David Cassidy wows old fans, young converts

By Holly Roberson FLORIDA TODAY

MELBOURNE — If David Cassidy is an aging 1970s teen idol, you wouldn't have known it Thursday.

Women screamed, teen-agers snapped photos and people grabbed cups the former Keith Partridge had sipped water from as he talked on air with local disc

jockey Karen Kay.

Cassidy, one-time titan of teen heartthrobs, still musters that Partridge twinkle, even if his hair is shorter these days. The 48-year-old star stopped by on a promotional tour Thursday at WLRQ, Lite Rock 99.3. His new compact disc, "Old Trick, New Dog," contains a remake of his smash hit "I Think I Love You."

Cassidy, who conjures up an era many have put in the attic, is in the midst of a career renaissance that began in 1990 with his Top 30 hit

"Lyin' to Myself."

The bluejean-wearing star of the Las Vegas musical "EFX" often rubbed his eyes and looked a tad sleepy as he explained to the audience that had gathered outside Lite Rock's glass studio in The Florida Market Place that he hasn't slept much during the tour.

"I've been in Orlando the last 18 hours," he said with that Keith Partridge grin that sent the mostly female audience of about 75 into squeals. "It's an hourly thing now,

not a daily."

But Debbie Helms didn't think he looked tired at all. The Rockledge resident was 12 when she

Music by phone

To hear a sound bite of David Cassidy's new CD, call NewsNow. Dial 633-NEWS (6397), or in the Sebastian/Barefoot Bay area 728-8118, then enter code: 1111. The 5-minute call is free.

went to her first concert — Cassidy

in Providence, R.I.

"I'm still a little girl at heart," she said showing off a 1974 issue of Tiger Beat magazine with a younger Cassidy smiling from the cover. "He hasn't changed at all."

Laura Scaglione, 12, said she thought Cassidy looked great. She's spent years watching "Partridge Family" re-runs.

"David Cassidy is David Cas-

sidy," she said.