



Singer-actor David Cassidy strikes three different poses (left to right) during his show at the Garden State Arts Center yesterday. (Press Photos)

David Cassidy Packs the Art Center



This girl's reaction to David Cassidy in concert was typical of that of other teen-agers in the audience.

HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP — Lynn Rumney, 11, Neptune, and Michael Jasnuska, 12, Bloomfield, stood next to David Cassidy, hoping to chat with him.

It would have been very difficult to spot Lynn and Michael among the more than 6,000 mostly young persons who attended the 22-year-old singer's matinee yesterday at the Garden State Arts Center. Like others, Lynn and Michael cheered and jumped up and down during the show, but backstage they were dumbstruck. They admitted later they didn't know what to say.

Cassidy showed them how he tuned his guitar. Photographers snapped pictures, and in two minutes, it was all over. Both children left the dressing room without even thinking to ask the singer for his autograph or handshake. Neither appeared nervous, just frozen with the excitement of meeting their idol.

Polite applause greeted Cassidy's back-up band and two singer accompanists as they began the show by performing several songs without their famed leader.

But when Cassidy appeared to begin 40 minutes of his most popular songs, the crowd roared, and continued to periodically throughout the rest of his act.

The singer didn't have to answer any requests. He sang the most popular of his light-rock, "Bubblegum," and ballad selections. He sang with sweeping movements of his legs, friendly waves to the fans, and a voice that dominated the sound system. It was with "Cherish," "Ricky's Tune," and "Brown Eyes" that he received the best responses.

Cassidy's popularity as a light rock singer, which

caused both of his performances to sell out yesterday (the first sellouts of the Center's current season) is no novelty.

Mrs. Lily Ferrell, Neptune City, was a Rudy Vallee fan once. She doesn't think Vallee achieved a following the size of Cassidy's possibly because Cassidy has a television show, "The Partridge Family."

"I even like David Cassidy more than I liked Vallee," admitted Mrs. Ferrell, who accompanied her daughter and granddaughter to the show.

Many parents who drove

their children to the Arts Center, also had been won over by the singer, basically because of his image.

"He's clean cut," said Mrs. William Grasso, Hazlet Township, who with her neighbor, Mrs. Thelma Strick, commanded a party of seven youngsters between the ages of seven and ten. "He is something we don't mind the kids getting attached to."

Few of the youths themselves could express in words why they choose to admire Cassidy. From 7-year-old Cindy Miller, Wall Township, to 20-year-old Barbara Reed, Matawan, the blanket statement seemed to be that the singer "... cute and definitely talented."

Three Shrewsbury girls, Dawn Hotaling and Cathy Buck, both 12, and Penny Smith, 13, had been counting the days to the moment when, from their seats in the second row, they could unfurl a banner proclaiming their love for Cassidy as he sang on stage.

As he sang his most popular songs, some girls threw packages, flowers, a teddy bear, and a sweater onto the stage. Some had to be restrained by guards as they tried to approach the singer on stage.