

# David Cassidy stars 'At the Copa'

**By Jackie Brett**

*Special to Las Vegas*

Former teen superstar David Cassidy, who will turn the big "Five-0" this year, is starring in his own show and a new production for the Rio called "At the Copa." He's also the show's producer and chose to mix an uncomplicated Broadway-type plot, "boy meets girl love story," with a live nightclub concert. It's a show that Cassidy had wanted to do for a long time.

When the show first opened in January, it had rough edges, which have been worked out. Thus the reason for a recent second visit to the show.

The show is set in the Rio's remodeled, oval-shaped, tiered Copacabana showroom. The nightclub atmosphere and the show are completely enhanced by the presence of Lon Bronson's 18-piece band. An added nightclub touch is robust Stewart Daylida playing a club emcee desperately trying to break into show business. One must add that Daylida's supporting role actually steals the show.

On the Broadway side, the six dancers (four female and two male) are choreographed and costumed similar to the Bob Fosse characters in the play "Chicago." In fact, Rick Pessagno who plays Lefty, a sleazy nightclub owner, is a former "Chicago" cast member.

In the middle, linking the theater and nightclub formats, are the show's two co-stars David Cassidy and another former teen idol Sheena Easton. He plays Johnny Flamingo, a waiter promoted to showroom star when a jealous dame shoots his predecessor. Easton is Ruby Bombay, the club's chanteuse that Flamingo falls for big time. The catch is Lefty tells Flamingo "hands off" Bombay if he wants to keep his job.

Cassidy and Easton do two different sets of tunes in the show. Some songs like "That Old Black Magic" and "Fever" carry the plot along. Easton's "For Your Eyes Only" and Cassidy's "I Woke up in Love this Morning" are among the hit tunes the two stars sing in order to please the audience.

One thing that happens in this show and can't be helped is when Cassidy does his hit songs, you automatically put the *Partridge Family* aura around him which detaches you from his Flamingo character for awhile.

Regardless, audiences are thoroughly enjoying Cassidy and Easton, plus a live orchestra "At the Copa." Tickets are \$58; call 1-(702) 252-7777.



*Rio Las Vegas*

David Cassidy, along with singer Sheena Easton, bring a new show to the Rio. "At the Copa" is set in the Rio's remodeled, oval-shaped Copacabana showroom.

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