

# After Three Years 'Different Person Now,' David Cassidy Says

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Sunday at 9 p.m. on NBC's "Police Story," David Cassidy makes his first TV appearance since "dropping out" three years ago.

Actually, it was more like "dropping in" for the former teen singing idol and "Partridge Family" star.

"I had to step back and get a new perspective," he says softly. "I don't want to lose myself again. I don't want to drive myself like that again. I'm just a different person now."

"When the TV series ended, I went on a five-month world tour. And then I felt like I'd just done it — like I'd made it to the top and I wanted to leave it that way. I wanted to leave it instead of it leaving me."

For three years, he raised horses and thought about life and his role in it.

And he married Kay Lenz, a fine actress "and a wonderful person, too."

"When I finally did make a decision about my future, it was that I wanted to act again. But it soon became evident that it was not going to be easy for me."

Typecast by what he refers to as "the other experience," Cassidy held out for "something good, something of quality and interest."

**HIS ROLE ON "Police Story"** is "the dilemma of emotional and mental anguish as a young man goes from being a cop to a narcotics agent."

Assigned to infiltrate a high school drug ring, the character "becomes one of the students and eventually is confronted by his work and the kids. How far can you go before a job becomes your life?"

**The similarity between this role and Cassidy's personal confrontation does not escape him. And he has no qualms**



**DAVID CASSIDY**  
*Quietly, with blunt honesty.*

about discussing it, quietly, surely and with blunt honesty.

"I was very lucky," he says. "What I experienced was unique. I have good feelings about it, even though creatively it was not the best. I got to touch a lot of people, and that alone was worth it."

"A lot of what happened to me was my own attitude. I was young, it happened very fast and it was incredibly intense. I have found that it was my perception of what it was all about . . . my perception of being a star."

"There are other things that are more important in life. I do have the luxury of not having to work again, but it's not a question of dollars and cents, but of desire. I really do want to work again, but a career is not the most important thing in life."

**QUALITY OF LIFE** and work is what is important to him now, at the age of 28. He says he would even con-

sider another TV series, "if I felt it would be stimulating and worthwhile."

He has cut another album, "the first in a few years," and he considers it "the best thing I've ever done. For the first time, the material is representative of who I am."

"A lot of people never really heard me as a singer," he says, prodded to continue. "The old material was representative of a TV show and that concept of me. It's . . . well, it's difficult to see me as other people have seen me or heard me."

"Doing 'Police Story' was really educational for me. I got to be close with the narc whose story we were doing, and who served as technical adviser for the show. They lead an amazing life. They are kind of outcasts — the police don't want to associate with them, and they can't befriend the

people they associate with in their work."

Sunday's two-hour drama, which co-stars Vince Edwards, also could make David Cassidy an outcast. Will he measure up to a heavy dramatic role, or will the offers for "car crash movies" keep coming in?

"It's not going to be easy for me. I know that."

## Weekend's Best

**Tonight**

9-11 — "Kate Bliss and the Ticker Tape Kid," Channel 4.

**Tomorrow**

4-5 — "Once Upon A Classic," Channel 13.

11:30-conclusion — "Klute," Channel 4.

**Sunday**

9-11 — "Police Story," Channels 7, 11.