I realised things would have to change. You can see evidence of this already if you compare my own album, 'Rock Me Baby' with 'The Partridge Family Notebook' album. The difference is obvious — on the PF album I did the songs I was told to do; on my own album I had some degree of choice — I could do some of my own songs as well as some songs that I liked — and the arrangements are obviously much different.

"And this is what I'm doing now — living my own life for myself. I want to get into songwriting more, to do things that I believe in personally — and, of course, I hope you're going to like them as well. But I don't see why you shouldn't — cos for once it's going to be the real David Cassidy that's doing it and surely that's what we all want. Oh, and by the way, I'm going to try to see you all again, to do another British and European concert tour next April. Look forward to seeing you all then. Goodbye for now."



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