

Cassidy TV tour rights still open

Television rights for next month's David Cassidy tour are still up for grabs — only a month before his first Australian concert is scheduled to begin.

All three major commercial networks have made bids to film the tour — expected to be one of the largest and most colorful since the Beatles — but promoter Harry M. Miller has not made a final decision.

"Our concern at the moment is a series of live concerts by Cassidy," Mr. Miller said yesterday. "We're a live entertainment organisation and television rights are only secondary to that."

Mr. Miller said he "had discussions" with representatives of all three networks over the past few weeks but would not make a decision until nearer the tour.

His office said it was unlikely that any network would be given rights to make a straight recording of one the concerts.

It appears more likely that any television deal would be in the form of a documentary of the whole tour.

The general manager of the Nine Network (Mr. Len Mauger), said he had been given no indication of what price would be required or when an announcement was likely to be made.

He declined to say how much the network would be prepared to pay.

"We are not sure yet how much live performance material would be available for television," he said.

"From what we understand Mr. Miller and Cassidy's management envisage something more along the lines of A Day in the Life of David Cassidy."

Nevertheless Cassidy will make at least one television appearance during his Australian visit — he will be presenting the annual TV Logie awards at the Southern Cross Hotel on March 8.

Mr. Mauger said he believed the tour would be a sell out whether or not it was given television exposure.

"His fans are used to seeing him on the screen — they've been getting him for years," He said. "But few of them pass up the chance to see him in person."

Cassidy, the 23-year-old star of the top rating series The Partridge Family, flies into Australia in late February for a three week tour.

His only Melbourne appearance will be a huge Sunday afternoon concert at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on March 10.

They are generally wild affairs with huge often near hysterical audiences. His stage act is also controversial — a critic once labelled it "obscene and disgusting".