



# *On Broadway*

by Jack O'Brian

NEW YORK. — The Pied Piper of the pre-teen and slightly older set, whose mothers used to scream for Elvis Presley... is a man to be reckoned with on the concert scene... We're referring to David Cassidy, of course, who has wriggled his way to sex symboldom by way of records and "The Partridge Family." We sort of had to keep reminding ourselves that this embodiment of everyone's idea of a modern all-American teenager is now 22... And how does it feel to be in the dreams of all these young female fans?

"I wish I could share the phenomenon with every guy in the world!" exclaimed David. "Girls automatically share it because they make it possible. Without them, it would be like the tree falling in the forest. But guys get left out, and they shouldn't be, because they need it most."

"I think it's quite beyond the average imagination to approximate the feeling a performer gets when he rushes on stage, and is greeted by shouts and screams of adoration — before he's sung a single note, or so much as said 'Hi — it's good to be here.' To have that kind of attention rained on you — to be loved — without its depending on whether you're in a good or bad mood, whether you wear the right deodorant, or whether or not you squeeze the tooth-paste from the middle, is in its own peculiar way, a sort of perfection."

"I wish every guy my age could experience that unquestioning love. The boys who are the contemporaries of my fans usually feel threatened by me, and no wonder. Teens and pre-teens who are going through those first moments with the opposite sex, who are plagued by all the social pressures — are so vulnerable. It wasn't so long ago that I was in that position myself. I had to share their insecurities, and I really wish they could share my stardom. That age needs all the morale-boosting it can get."