

Despite that super smile and boyish excitement he shows on stage, David Cassidy has somehow got himself a bit of a reputation as a sad loner, spending his spare time in a darkened room strumming his guitar to himself in an effort to keep the loneliness away. Someone who is continually fighting a battle with himself. Someone who loves his work but hates the side-effects that go with it . . . fame, recognition, lack of privacy, phoney hangers-on.

There's no doubt that David does have that quieter side to his nature, a more thoughtful, reflective corner of his personality. But those who know him well can't understand how David is thought of by some people as a mixed-up, unhappy, reluctant pop star. David himself is going to tell us about what a good-time guy he can be when he lets his hair down. But first, what does he have to say about that gloomy image?

"I can understand it," he says, "but it isn't true. You see, when things aren't going my way I can't hide my anxieties away like some people can. I wear my emotions pretty close to the surface and I guess that's not always a good thing, especially in a business when almost every word you say and deed you do is reported over the world. There was the time in Germany when things just got too much for me and I'd have given every cent I had in the bank to be an anonymous man back home with his family.

GOOD TIME DAVID

Like anybody else David Cassidy needs to have a good time. So what does a star like David do when he wants to go out and enjoy himself. David's answers may surprise you...

"Of course it was the sort of story the newspapers loved and again I was tagged the reluctant pop star. If I do get brought down more often than other people, maybe it's because I've been subjected to more pressure concentrated in a much shorter time than most. But I'm not making excuses for

what I am. Images are phoney things anyway and despite what people think of me, I can only be what I am. And believe me, a lot of the time, that's a very happy guy who believes in having a good time."

And, of course, nobody will be more pleased to hear that than David's fans. But can

David tell us just what he's likely to do when he's feeling happy and carefree? Is he really the life and soul of the party?

"Whoa," he laughs, "I don't know if I'd go that far. Mind you, there have been times when I've been feeling a hundred and ten per cent, felt I could take anybody on and anything in the world and beat them into the ground. Then perhaps I've gone to a party and the minute I've walked through the door I've been ready for everything that came my way and at some Hollywood parties, that can be anything and everything! I drink a little bit of wine to drive away any remaining inhibitions and I'll dance, sing and talk the night away.

"But, of course, I have to admit those nights are few and far between. I'm not the best mixer in the world and at parties I more often than not get involved in a little discussion group in a quiet corner, have a bite to eat and only start taking an interest in the girls when it's time for the last waltz and sorting out which girl you're going to ask to be allowed to take home! I've read about me being a very shy person and to a certain extent it's true.

"You might find that hard to believe. A shy rock and roll performer! I know it's strange but I only really lose my reserve in front of a television camera, on stage and in the

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