

David! David! David!



David Cassidy today.

One-man boy band speaks

IN TALKING ABOUT "Then and Now" (Decca), his 20th and latest recording, **David Cassidy** shows his age. The onetime teen idol refers to the release as – get this – an "album."

"Oops," Cassidy catches himself. "I still call them albums. You know, I talk to guys who are 22, 23 years old. They look at me and kind of laugh that I'm still calling them albums."

"Let's put it this way: I have a new compilation of songs available on a specific kind of digital disk."

Cassidy – who is set to play Red Bank on Friday, his fourth

New Jersey show since March – recently unveiled a new stage show and band. And the former "Partridge Family" star has tweaked his set list using suggestions from fans compiled via his Web site, www.davidcassidy.com.

"That is great," Cassidy tells CELEBS, "because it becomes sort of like their show *and* my show."

Cassidy was surprised by fans' selection of one particular, obscure song: "Ricky's Tune" from his first album, "Cherish" (1972).

"That's 30 years ago, which is really interesting," Cassidy says. "I do it now. I'm glad I do it. I probably would not have done the song, had



Cassidy and friend in his pop star heyday. www.davidcassidy.com

they not requested it.

"Unlike a lot of (artists), I guess, who've been out playing the same songs over and over and over again for 30 years, I haven't been doing that, because I've done so much other work. It's kind of like you open up an old chest and you find these jewels. I love these songs."

"You know, my fans are responsible for me having an extraordinary life. I feel very lucky and thankful for that. Without them, I'd probably be pumping gas somewhere."

"Talent has nothing to do

with it. There are lots of talented people who can't make a living. I mean, it ultimately has something to do with whether or not you survive, but having the kind of impact that I have had – my fans have been extraordinarily loyal.

"And I love them for it." **C**

– Mark Voger

☐ David Cassidy is scheduled to perform at 8 p.m. Friday at the Count Basie Theatre, 99 Monmouth St., Red Bank. Call: (732) 842-9000. Web: www.countbasietheatre.org