

David Cassidy

Making a Comeback

BY JAMES BROWN

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A few years ago, David Cassidy had the American Dream pretty well locked in his hip pocket. He was the golden boy, Keith Partridge, the baby-faced star of the hit TV series, "The Partridge Family," a bubble-gum music messiah whose records were certified gold, a flutterer of untold millions of prepubescent hearts.

He played to packed concert halls and was mobbed wherever he went. Teen magazines wanted to know what David Cassidy ate for breakfast. Toy stores stockpiled a healthy inventory of David Cassidy dolls. Kids wallpapered their bedrooms with David Cassidy posters. It was the star-maker machinery at full throttle.

And then he quit. Quit cold. Three years ago, Cassidy called a press conference in England to announce that he was taking time off for a long rest. Insiders exchanged a few knowing winks. He'd come back, but fast. The teen-idol business is a short, swift ride and you'd better let it carry you as far as it can. Ask the Monkees. Ask Bobby Sherman. But David Cassidy decided to step out at the summit.

Cassidy is coming back now. On Sunday, he returns to television as the star of a two-hour "Police Story" (9 p.m. on NBC) in which he plays a rookie cop who goes undercover at a high school to crack a narcotics ring.

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RETURN—Former teen-age pop sensation David Cassidy makes his first television ap-

pearance in three years with a two-hour "Police Story" episode, Sunday at 9 on NBC.

Times photo by Marianna Diamos