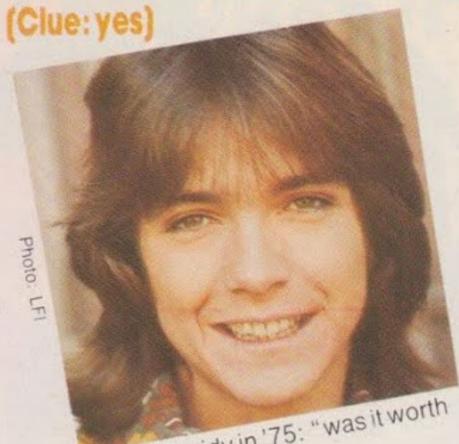
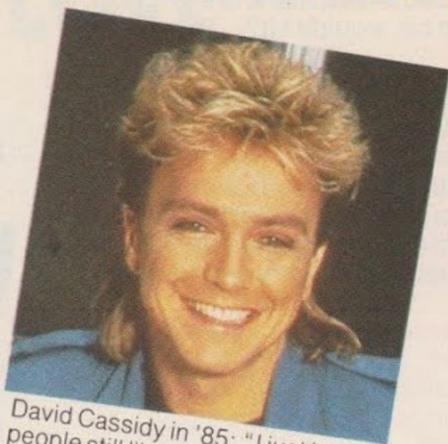


WAS THIS THE MOST POPULAR SINGER IN THE WORLD?

(Clue: yes)



David Cassidy in '75: "was it worth it?"



David Cassidy in '85: "I just hope people still like me."

One decade ago a fresh-faced 24-year-old American was the biggest solo pop star in the world. Girls fainted at the mere mention of his name. Records like "Could It Be Forever", "Daydreamer", and "Cherish" sold millions all around the globe. His face appeared on Weetabix boxes, cornflake boxes, bubblegum cards, t-shirts, buses and screens all over the Western World. His name? **David Cassidy**.

Now, at the age of 34, he's ready to make a comeback. Working with producer/multi-instrumentalist/songwriter, Alan Tarney (who in the past has worked with Cliff Richard and Cassidy's favourite, Leo Sayer), he's just released the single, "The Last Kiss".

"It's the most passionate, romantic and beautiful song I could possibly make at this point in time," urges David, in emotional tones.

But the big question is... what made him give up in the first place?

"Look, picture this: Madison Square Gardens, 22,000 people inside, 40,000 more outside, the walls literally shook with the noise, I played my heart out for one-and-a-half hours, the crowd went wild... The minute I left the stage I had a huge towel thrown over my head, I was bundled into the boot of a small car, I was driven out of the New York city centre into a horrible dingy motel in Queens, I was bundled out and shoved into a urine-stained room. There they left me, locked in, without a key, money; I didn't know where the hell I was; all I had on was my jump-suit which was wringing wet with sweat.

"I just got in the tub and thought about the situation. One-and-a-half hours ago I was having the time of my life - but look at the price I was paying for that. No hotel in New York would take me because of the bother with fans. I couldn't walk out into the streets without being completely mobbed. I had to have six decoy limousines backstage - when the fans found out I'd gone they tore five of the cars to pieces. It was simple - I had to make a decision. Was it worth all of this? The answer was no."

But now he's sorted himself out - in his ten-year lay-off he appeared in a couple of films, loads of plays and collected things, like horses (he owns 50 thoroughbreds on his Kentucky ranch - and is raring to get back to the top: "I just hope the people still like me."

Not much fear of that - looks like he'll be working with the world's current biggest pop star, George "Yog" Michael. A good move that.

● "Songs From The Big Chair", the second LP by **Tears For Fears**, finally appears on March 1. The cassette version apparently includes 5 extra tracks previously available as B-sides as well as "an extra mystery track". Wow!

● The *Bitz* award for industry this week goes to **King** who finish their nationwide tour next week, only to start another one in April. See *Dates* for details.

● German 'gruppo' **Propaganda** follow up their sinister "Dr Mabuse" single with the even stranger "P-Machinery". There's also an LP, "A Secret Wish..." Astonishing fact! Paul Morley of ZTT has just married one of Propaganda.



● **Nik Kershaw's** new single, out on March 4, is "Wide Boy", off "The Riddle" LP. The 7" includes a 12-page colour booklet.

IS THIS THE MOST POPULAR GROUP IN THE WORLD?

(Clue: the answer isn't 'no')



● Phew! Got some really *hot news* from our American cousins t'other side of the Atlantic ocean! The results of **Star Hits Readers Poll!**

Here's the list of who won what:

BEST GROUP: Duran Duran
 BEST MALE SINGER: Simon le Bon
 BEST FEMALE SINGER: Madonna
 BEST SONG: "The Reflex"
 BEST LP: "Seven And The Ragged Tiger"
 BEST SONGWORDS: "Do They Know It's Christmas?"
 BEST DANCE TUNE: "The Reflex"
 BEST VIDEO: "The Wild Boys"
 SILLIEST VIDEO: "I Don' Wanna Know" by REO Speedwagon
 MOST DESIRABLE HUMAN BEING: John Taylor
 MOST PROMISING ACT FOR '85: Wham!
 BEST MUSIC SHOW: MTV
 BEST DRESSED PERSON: Nick Rhodes
 WEIRDEST HAIRCUT: Cyndi Lauper
 HERO: Bob Geldof
 VILLAIN: Boy George
 BAND YOU'D LIKE TO SEE STRANDED ON MARS: Motley Crue

And some equally scorching poll results have just arrived, from the pages of **Smash Hits** in Australia! And their list goes like this:

BEST GROUP: Duran Duran
 BEST MALE SINGER: Simon le Bon
 BEST FEMALE SINGER: Madonna
 BEST SINGLE: "The Wild Boys"
 BEST LP: "Arena"
 BEST VIDEO: "The Wild Boys"
 MOST FANCIABLE HUMAN BEING: George Michael
 MOST PROMISING NEW ACT: Pseudo Echo
 BEST TV PROGRAMME: *Countdown*
 BEST ALBUM COVER: "Red Sails In The Sunset"
 by Midnight Oil
 EVENT OF THE YEAR: Culture Club Tour
 ACT YOU'D MOST LIKE TO SEE: Duran Duran
 DAG (Australian for 'Wally') OF THE YEAR: Marilyn

FAN CLUBS

Alison Moyet

A.M. Information Service
 PO Box 5
 Billericay
 Essex

Frankie Goes To Hollywood

PO Box 160
 Liverpool L69 8BG

Roaring Boys

2 New Kings Road
 London SW6

Killing Joke

c/o EG Records
 63a Kings Road
 Chelsea
 London SW3 4NT

Dead Or Alive

PO Box 65
 Liverpool L69 4LG

● Those masked men and women from the **Art of Noise** follow the oddball "Close (To The Edit)" with a revamp of the oh so mellow "Moments In Love". Sure to bring tears to the eyes.

BOWIE ON FILM

● **David Bowie's** a busy chap. Not content with "This Is Not America" (also featured in the film "Falcon And The Snowman" which is out in May, stars teen heart-throb Sean Penn and features music from the late '60s/early '70s), he's also in the new John ("Thriller") Landis movie. Called *Into The Night*, it's all about diamond-smuggling and Bowie has a small cameo role as a contract killer. Also featured is the early rock'n'roller, Carl Perkins, who in one scene has a knife fight with our David. *Oooh*, the blood!

And that's not all, folks. This summer David will be "contributing" to the film of the hep cappucino cat novel, *Absolute Beginners*. Directed by Julian Temple, who did Bowie's well-meaning "Blue Jean" video, filming restarts this summer (some of it was shot last year but they ran out of money). Also to be featured in the film are Sade, Paul Weller and Working Week. It should be ready for the flea pits early '86.

Astonishing Fact! In *Into The Night*, David Bowie has a moustache!