

THE FINAL PART OF  
OUR EXCLUSIVE  
FEATURE ON  
DAVID CASSIDY  
AT HOME



## MAKE A MAY DATE WITH DAVID

**D**AVID CASSIDY is very fond of tomatoes. In fact, the day I visited him at his home outside Los Angeles he couldn't wait to show me his tomato plants!

He was obviously very proud of them, which I found quite amazing. After all there aren't too many top pop stars who can honestly list gardening amongst their hobbies!

David's first really long holiday in his life had given him the opportunity to care for them properly. During the Californian summer when the temperature is often near the 100 degree mark, everything has to be watered morning and evening if it is to survive. Well, David's plants were flourishing.

And David looked great too: for the first time he was really relaxed. He'd allowed the pace of his life to slow down to match the lazy, balmy, weather of hot Californian days—the sort of scene when you just sit around with cold drinks, not having much energy to do anything at all. Well, David had done some writing, and recording, but basically he was just able to sit around, chat to some of his close friends like Sam Hyman and Dave Ellingson, his co-composer and musical mentor, who toured Europe with him as a lead and backing singer. If you saw any of the concerts you'll probably remember Dave and his lovely long-blond-haired wife Kim Carnes opening the show, and then standing at the microphone just behind David when he was singing.

David was bubbling over with enthusiasm.

"It's my party really, and for the first time I'm really in control of everything I do. There was a time when I was in the hands of other people, but I need to be in control myself now. I'm tired of just being a puppet."

Not that I would ever have accused David of being a puppet, knowing him always to have a strong will and clear thoughts about what he really wanted to do. But it is true that in the past he was often treated like a piece of furniture by people who should have known better.

What they didn't realise was that he really was a star in his own right.

At first they thought that they had created him and could just go out on the street and find another David Cassidy if he didn't do exactly as he was told. But above all the fans proved them wrong—they wanted David for himself. And that is what he is determined that they'll get from now on.

As we sat on the steps admiring his plants David talked frankly to me for the first time about that period of his life when he first joined "The Partridge Family."

"I was nineteen, but I was really just a baby, you know. I'd never sung on a record before. In fact, I'd never even been in a recording studio in my life, I didn't know where to sing or what to do. So they propped me up against the mike and said, 'Sing right in here, son!' I was as green as that!"

"I really didn't have a clue what was going on, as far as the music was concerned. After all I was just an actor at that stage, so when they told me that these were the songs they were doing in the show I naturally just said 'fine' and went along with what I was told."

Suddenly though, it was David and not the songs that began to happen.

"It was a really strange situation to be in, because I wasn't ready

for that sort of success at that stage.

"The unfortunate thing was that I had no more time to make mistakes. I was in the limelight and that was that! That's the way it's remained ever since."

It's easy now to see David as a star with lots of success and money and to think how lucky and fortunate he is. But no-one has known, until now, of the suffering that he went through because he was so young and inexperienced.

Imagine every single thing you do in your life being the subject of public interest—it wouldn't be very nice would it? No detail was too small to escape the notice of the gossip columns.

Every few weeks he had to change his phone number. And even now when you ring him up, the call is intercepted by an answering service to whom you have to give a code word if you want to speak to David. The pressures of success aren't easy.

For the past three years or more this sensitive, nice human being was trapped by this incredible stardom and the rigorous schedule of "The Partridge Family."

Yet he has come through it all relatively unscathed, probably a

better person for all that he's gone through.

I asked him what he'd do when his commitment to the series was over.

"I just don't know. I've so many directions that I see myself going in and I'd like to go into all of them! Whether I'll have the time or energy or desire when I get there I don't know."

"I love to work, but I don't like to work FOR anybody—I like to work for myself and at my own speed."

Already the film offers are pouring in, but David still has a love for the stage, and he's never really made it in the theatre. The major show that he was in on Broadway flopped very early in his career, and he'd obviously like to conquer that medium.

"One thing is certain, I'll never give up recording. My music means more to me than anything else, so I'll keep on with the albums and singles. I'll keep on for ever with those—in fact I may never retire!"

"But you've no idea how great this rest has been for me. Without it, I don't think I could ever have continued. I mean, I'd even considered giving up touring—can you imagine that?"

"In fact, when the series is over and I'm free at last, I'll be doing my biggest tour ever—and I'm thrilled with the idea. I'll be starting off in New Zealand and Australia, then going on to Hong Kong and Japan."

"Then in May comes the part I'm looking forward to most of all—my British concerts. This time I'll be going to Scotland too, so hopefully I'll be able to see lots more of my fans and friends."

"And from what I've seen so far of the British girls on my last tours, that's really going to be exciting. Their welcome and response is something you don't get anywhere else in the world."

"That's why I have a very special place in my heart for them."

As I left, the sun was setting on what had been a beautiful Californian day. David looked relaxed and happy as he stood in the front porch with his trusty friend Bulls-eye to wave goodbye. And then just as I was about to drive away, he called out:

"Don't forget to tell them I can hardly wait. See you all in May."

David will be in Britain for two concerts in May. The first is on Friday, 24th May at the Shawfield Stadium, Glasgow. The second is at the White City Stadium London on Sunday 26th May.

Both concerts are being planned to ensure the highest degree of safety for the audiences. Although the White City has a capacity of 60,000, only 40,000 tickets are being sold as a precaution against crushing. A giant video screen is being set up over the stage, and there will be approximately 25 feet between the stage and the audience so that everyone will have a clear view.

Similar precautions apply to the Shawfield Stadium, which has a capacity of 15,000.

Both concerts start at 8 p.m. We'll be there—will you?

