

We're looking for DONNY's Superfan...

RECORD & Radio MIRROR

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Who is Donny's dearest?

superfans

THE headline read: "The reluctant superstar, who cares for the fans." It was all about Donny Osmond. Reluctant? Well Donny is pretty explicit. He says: "Don't pick me out of the whole Osmond family. It's not fair on the others. We need each other all the way. We're not just an act... we're a family."

Reluctant? Well, Donny is the sort of person who enjoys making personal calls on fans who happen to be in hospital, or bed-ridden, or just unable to get out and about. And he insists they are visited on a "no publicity, please" basis. What's more he pays out large sums of his hard-earned money to support various charities which appeal to him... and again the rule is: "I'll pay, and gladly, but just you dare tell people that it was me who gave the bread."

So he's reluctantly a member of the superstar fraternity. What about those cared for? Says Donny: "Life for me wouldn't be the same without the fans. If I could date each and every one of the girl fans, and have

a long chat with all the male fans... well, I'd be one very happy guy."

Reluctant superstar? Fact is that the Osmonds were creating happy music for the public in Yellowstone Park, near where they lived, before Donny was even born. That it was Donny who eventually was picked out as just that bit more special than the others is something he regards as being just a matter of luck.

Here's another quote from Donny about the fans, and the fact that obviously they sometimes intrude into his privacy. "Fans do generally find out where we're staying when on tour. But I never mind talking to them, and neither do my brothers - we love it! It's a groovy way of finding out what they're



really like. In Las Vegas, say, fans always come up to our room in the afternoon and we sign autographs and spend time talking because we're really interested in our fans.

"And when I realise how good and loyal the fans are... well, it makes me very sad to hear that some of them get into trouble - like on drugs. It's wrong because seeking self-identity through drugs is wrong, even through soft drugs. So I CARE, deeply, that my fans don't get into trouble of any kind."

A true Donny fan, meeting the superstar for the first time, would find that he's a little shy. That reticence often keeps him from saying all the things he'd like to say. He's concerned about so many things - pollution, war, poverty - but deep down he's a real fun-loving guy. And very much a family man, with roots deep in religious belief.

Listen to Donny. "Which man do I admire most in the world? I guess it just has to be my father. As far as our religious background is concerned, no - we don't do missionary service for the church because the church authorities feel it's an exemplary thing we're doing in pop music... being friendly to the world."

That's the kind of character Donny is, and has.

And writing to his fans in one magazine, he said: "I'm happy, a very happy person. One reason is YOU the fan. You are a very important part of my life. I'm not the type of person who says one thing and does something else. Because it's impossible for me to meet every single one of you. I've always tried to open up my life to

television cameras, photographers and reporters, so hopefully they will give just a little portrait of the way that I'm like."

"You see, You are always in my thoughts and I hope from time to time you think of me also."

He's gotta be kidding. There are millions of fans through the world who think of Donny Osmond almost all the time. He adds: "That's what I call friendship, and I'm proud to think of you as being my friend."

Right from the days he first started singing in public, Donny has attracted fervent fans who follow his every move, word and gesture. But we're looking for the REAL DONNY SUPERFAN - the one person who stands out from the crowd, even a packed crowd of Donny devotees.

Are YOU that superfan? If so, write in and let us know. Maybe you're not a Superfan yourself, but know somebody who is. Then write in on his or her behalf. Just let us know the facts... we'll do the rest.

Each Superfan (and so far we've sought the Superfans of David Cassidy, Slade, Gary Glitter, David Bowie, Marc Bolan, the Sweet) will be judged by a special panel of pop folk. Each Superfan will receive a commemorative Superfan plaque to be presented by... well that's a secret.

Write about Donny Superfan to Genevieve Hall, Record and Radio Mirror, 1 Canary Street, London, W1N 1PB. Entries to be in by Monday, April 8, 1984, and let's have your phone number while you are at it!

'It's love that counts'

At last! The result of the David Cassidy Superfan contest

She's fourteen, and she lives in Ruddington, Nottingham, and she's been in love for four years. In love with David Cassidy. And she wants it to be known that even if David suddenly went off and got married, she'd still love him.

She says: "If David is happy, then I'm happy."

Her name is Sharon Gamble, and our distinguished panel of judges have voted her David Cassidy's SUPERFAN! From hundreds of replies from fans, Sharon emerged the winner.

Yet when she first read about our search for the SUPERFANS of the SUPERSTARS, she wasn't too impressed. She'd got the wrong impression - felt that being a Superfan meant solely that you had a lot of material things relating to your favourite artist.

Sharon pointed out her own view in her letter. She wrote: "Not too impressed by the

fact that the more things like badges you have, the more you love David. I just don't agree."

"Some fans get more money than others - but it doesn't mean that the fan who has more, loves David more. I've loved David - I've got mugs, roses, rings, necklaces, jigsaws, calendars, books and so on. But I'm sure, fans that have less than me, still love David just as much!"

Dedication

It was that spirit of dedication and sheer sincerity that first attracted our judging panel to Sharon's claim to be David Cassidy's superfan. They agreed that superfanship shouldn't be judged merely on material things, though exceptional collections of Cassidy clobber must count a bit.

Our panel? Brian Connolly of Sweet, and Dave Mount of Mud. And Marty Kristian of the News Seekers. All superstars themselves of equal status, say we. And



they agreed that the superfan shouldn't be judged purely on the money she or he can spend on their favourites... and Brian, Dave and Marty were much touched by Sharon's first explanation.

She wrote: "It's love that counts. I admit I haven't got David's autograph, and though I haven't seen him in concert yet, I've jolly well tried. On Valentine's Day, I sent him a huge card purely to show him that I do love him. And even if I'm not voted his Superfan, I'll still love him just as much."

That dedication won her support from the other members of the panel - Record and Radio Mirror team Genevieve Hall, Peter Jones and editorial director

Mike Hennessey. Mind you, Sharon had to have just one dig at the whole idea of the Superfan competition. She said: "David is a person, not just someone to relate to when planning a competition."

Mail

Point taken. But our series has pulled in a fantastic amount of mail - right through series-opener Cassidy, to Slade, to Gary Glitter, to David Bowie, to Marc Bolan, to the Sweet, to Donny Osmond, this week! And Rod Stewart, who brings the whole thing to an end. Mind you, we'll be running a similar series in the future.

When it comes to judging the other Superfan sections,

our panel (which will vary from time to time) will almost certainly apply different standards in reaching their decision.

For example, Superfan applied to a British artist, who is often around, may be different to that applied to an American who spends only a few days a year in Britain.

Views

Our panel went on a bit about their views of Superfans. They felt that it was what the fan felt inside that really counted. The way the fan countered "nasty" remarks from friends; how the fan went to build the popularity of the star. How they remained loyal even though sensational headlines in the newspapers appeared to be "knocking" the artist.

And our Sharon came out tops in the whole thing. David himself has said: "It's a high going out there on stage. You can look around and it's all there for you."

People loving you just like that. My friends are there with me, and I'm doing what I love to do most - singing and I'm singing for people who would rather have me sing than anything else in the world."

That's the kind of feeling that Sharon has for David.

'cept she'd rather LISTEN to him sing than do anything else in the world.

As one panel member said: "It's a matter of feeling. FEELING. You can sense the real fan, and that feeling always comes through."

So Record and Radio Mirror salutes Sharon Gamble, first in our series of Superfans. Next week we'll be announcing the Superfan of super-group Slade.

But here is a list of "highly commended" runners-up to Sharon in the international battle to become David Cassidy's Superfan. Louise Quinell, of Sussex.

Judith Cleave, Malvern, Worcestershire.

Corrine Donagan, Maidstone, Kent.

Patricia Jacks, Torquay, Devon.

Pauline Stonebridge, Knaresborough, Kent.

Robert Page, Rotherham, Gloucestershire.

Stephanie Mow, Harrogate, Yorkshire.

Karen Smith, Mitcham, Surrey.

Susan Murray, Sunderland and Co. Durham.

Zoe Burghout, Chelsea, London SW3.