

SUCCESS GUIDES DAVID CASSIDY'S LIFE STYLE

Doing things his way

Pandemonium follows the 23 year old David Cassidy wherever he goes. He wears crowds, clamour and adoration like a five o'clock shadow.

His crowded press reception in Sydney was no exception. Mind you, he is a curiosity.

Just what charisma could a skinny, long-haired, dimple-cheeked young man possibly have to cause such chaos? That was the question in most people's minds.

We see David Cassidy each week-day in ATN 7's Partridge Family, that wholesome calamity-making series about a family of entertainers who travel through America in a bus driven by the mother, Shirley Jones. It was this series that made young Mr Cassidy the idol of young girls all around the world.

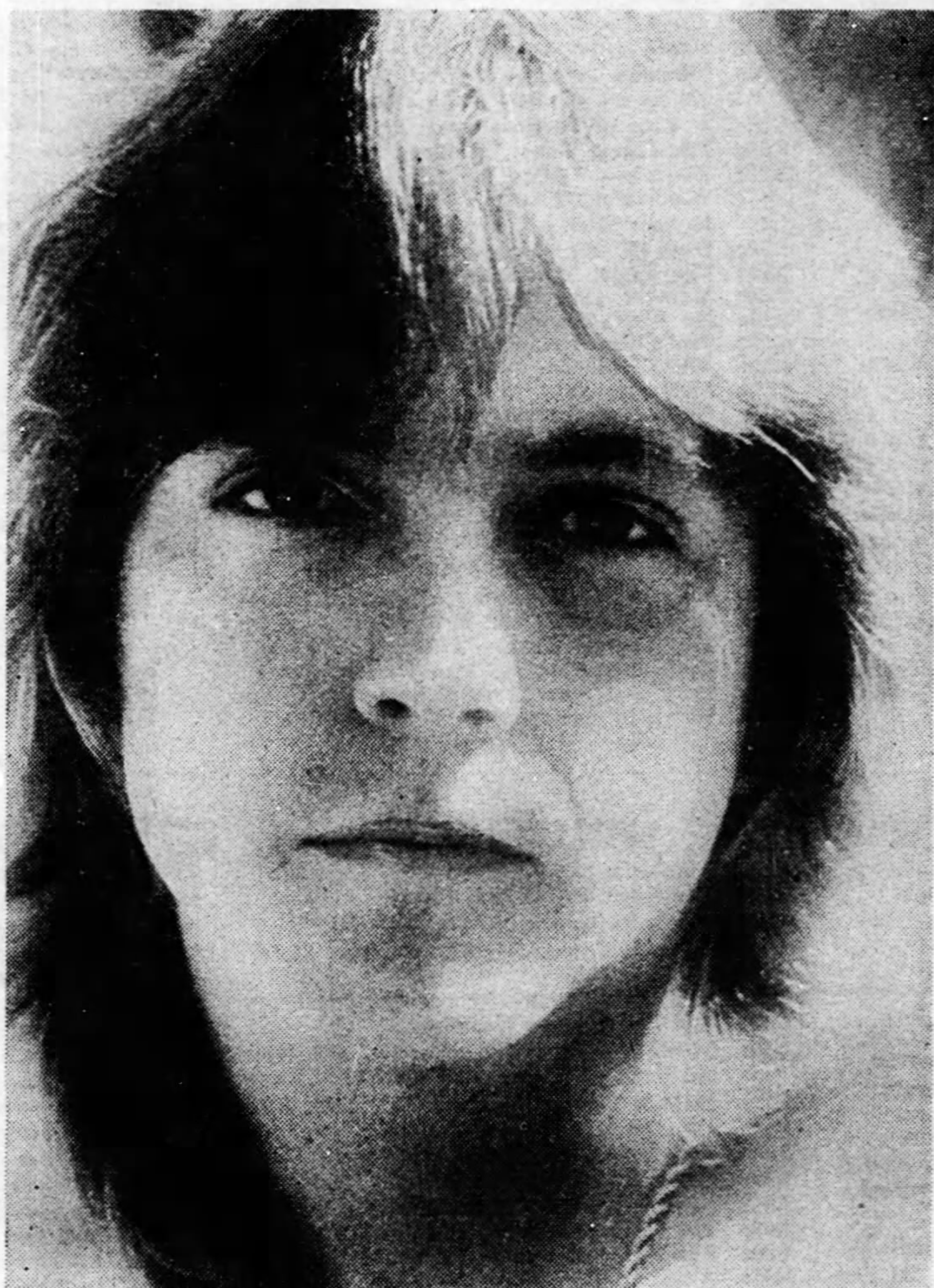
Several teenybopper school-waggers waited, clutching scrapbooks as if they were the crown jewels, and appeared unsure whether they were to shriek with delight or simply faint.

After a 30-minute delay, David Cassidy ran into the room, cameras swung perilously overhead — and then there was an unearthly silence! Nobody seemed able to think of anything to say.

Nervously he said: "Hi," and fluttered his arms about in an embarrassed gesture. The blaze of arc lights hit him and lit up the room like a Hiroshima blast.

Blinking furiously, he crossed his legs first one way, then the other. Then he spoke:

"Fire away," he said. "I'm not too sure what people want to know at press conferences." There was a faint croaky timbre in the voice because of a mild throat infection contracted somewhere along the way to Australia.



David Cassidy . . . 24 next April and knows just where he intends to go.

Then came a barrage of the usual questions which were mellowed somewhat by the gentle, sincere answers of this young man who displayed great intelligence as well as patience.

"I was never quite sure what to expect of Australia," he said, "having learned very little about it at school. It always seemed a million miles away and when I stepped off the plane it was like stepping out on to Mars."

David Cassidy looks about 16. His pleasant face breaks easily into a most charming smile but his most striking feature would be the sparkling hazel eyes. He wears casual clothes and sensible shoes and the only hint of being with-it was his shell-like necklet.

"I'm never quite sure what I am like," he says. "I am constantly on the move, working here, there and everywhere and meet-

ing people all the time. If I have to think what I'm really like I would say I am a shy, nervous person."

Despite the cult-like atmosphere and the adoration he inspires he is still lonely. He said, "I have a couple of very close friends, that's all."

He went on to say he was a "media child" and raised on television — a product of his environment. He thinks we influence others.

Because so many girls profess to be in love with him, does he feel wary when alone with one girl in particular?

"No, I don't and I hope I never will," he said. "I understand how many of them feel — this hero worship thing. But as far as marriage is concerned, well, I won't be thinking of that for a long time."

David Cassidy enjoys being an independent person who can finally do his own thing after a career that has consisted of making many records he hated and singing songs he never wanted to sing.

"I want to continue growing, and making music. If people enjoy listening then that will be great."

"Nobody tells me what to do any more. I'm David Cassidy, I'm over 21 and if I want to do something I do it."

He has grown out of the Partridge Family scene and is taking himself out of the teeny-pop world while he is still ahead. In April he will be 24 and wants to try something new. He is carefully planning vast changes in his life pattern.

"Having experienced fame and wealth, I know now that I really like the

simple things of life."

David Cassidy was worth waiting for. Underneath that terrifying aura, he is just another shy, ordinary, pleasant, lonely young man.