



Can't keep a good man down

David
Cassidy

keeps

coming

back like

a song

BY GAYE DELAPLANE
RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

David Cassidy has grown by leaps and bounds. Since his days as America's teen idol while star of the "Partridge Family" television show from 1970-74, he's had ups and downs, emotionally, financially and artistically.

But Cassidy, at 48, is doing swimmingly, immersed in new projects.

He's writing music with his wife of 11 years, songwriter Sue Shifrin-Cassidy. He's enjoying his 7-year-old son, Beau. With partner Don Reo, he's putting together a new show, "The Rat Pack is Back," which will run July 14 through Labor Day at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas. And he's working on "a hybrid Broadway show" for another Las Vegas hotel-casino.

Cassidy also recently released a new album, "Old Trick New Dog," and will begin a tour in September to promote the album. Besides all that, he's bringing a 17-piece orchestra to Caesars Tahoe for a one-night "swing in."

"You'll be hearing lots of different music in that show," Cassidy said in a telephone interview from his home in Las Vegas.

"We'll be doing Broadway music, 'Partridge' music and new music from the album. The big-band arrangements are wonderful. I'm really looking forward to the Tahoe date."

Cassidy has gone through some periods of adjustment since "Partridge Family" days. But these periods have matured him and given him a chance to establish himself in different areas of show business, he said.

Having proved himself a successful actor and vocalist on television and after establishing himself as a stage actor in "Blood Brothers" and "EFX," a major production at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Cassidy can look back at his days on "Partridge Family" with a new perspective. He also has come to terms with the rocky times that followed

"Partridge Family," when short of money, he lost his ranch and saw two marriages fall apart.

Cassidy began to find work in theater, appearing in "Blood Brothers" and "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" on Broadway and in "Time" in London's prestigious West End theater district. He received an Emmy nomination for his acting in the television drama "A Chance to Live."

"What people don't realize is that my career actually started on the stage," Cassidy said. "My parents were actors — my father (the late Jack Cassidy) was in 45 Broadway plays during his career. So I grew up with it. And I was performing in the L.A. Theater Company before 'Partridge Family' started."

Cassidy was performing in the musical drama "Blood Brothers" in Toronto in 1995 when Richard Sturm, MGM entertainment director, contacted him to gauge his interest in taking over the "EFX" lead if Michael Crawford chose not to continue when his contract expired.

Cassidy flew to Las Vegas, met with Sturm and took a look at "EFX." He was impressed by aspects of the show but concerned about others. He felt the music wasn't contemporary enough and found the treatment "dark." He said he would be interested in the lead if substantial changes could be made in the music and story.

When Crawford was released from his contract early because of a groin injury, Cassidy rushed to Las Vegas after closing in "Blood Brothers" Sept. 7, 1997.

With help from his brother Shaun, Cassidy put in 15-hour days during the next few weeks revamping "EFX" with new music, a new story and new choreography. The revised show opened in early November 1997.

When he left the show on Dec. 31, 1998, the MGM Grand took out full-page ads in both Daily Variety and the Las Vegas Review Journal thanking Cassidy and acknowledging that he was responsible for bringing in more than 1 million paid customers to see the show.

"It's a very difficult show physically," he

SHOW INFO:

Who: David Cassidy
When: 9:30 p.m., Saturday, June 26
Where: Circus Maximus at Caesars Tahoe
Cost: \$20 and \$30
Details: (800) 648-3353.

THE CASSIDY FILE

◆ As lead vocalist with the Partridge Family band, the stars of the "Partridge Family" television series from 1970-74, David Cassidy placed seven singles in the Top 40, including "Doesn't Somebody Want to Be Wanted," "I'll Meet You Halfway," "I Woke Up in Love This Morning," "It's One of Those Nights (Yes Love)," "Breaking Up is Hard to Do" and "Looking Through the Eyes of Love." The group's first single, "I Think I Love You," topped the pop charts for three weeks in 1971. It was also the top-selling record of 1971.

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