

# DAVID'S DAY AT THE BBC

Jackie Exclusive On David Cassidy.

**I**t was raining in London, all the traffic was slowing down and people on the pavements were scurrying for cover, which was a pity really, because no-one saw the small figure in the back of the big, black limousine which was on its way through London to the BBC studios just off Oxford Circus.

Yes, of course, it was David Cassidy!

David had several appointments to fulfil that morning, among them an interview and a surprise visit to the Tony Blackburn show.

But as the car crawled through the rush hour traffic, David became a little worried that he might be late for his first interview for Radio Four.

"I hate being late," he muttered to his assistant Gerry, who spends most of his life these days travelling around the world with rock stars. His job is to see everything goes smoothly. Right at this moment though, he wasn't too happy, because things were anything but that!

The reason the journey was taking so long was because they'd had to come all the way from Ascot, where David was staying.

"I'm staying in a very large house," explained David. "But to tell you the truth I don't really know where it is, or who owns it. Yes, it's near where Elton John's house is and I'll be going over to see him while I'm in England."

"The trouble with this journey is that we only left an hour to do it in. I actually got up on time, although I didn't have breakfast, but then we hit this monster traffic jam. I think it must be the rain that's caused it."

Meanwhile, at the BBC, David's arrival had been kept a strict secret, so there was no-one outside. Inside, however, a few secretaries had somehow heard David would be arriving and they were standing in the background hoping to get a glimpse of him.

Then suddenly, out of the gloom and rain outside came David, sunburned from his world tour and looking every bit as if it was mid-summer.

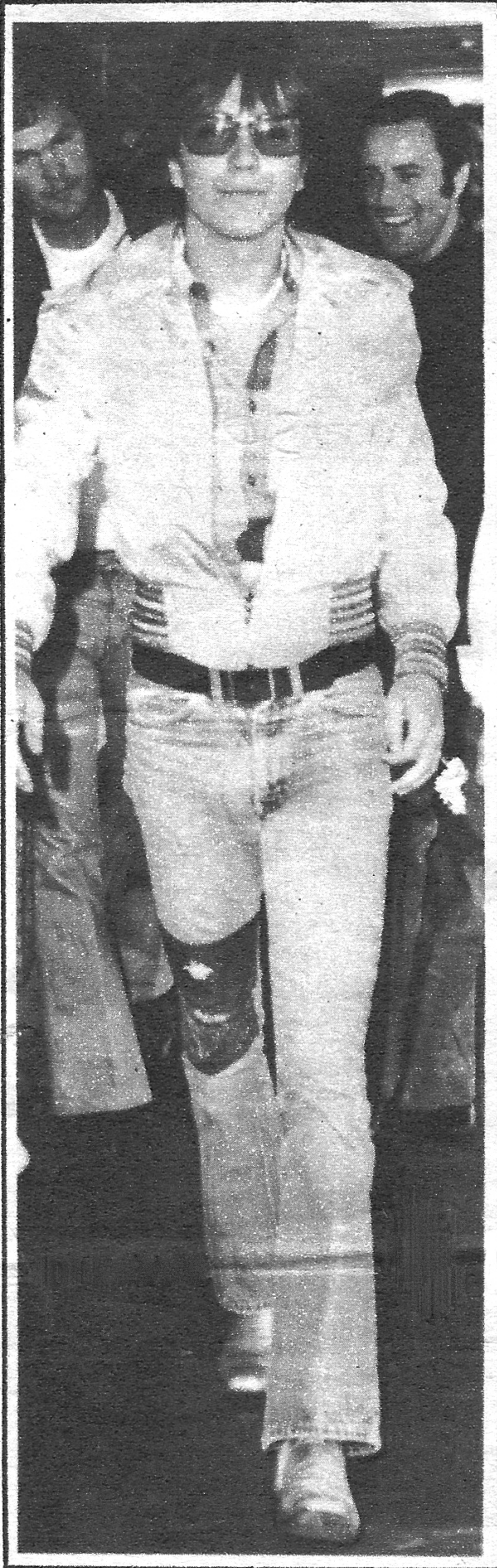
He was dressed for a sunny day, too. No jacket, just an American tee-shirt in dark blue with yellow lettering on it. It was short-sleeved and it had two yellow bands on the sleeves. He was also wearing a casual pair of cream trousers and an amazing pair of silver jewelled shoes which glinted as he walked — the only part of his clothing which gave any clue that he was a star.

His hair was a bit longer than when I'd last seen him, and had been freshly washed, which highlighted its fairness. There was one other new thing I noticed David was wearing and that was a pair of glasses which were lightly tinted red.

"Hello, it's wonderful to meet you," David said to all the curious people in the foyer as a BBC official led him downstairs to Studio B4, where the first radio interview was to take place. Once in the studio he poured himself a beaker of water in a paper carton marked BBC Radio and sat down to talk.

"I feel so relaxed compared with the last time I was here," he told me. "It's amazing. I've come to terms with a lot of things in my life. For example, I go out a lot more now."

"I think it all built up over the years and I used to hide myself away and be frightened of going out, but now I realise that if I just go down the street calmly willing myself not to be recognised, it's possible."



"Of course people do look around sometimes and you can't do it everywhere, but I'm enjoying life a lot more and I'm a lot more relaxed."

**O**f course, as usual, there was a big crowd of people following David when we met. He had his own friend and photographer Henry Diltz with him, and there were also representatives from his record company and management who'd come along to see that everything went off all right.

And then there was also a nice official from the BBC who asked us all if we'd like coffee, and when we chorused, "Yes!" he also promised David that he could have an orange juice.

As for David, he was remarkably bright and happy for the time of the morning. It was not yet 11 o'clock, and although that might

sound quite late to most of us, I know that since he spent so long getting up very early when he was in 'The Partridge Family', David really likes to get up as late as possible nowadays.

He was keen to tell me about his great new hobby, which is breeding horses. Regular readers who've seen our past series about David, will know that he has some racehorses in Hollywood.

"But now I'm not so keen on the racing as the breeding," he said. "I own this mare and in fact I called home this morning and found out that she'd given birth to a foal. Isn't that wonderful? I feel very proud of her!"

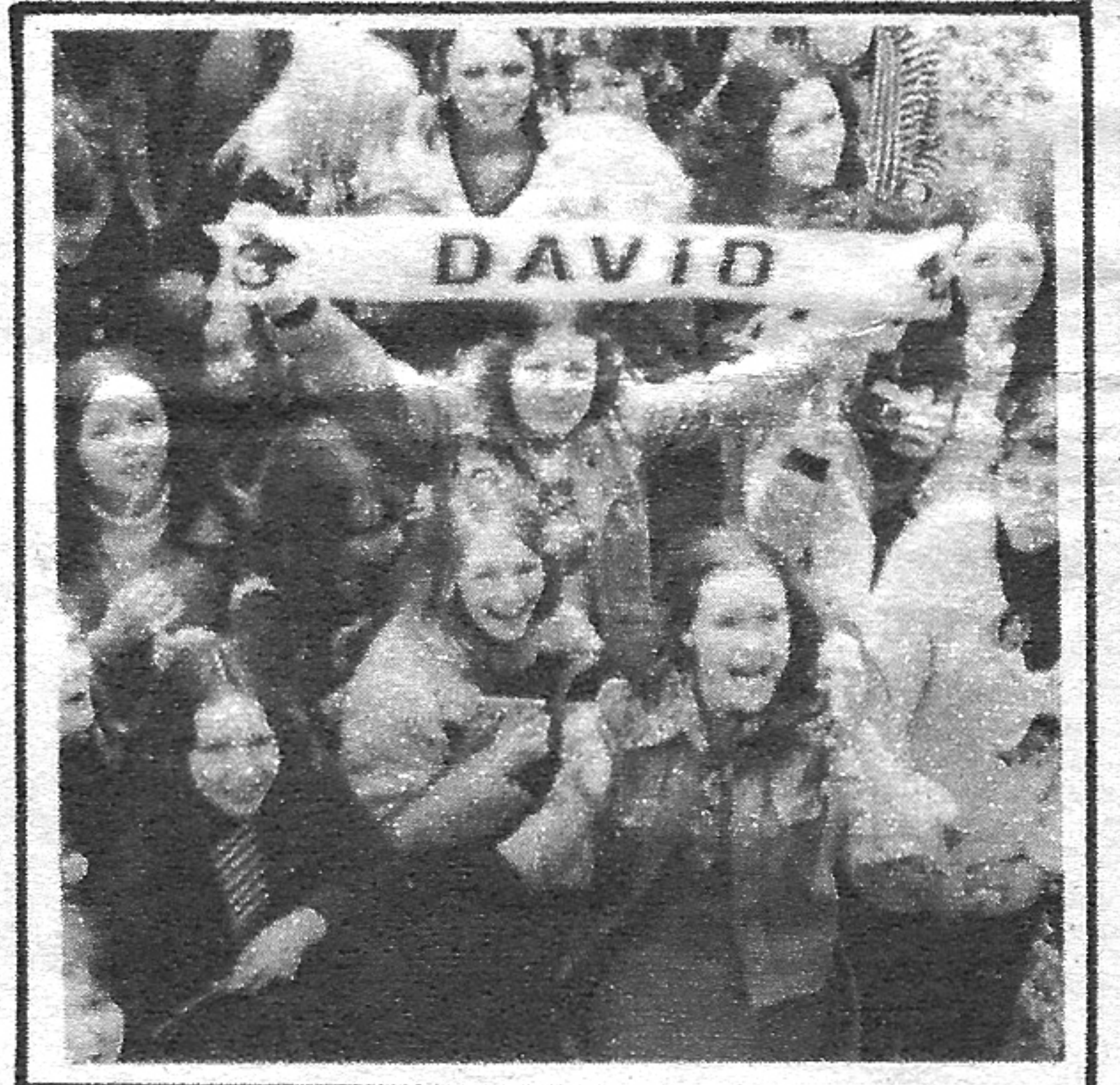
"I do ride a little myself, but not very much. It's something I'd like to do more of in the future now that I'll have a little more time. But breeding your own horses is a wonderful thing."

Inevitably, I asked David what he intended doing with himself when he returned home to America.

"Well, I'm not too sure yet," he said, "but I am going to make two or three albums. I've so many musical ideas now."

"Then I've had a lot of film offers, but nothing original has turned up yet. It's amazing how unoriginal the film industry is. Everything seems to be a copy of something that has already been filmed."

"As far as the theatre goes, I wouldn't audition for a part any more. That's not being big-headed or anything, but I would consider the part first and see if it was right for



me."

When David had finished his interview in studio B4 he decided, just for fun, to go upstairs and surprise Tony Blackburn, who was already on the air.

"I'm meant to do a telephone call with him," he told me, "but as I'm in the building, let's go up and see him."

And when we reached the studio, there was Tony, sitting in the studio with his headphones on, suddenly looking round to see the door open and David Cassidy come in!

"Hey," he shouted, "I thought you were meant to be phoning."

"Well, I'm here," laughed David. "Nice to meet you!"

And that's one thing about David — he's always ready for a joke. Life's never dull when he's around, that's for sure!

