David Cassidy, who unveiled his "Little Johnny Jones" musical at Los Angeles' Dorothy Chandler Pavilion last night, reports he'd been preparing for the legitimate romp "like I'd been in training for a championship fight, and have never had as much fun in my entire career."

David's career got its boost into the big time when he was cast as the eldest of TV's "Partridge Family" clan in 1970. During the reign of that show his face sold coloring books, lunch pails, sheets, pillow-cases and T-shirts. He was selling out concert halls around the country. His records were outselling Elvis Presley's.

By the time the "Partridge" bubble burst, David was more than ready for a lengthy spell of recuperation from "the hysteria of it all." He took three years off, "and just didn't work at all." In 1978 he returned to star in the short-lived NBC series, "David Cassidy: Man Undercover."