



ON THE ROAD AGAIN — David Cassidy hits the comeback trail at 41

Live and In Person

□ *David Cassidy braves a semi-stalled past for a new career revival*

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David Cassidy: The name is enough to set off the pop music Geiger counter. Cassidy is most famous for playing Keith Partridge, the featured character of "The Partridge Family," a TV show modeled after a real-life family of rock performers called the Cowsills.

The show began a five-year run in 1970 and because of its popularity, the young singer became a teenybopper heart throb and a million-selling recording artist.

Remember "I Think I Love You"?

Through the early 1970s, he toured to concert halls full of screaming, hysterical fans. (The faithful even gathered in the Scranton CYC one night in 1972 to hear Cassidy perform.)

But life didn't begin or end with "The Partridge Family."

"I can't imagine there's anybody left in America that knows me *only* as Keith Partridge," said Cassidy in a phone interview several days before

his concert performance at the Kirby Center in Wilkes-Barre.

There may be a few souls who don't remember Cassidy's pre-Partridge appearances on "Bonanza" and "Marcus Welby M.D."

Or less-than-faithful who paid no heed to Cassidy's second music career and the 1975 album, "The Higher They Climb," aided by such luminaries as Richie Furay, Nilsson and Flo and Eddie (Marc Volman and Howard Kaylan).

But the 41-year-old Cassidy is a game player, willing to laugh at himself, unwilling to abandon the ship just because the record companies he signs to keep turning up their toes.

"As difficult as the latter part of my career has been, I've paid my dues. It's (risen) from a grass roots, ground level. I did everything I had to do. That's the reason I'm at the point I am now," said Cassidy.

The point now is a mini-tour of theaters and concert halls, between next year's yet to be recorded album and last year's self-titled collection



David Cassidy as Keith Partridge

that yielded a Top 40 single, "Lyin' To Myself," but stalled when the label, Enigma, went the way of LP records.

"To have a top 20 record in America with a record company going out of business is...impossible," blurted Cassidy.

But a similar thing happened in 1985 when Cassidy was attempting a comeback in Europe (he may have been bigger there, than here) and his label, Ariola, was sold and the singer left without a recording company.

Those sorry stories told, it's not surprising that when Cassidy calls, he's lost.

"I'm in Cleveland. They gave us the wrong directions," said David Cassidy, sounding none too disturbed for the experience.

The singer said fans coming out to see his show will be surprised.

"I'm going to be doing stuff from the '70s but it's not a nostalgia show. It's not an oldies show," said Cassidy. "Certainly if I went to see David Cassidy and he didn't do the old stuff, I'd be disappointed."

"It's got pop. It's got blues. It's got torch. We've been blowing the roof off of some places. Some places didn't expect (the show) to have the energy it had."

This renewal of career began several years ago when DJs at a Los Angeles radio station called Cassidy for a laugh, the singer played along and the public responded anxiously.

Cassidy put together a five-piece band, hired a high-powered public relations firm and hired former "Partridge Family" co-star, bad-boy DJ turned comedian, Danny Bonaduce as opening act.

The singer, who recently married

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