

David Cassidy

'70s teen idol brings tour to Hershey

By WENDIE WELLS
Staff Writer

HERSHEY — Somewhere in a dusty corner of the attic of my parents' house, or maybe it's the garage, there is a diary from the early 1970s with numerous pages devoted to girlish fantasies of a tall, thin, dark-haired young man with whom I had a weekly rendezvous, Fridays at 8:30 p.m. on ABC.

If I had a crush on anyone before David Cassidy came into my life in the persona of Keith Partridge, I don't remember who it was. He was perfect, at least to my pre-adolescent eyes.

As Keith Partridge, the oldest of five singing siblings, Cassidy was not only handsome, he was funny in a bumbling sort of way. Keith was the perennial target of the pranks pulled by his more savvy younger brother, Danny, which somehow endeared him to me — and millions of other teeny-boppers — more than if he had been a macho superhero.

While his Keith Partridge image was a huge success which probably made the publishers of *Tiger Beat* and *16* magazines millionaires, it wasn't long before David Cassidy, the actor/musician, became confused with Keith Partridge, the character.

In the two decades since the Partridge Family's multi-colored tour bus was parked permanently in the lot marked "canceled," Cassidy has worked hard at distancing himself from the cute buffoon that made him a household name.

This Saturday at Hersheypark's Amphitheatre, fans old and new will be able to judge for themselves whether or not his efforts have paid off when Cassidy kicks off his first concert tour in 15 years with shows at 2 and 5 p.m. Admission to the shows is free with park admission.



A long-haired Cassidy wooed teen-age fans as Keith Partridge.

Like those of us who swooned over him 20 years ago, Cassidy has grown up. He has studied and practiced the crafts of acting singing and songwriting, sharpening the raw skills he displayed in his "superstar" period.

Several years ago, he had a commendable run on Broadway as the title character in the musical "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." He returned to television briefly with his own short-lived series "David Cassidy: Man Undercover," a police drama based on an episode of the more popular "Police Story." (In 1984, I met one of Cassidy's co-stars from the original episode, Don Stark, who was tending bar in New York City at the time. He said I was the only person he knew, other than his family, who saw that episode. Actually, I've seen it twice. I guess, there are some crushes you never really get over.)

In brief

David Cassidy

**2 and 5 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 14**

**Hersheypark Amphitheatre
Hershey**

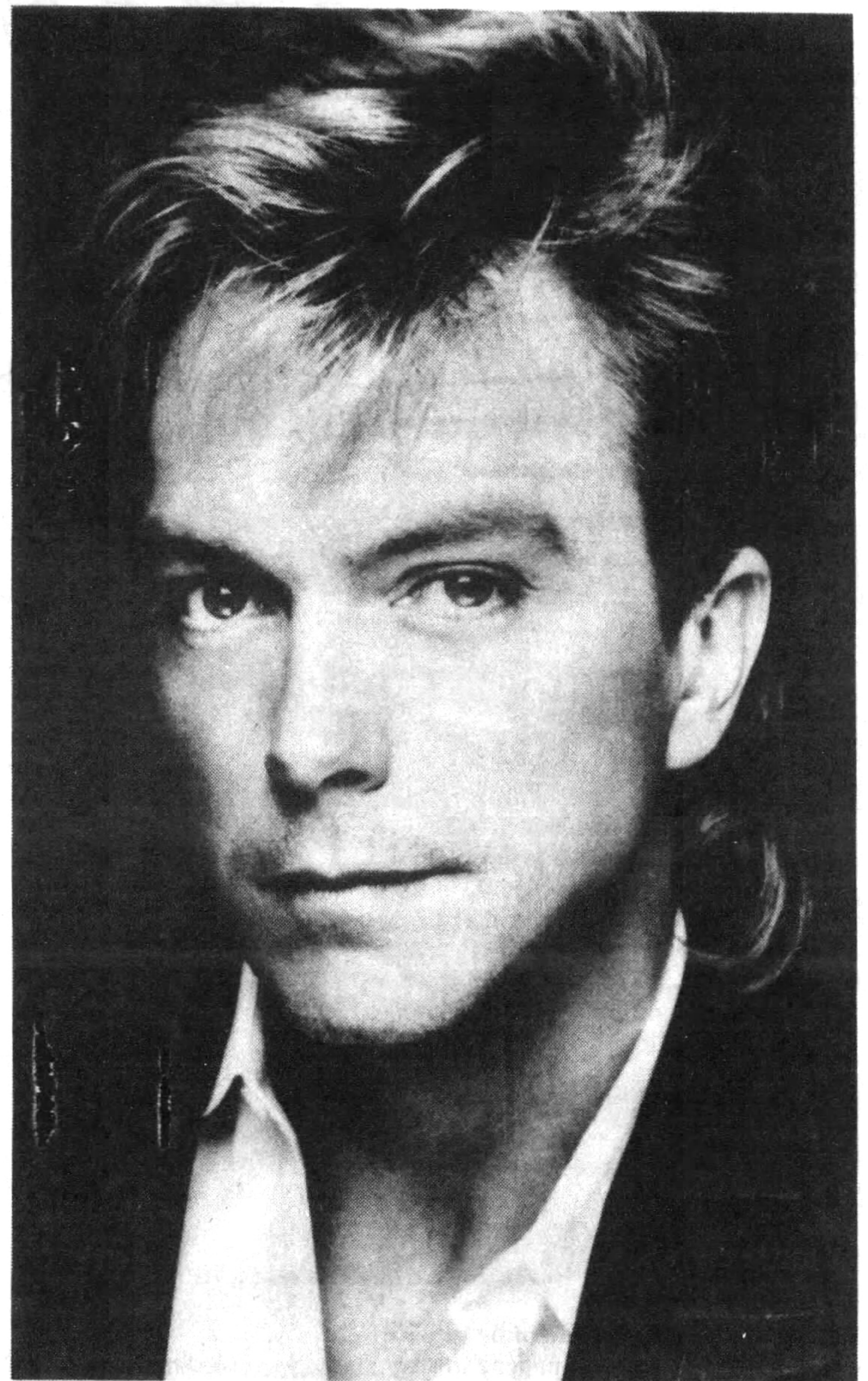
Along the way, Cassidy has gotten married, divorced and re-married. He and his second wife, Sue Shifrin, co-wrote eight of the 10 songs on his self-titled album, which was released last year on Enigma Records. They have also collaborated on a son.

The album won Cassidy new respect in the music business as a singer/songwriter, with one single, "Lying To Myself," receiving significant radio and video airplay.

Although his tight rehearsal schedule did not allow Cassidy time for an interview with *The Daily News* this week, in other published interviews he has said he writes "melodic kinds of songs," but adds, "That's not to say it can't have an edge."

Best of all, the music is his own this time around, written from the heart and performed live, with Cassidy playing guitar and backed by a five-member band. In addition to his own material, Cassidy will perform several Partridge Family classics.

Cassidy turned 40 this year, which makes most of us Partridge Family fans thirtysomething, at least. But when he takes the stage Saturday, in our hearts, we'll all be teen-agers again.



David Cassidy, the heartthrob of millions in the early 1970s, sports a new hard-edged look for his 'comeback' concert tour.