

A Caesars surprise planned by Cassidy

By Mel Shields
Bee Correspondent

David Cassidy is paying the price for performing 1,000 shows on a steel stage. He's wearing a special cutaway orthopedic shoe to take the pressure off where a nerve recently was removed from his foot.

"It's a little frustrating. I haven't been able to play live for a few months, and that's after having no more than four days straight off in six years," says Cassidy from Las Vegas, his home and the home of that steel stage, the specially built performance area for MGM's "EFX" in which Cassidy starred for three years. Some would say he not only starred in the show, but saved it as well.

"Well, when I joined the show we were doing one a night and it was bringing in about \$200,000 a week. We tripled that over four months. I came in and rewrote the show, and they made a lot of money, and I'm glad they did."

The process evidently has whetted Cassidy's appetite for



David Cassidy: "My shows are very high-energy with lots of jumping, dancing, flying around."

Las Vegas. The former "Partridge Family" star has become a producer, a field his brother Shawn, former "Hardy Boys" star, has been in for some years. David Cassidy, however, is putting his efforts into the Strip, joining forces with "John Larroquette Show" producer John Reo to bring "The Rat Pack Is Back" into the Crystal Showroom at the Desert Inn.

"It's done with actors and singers, not impersonators. We've set the evening on Dec. 12, 1961, Frank Sinatra's birthday," says Cassidy, 49. "It's not 'Legends in Concert' by any means. We've redone the showroom to look like the Las Vegas Strip when they were performing there and everybody is in clothes from the era — you know, those little, skinny ties."

Sinatra performed at the Desert Inn his last time in Las Vegas, although most of his work there in the 1960s was at the Sands. Cassidy just recently finished casting the show, finally choosing a Sammy Davis Jr. to join Sinatra and Dean Martin and Joey Bishop as the principal four.

Even though their performances together were legendary, changes have to be made. Thirty-eight years can make a big difference.

"A lot of what they did on those stages was very hokey and has become very dated," Cassidy says. "We've also had to eliminate all the racism and sexism. They were unfortunate-

AT A GLANCE

David Cassidy

Performs at 9:30 p.m. June 26 at Caesars Tahoe. Tickets are \$20 and \$30. For more information: (800) 648-3353.

ly very anti-Semitic in their humor and a great deal of what they did back then would offend everyone today.

"But I'm very excited about this project and think it's a perfect idea for the Strip, both entertaining and a tribute. I grew up with parents who were Broadway theatrical performers and I fell in love with the music of the era. I loved Sinatra and I loved Bobby Darin."

This background helps explain the surprise Cassidy has in store for his fans when he plays a single show at Caesars this Saturday. He won't reveal much of what he has planned for the first half-hour of a 90-minute set, but he does drop a lot of hints.

"I'm coming in with a big