

TV Scene

Squeal, It's David Cassidy

BY ANN HODGES

David Cassidy's handshakes felt like he was running a fever — and he probably was.

The poor boy caught flu a few days ago in Los Angeles, so instead of spending his weekend sampling the delights of Gulf Coast deep sea fishing, he wound up spending most of his time in bed.

"I'm a little under the weather," he admitted sadly. "The good doctor is on his way now to give me a shot to get me through the next show."

David had already made the first performance burlesque of the day, the Sunday matinee at the Houston Livestock Show Rodeo. And now, changed out of his gleaming white-with-fringe arena suit, he was relaxing back at the hotel before time for the curtain closer — Sunday night's

last go-round of this star marathon rodeo season.

He looked a pale, tired shadow of that little girl's dream who had just set equal records for the biggest rodeo attendance ever (\$3,600) at a closing day matinee. (He set a closing night record, too, of 23,108.)

Police ringed the arena to protect him from the adoring advances of countless carefree things who surged down on him available aisle for a closer look at their idol. The flash-bulbs set up their own pyrotechnic light show as the Astrodome scoreboard supplied the star symbols — mammoth portrait and letters a lot bigger than he was, spelling out the magic name DAVID CASSIDY.

"And I couldn't even sing," David sighed. "I was so hoarse."

"It's a beautiful place, but so big. It's tough playing in there. There's no way to get close to the audience to reach out and touch them."

His fans, however, were obviously grateful for the effort. And in choosing David as the object of their adulation, I'm happy to report, our junior misses have exhibited a rare measure of impeccable taste.

Compared to most of your latter day idol types, David comes across like a lovable combination of Prince charming and Mr. Clean — you wouldn't mind a bit having your little darling bring him home to dinner. He's courteous, candid and the soul of kindness to his small-sized fans, even with that nasty flu bug giving him the business.

I have one at home, in fact — Elizabeth, who at age 11 may never wash her hand



Photo by O'Neill G. O'Connell Jr., CHRONICLE STAFF

THE YOUNG SET REACTS OUT FOR DAVID CASSIDY AT RODEO

One Fan Threw Shawl Draped Over Star's Shoulder

again, lest she disturb whatever deliciously contagious germs David Cassidy's welcoming handshakes deposited there.

He looked about 15 and big

as a minute in his jeans and T-shirt, but in point of fact, young Mr. Cassidy is 21 and well on his way to becoming a very substantial show biz citizen.

He has sold 16,500,000 records, albums and singles, given or taken a few hundred thousand; he stars in one of the most popular of TV's weekly series, and he is one of the hottest names going on the top line concert circuit.

Indeed, about the only thing David cannot afford these days is the luxury of lying sick abed. He's entirely too dated up for better things.

Such as next week's very important first performance in New York City's Madison Square Garden, followed by a 10-day tour over the Easter season and as many other concert appearances as he can work in between now and early summer when shooting starts on next season's "Partridge Family."

Most series are still sweating it out for September renewals, but ABC has already assured the Partridges of a spot in the nest. And the high-flying Partridge of them all is looking forward to fall with mixed emotions.

"I love doing the show, but I love not doing it, too," he smiled. "It does mean I won't be working so hard. The concerts will slow down. And we're going in early to cut enough of the pre-recorded music) to get us ahead of the game. That way I'll only be working a 12-hour day. I can go home at night and go to sleep."

If David had to do a class paper on "How I Spent My Winter Vacation" he'd surely start it with his recent first trip to Europe — a grand tour that began in pleasant anonymity in France, Switzerland and Italy.

"I traveled all alone in my camper bus, and I skied and played the guitar and did anything else I wanted to do," he reported.

Then came Rome, where he got "robbed" ("somebody stole my money, my passport, everything") — for the first time in Europe — he got robbed. He made his escape of stopping by the American Express office, and a 7-year-old Australian boy spilled the beans by yelling out his name.

"I don't know how he recognized me," David grinned. "My hair was a lot longer then, down to here. And I'd even sported a bit of a beard. I looked grubby."

Fortunately, by the time he got to London the beard was off and the Cassidy culture restored to normal shoulder-length. And, as duly reported by the British press, England's bubblegum set responded with the kind of welcome previously reserved only for Beatles.

David was overwhelmed. "It was incredible," he said. "I certainly didn't expect anything like that. The show had gone off the air over there and the records weren't a big success either. But 500 kids showed up at the airport, and from there on it was pandemonium."

"Kids over here are so nice. They scream a lot, but they're nice. David's really a great guy. 'There people want to grab you and hug. It's just their way of saying they like you, and you appreciate it. But when you've got six or seven hugging at the same time it's a pretty wild."

As David's book, you'll be pleased to hear, Houston's teeny and under (he estimates 7 to 17) rate just about top spot.

"I really like this town," David declared firmly. "Houston has always been good to



DAVID CASSIDY

me. And I've never been anywhere where people were more hospitable."

The flu shot was on his way up and David looked about done in, so I shepherded my mesmerized junior miss out the door taking care, of course, not to touch the hand that touched the hand of . . .

Happiness is catching the flu from David Cassidy.

Gunsmoke. (7 p.m. Ch 11) Calvin Clements, the series' writing ace, puts the heat on Festus. Matt Dillon's deputy, who's being tried for murder. Apparently, Festus Hagen is a ringer for murderer Frank Eaton. Even Eaton's wife identifies him as her former husband. As Festus, Ken Curtis is properly frightened, slowing down his gab considerably.

Monday Night Special. (7 p.m., Ch. 13) "Champions." A fascinating study of a group of top athletes that tries to explain the dedication and drive which motivates their determination to win. Since virtually none of these stars can expect monetary gains from the purely amateur sports they pursue — track, gymnastics, swimming — the dedication is all the more amazing. The best sequence in this consistently interesting hour is the first one about America's champion female runner, Cheryl Toussaint. Moe Tossaint lives in a Brooklyn ghetto, belongs to a club where must scrounge around for equipment, and uses a neighborhood park as a practice course where the girls must stick together while running, because the park is not a safe place to practice. The Japanese girls' volleyball team should also delight sports fans.

Hollywood Television Theater. (7 p.m., Ch. 8) "Awake and Sing." Led by Walter Matthau and a fine cast, Clifford Odets' biting drama of a Bronx Jewish family's struggles during the Depression becomes a television treat. It's been 37 years since the Bergrers, Uncle Morty, and Moe Axelrod squared off on Broadway, but Odets' bursting vitality hasn't gone moldy with age. There's a small undeclared war going on in the 108th street apartment where the steam is turned off at 10 p.m., and the vocal barrage is right on target. Odets' tightly written drama has snap and pace and appears tailor-made for TV. Producers Norman Lloyd and Robert Hopkins and the whole cast deserve applause.

Monday Movie. (8 p.m., Ch.

Silva Thins 100's have less "tar" than most Kings, 100's, menthols, non-filters.

And more flavor than all of them.

16 mg. "tar," 1.1 mg. nicotine.



Menthols 100's.

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*Filter and Menthols 16 mg. "tar," 1.1 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette. FTC Report Aug. 71.

TV PROGRAMS

Information contained in TV program was furnished by the television stations. The accuracy of their programs is their responsibility.

MONDAY

- 2 Big Two News 5 PM
- 1 Steve Edwards—Debbie Reynolds
- 2 Chris Chandler Show
- 2 I Love Lucy 5:30 PM
- 2 NBC Nightly News
- 2 Misterogers' Neighborhood
- 1 Walter Cronkite News
- 2 Hogan's Heroes (R)
- 2 Dick Van Dyke Show (R)
- 2 11:30 PM
- 2 Electric Company
- 2 Star Trek (R)
- 2 I Dream of Jeannie (R)
- 2 6:30 PM
- 2 Great Decisions 1972—"Vietnam and After: What Lessons Have We Learned?" Guests are Sen. William Fulbright, Sen. Hugh Scott
- 2 The Homeymooners (R) Ralph's character law comes to visit
- 2 Rifleman (R) McCain gives an ex-con a job on the ranch
- 2 7 PM
- 2 Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In—Debbie Reynolds guests
- 2 Hollywood Television Theater—"Behind the scenes with Olympic hopefuls Kipchoge Keino, long-distance runner of Kenya; the girls' volleyball team of Japan; hurdler David Hemery of England; U.S. skater Jannet Lynn; Australian swimmer Michael Wenden; and U.S. runner Cheryl Toussaint

- 2 3 World's Top Athletes! ★ "CHAMPIONS" A GE Monogram Special
- 2 Movie—"The Turtles of Tahiti" (42) Charles Laughton, John Hall, Pegu Barker. Story of a family of beachcombers. (B,W)
- 2 Wild Wild West (R) West is ahead while guarding a cargo of smallpox vaccine
- 2 NBC Movie—"Thank a Fool" (62) Susan Hayward, Peter Finch
- 2 Here's Lucy (R) Flip Wilson in a spoof of "Gone with the Wind"
- 2 ABC Movie—"The Huckleberry Hound" (42) Laurence Luckinbill, Collette Holm, Joanna Pettet, Dean Jagger, Bob Crane, Bradford Dillman, Cameron Mitchell. Murder and intrigue involving the disappearance of a fleet of obsolete planes. TV-movie
- 2 Movie—"Hole in the Head" (59) Frank Sinatra, Edward G. Robinson, Eleanor Parker. Musical
- 2 8:30 PM
- 2 Doris Day Show—"Doris" story about a colorful hothouse threatens her job
- 2 9 PM
- 2 The Longest Journey—"SPECIAL" The People Who Watched the President." A review and analysis of the President's trip to China
- 2 Movie Game
- 2 9:30 PM
- 2 Lee Trevino Golf

- KUHT-TV Ch. 8 (PBS)
- KPRC-TV Ch. 2 (NBC)
- KHOU-TV Ch. 11 (CBS)
- KTRK-TV Ch. 13 (ABC)
- KVRL-TV Ch. 36 (Ind.)
- KHTV-TV Ch. 38 (Ind.)

TUESDAY

- 2 11:30 PM
- 2 12:30 PM
- 2 Tonight—Bobby Darin, Buffy Sainte-Marie, David Steinberg
- 2 CBS Movie—"Children of the Damned" (64) Ian Hendry, Barbara Ferris. Suspense story about six small children whose presence poses a threat to the world
- 2 The Virginian (R) Comedy episode with Yvonne de Carlo
- 2 11 PM
- 2 Peyton Place (R)
- 2 News Final 11:30 PM
- 2 News 12:30 PM
- 2 News 12:30 PM
- 2 Late Late Show—"Quebec" (51) Corinne Calvet, Patric Knowles, Corinne Calvet, Patric Knowles

TUESDAY

- 2 6 AM
- 2 Sunrise Semester 6:30 AM
- 2 Newsmaker 6:30 AM
- 2 New Zoo News 9 AM
- 2 Captain Kangaroo
- 2 Cadet Don and Robot
- 2 Today Show 7 AM
- 2 News
- 2 Three Stooges Theatre 7:30 AM
- 2 CBS News — John Hart
- 2 Cadet Don 7:45 AM
- 2 Sesame Street 7:55 AM
- 2 Dennis the Menace (R) 8 AM
- 2 Morning Show 8:25 AM
- 2 Lassic (R) 8:30 AM
- 2 Romper Room 8:45 AM
- 2 Think in Ink 8:55 AM
- 2 Dialing for Dollars (live) 8:55 AM
- 2 Dinah's Place—Michael Caine, Lucille Rivers
- 2 The Lucy Show (R) 9:15 AM
- 2 Candid Camera 9:30 AM
- 2 Electric Company 9:30 AM
- 2 Concentration 9:45 AM
- 2 My Three Sons (R) 9:45 AM
- 2 Calendar (live) 9:45 AM
- 2 Think in Ink 10 AM
- 2 Sale of the Century 10:20 AM
- 2 Family Affair (R) 10:20 AM
- 2 Around the Corner

- 2 Hollywood Squares
- 2 Love of Life — Drama
- 2 That Girl (R)
- 2 What Every Woman Wants to Know 10:45 AM
- 2 Think in Ink 11 AM
- 2 Jeopardy
- 2 Where the Heart Is — Drama
- 2 Bewitched (R)
- 2 Hazel (R)
- 2 11:20 AM
- 2 Look Around You 11:25 AM
- 2 Rona Barrett 11:30 AM
- 2 Middy (live)
- 2 Search for Tomorrow — Drama
- 2 Password
- 2 Farmer's Daughter (R)
- 2 12:35 PM
- 2 Think in Ink
- 2 Virginia Graham—Fernado Lamas, Pat Henry, Julie Harris
- 2 News at Noon (live)
- 2 All My Children — Drama
- 2 Gomer Pyle (R)
- 2 12:30 PM
- 2 As the World Turns — Drama
- 2 Let's Make a Deal
- 2 Galloping Gourmet
- 2 12:35 PM
- 2 Talking Town 1 PM
- 2 Days of Our Lives — Drama
- 2 Love Is a Many Splendored Thing
- 2 Newsworld Game
- 2 Movie — "Wichita" (55) Joel McCrea, Vera Miles
- 2 1:10 PM
- 2 Think in Ink
- 2 The Doctors — Drama
- 2 Guiding Light — Drama
- 2 Dating Game 1:45 PM
- 2 Look Around You 2 PM
- 2 Another World — Drama
- 2 Secret Storm — Drama
- 2 General Hospital — Drama
- 2 2:05 PM
- 2 Think in Ink
- 2 Bright Promise — Drama
- 2 Edge of Night — Drama
- 2 One Life to Live — Drama
- 2 Lucille Rivers: Cartoons 3 PM
- 2 Somerset — Drama
- 2 To Tell the Truth
- 2 Love, American Style (R)
- 2 Popeye 3:05 PM
- 2 Secondary Developmental Reading 3:30 PM
- 2 Mike Douglas—Sol Linowitz, Willi Jeon, Fran Jeffries
- 2 Movie — "Streets of Laredo" (49) William Holden, Macdonald Carey
- 2 Petticoat Junction (R)
- 2 Flintstones 3:55 PM
- 2 Sports Club 4 PM
- 2 Green Acres (R)
- 2 Bon's Big Top (live)
- 2 Gilligan's Island (R)
- 2 4:30 PM
- 2 Sesame Street
- 2 High Chaparral (R)
- 2 Roy Rogers (R)
- 2 Leave It to Beaver (R)