

THE POP JOKESTERS

...they've got a cheek!

'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy' goes the old saying. Thankfully most of our favourite stars know the value of relaxation and some of them are quite cheeky with it! As you'll find out as we spill the beans on David Cassidy, Gary Glitter, Marty Kristian and Rod Stewart, revealing some of the antics they get up to on and off duty.

David Cassidy is normally a quiet, solitary figure away from recording and TV studios and concert halls, but sometimes he feels like seeing all his friends together under one roof. So he plans a party . . . at one of the friends' houses! He calls up maybe twenty pals and says something like: 'Hey, did you know Bill is having a get-together at his place tonight? Sure you're invited, maybe he's lost your number. I'll see you there'.

Naturally, the only person he forgets to remind about the party is Bill. "I like surprise parties best of all," says David, "and this kind is a surprise to the person that's giving it! The first arrival knocks at the door and, of course, the host invites him in. When it's obvious there isn't any party taking place they begin to wonder what's going on. But quickly everybody else arrives in twos and threes and before too long there is a party going on and everybody forgets there wasn't supposed to be one."

David arrives a bit later and by that time nobody remembers it was him who was doing the ringing round. "The cost?" ask David. "Well, everybody usually takes a bottle and we'll throw in a few dollars each for the food. Everybody has a great time, I've met all my friends which is something I don't ever have enough time for and what's more, I don't have to do the washing and cleaning up the following morning!"

Gary Glitter never misses out on the chance of a laugh. One of Gary's hobbies is cooking and whenever possible he likes to cook dinner for his friends at his home . . . only he can't resist turning the evening into a joke. While they are watching TV or chatting amongst themselves, Gary will be busy in the kitchen. Eventually he'll emerge very shame-faced, wringing his hands together and apologising like mad.

"I'm afraid it's ruined," he'll say. "It was a new recipe and it's gone hopelessly wrong." Naturally his mates will be polite and reassuring, saying they are so hungry they could eat a horse and, anyway, it can't be as bad as all that. But when Gary brings the dish to the table it certainly can be as bad as all that! A plate of burnt, grey cinders is placed in front of his guests.

And while they are deciding which restaurant or take-away to go to, Gary will slip back into the kitchen and reappear with the genuine meal, usually a mouthwatering concoction cooked to perfection. "It's hard to say which look on their faces gives me more pleasure," laughs Gary, "the shock of the ruined meal or the satisfaction of the good one."

As you probably know Gary is a keen fisherman, and by all accounts a good one. But not even Gary, thought his angling colleagues, could catch a sea fish in a fresh-water river.

They were planning to write to the newspapers and have the fish exhibited. But as Gary saw the prank going too far he let on. You see, the 'prize' fish was one of two he had bought the previous day in a fish shop for his tea—but he wasn't very hungry, so only cooked one. Not wanting the remaining fish to make everything else in the fridge smell fishy, he'd worked out the joke and fixed

the fish to his line while the others weren't looking.

Now every time he sees his mates in a huddle, Gary thinks there's something fishy going on . . . like thinking up a trick to get their own back!

Marty Kristian recalls the time he was introducing a friend to the benefits of Yoga. Having got his pal into rather a complicated position, with arms and legs wrapped up with each other, Marty had to dash off to a recording session and didn't really think any more about his friend. That is until very late at night when he had a phone call from the same pal, now sounding very exhausted.

Marty dashed round to his friend's house to find him still tied up in the same position! "I couldn't get out of it," he explained to Marty. "I had to roll over to the phone to call you." Ever since, Marty has made sure to stay with his Yoga pupils until all their limbs are back in the right place again!

The former New Seeker isn't exactly noted for his wild humour but on those long tours, especially across America, he was more than a willing participant in the jokes the boys played on Eve Graham and Lyn Paul . . . like hiding their stage dresses until the last moment. "The girls went mad," he recalls, "the first couple of times. But later they knew who the culprits were and played it very cool."

Rod Stewart is another joker who 'loses' things, only he's mislaid himself on the odd occasion! It will be only ten minutes to curtain up on the first night of a tour. Obviously nerves are stretched to the limit and the back-up crew have checked and double-checked everything to make sure nothing, but nothing, can go wrong. The only thing they didn't count on was the star of the show going missing.

The Faces, of course, know Rod's tricks only too well, but as the minutes go by they get a bit edgy. Who's going to take over the vocals? What will the audience's reaction be? Somebody suggests phoning the hospital to see if a carrot-headed bloke suffering from loss of memory has walked in. The show's compere is on stage introducing the band—and backstage it's panic stations!

Then from a tiny quiet cubby-hole, or behind a box of equipment, walks a smiling Rod, dressed ready to go on and smiling away, cool as a cucumber. There's no time for an enquiry, so on they go as if nothing had been wrong. Rod, of course, knows what he's doing. "It gets the old adrenalin going," he smiles. "Gets everybody nicely keyed up for a good performance."

Rod is well known for his sense of humour, his seemingly inexhaustible supply of energy, laughter and ability to see the funny side of things. He's also pretty well known for his love of soccer and another well-known star remembers the day Rod decided to combine his love of a laugh with a soccer charity match.

"He was coming towards me with the ball and I was determined not to let him score. I went into a tackle with Rod, got the ball and was about to dash upfield. But I heard this agonising yell behind me and when I looked round Rod was writhing about on the ground clutching his right leg. I was horrified. I thought I'd broken his leg."

"My first thought was I'd ruined his career, after all he moves about a bit on stage. The trainer was called on and everybody huddled round Rod. I was feeling pretty sick until I knelt down to say how sorry I was and he looked up at me with a big wicked grin on his face and winked. I won't say what did with the trainer's wet sponge!"