

## POPAL ONE

Fallen teen idol back in the saddle

BY MARK VOGER STAFF WRITER

After "The Partridge Family's" velvet suits went into mothballs, with it. Vegas, the United Kingdom, even a TV movie, "The David Cassidy new stage show tonight and tomorrow in Atlantic City.)

ain't gonna let it happen again.

makes you stronger and more insightful," Cassidy, 51, says. "It of everything that I have. Because nothing in life is what it seems particular."

Which brings Cassidy to a pet

the Harder They Fall" and have people that love you and it still is." "teen heartthrob" sta- what people will do for it, what has taken a back seat to image. tus, but it wasn't too much later kind of a commodity it's become, before he really did fall, and hard. how coveted it's become and how organic talent or drive there is their lives?" obsessed people and the media are there," Cassidy says. "My suspi- Cassidy - whose 20th album, Paper Mill Playhouse, Milburn.

Cassidy hit a career slump, with "How many times have you probably put together, not out of out May 7 — credits his fans for all the nasty side effects that seen shows where they say: their own choice, but out of somego with it. But since a hard-won 'Coming up! Guess who's going one who is a marketing person. "My relationship with my fans DAVID CASSIDY comeback about 10 years ago, out with so-and-so who showed up Unlike John, Paul, George and Cassidy has been like a man at the Grammys? And guess what Ringo, who chose to be a band possessed, taking on Broadway, she's wearing?' I mean, who together. It's a completely differ- years through all of the various

Fame has been a way of life for Story." (Cassidy will unveil his Cassidy since 1970, when "The a 'pretty people' market; they're Broadway, as an entertainer in Partridge Family" first aired. marketing 15-, 16-, 17-, 18-year-old Vegas, watching my television Cassidy sang on a string of hits, kids. I'm not sure that's a healthy shows, buying my various kinds The way Cassidy sees it, fame including "I Think I Love You" thing for any human being to be of merchandise during the '70s. bit him in the butt once, and he and "I Woke Up in Love This thrust into, without having some-Morning."

"When you fall and get up, it But the performer says that he back on. doesn't court fame — or trust it.

doesn't hold anything for me. I'm an opportunity to go on. Can you one another, and that is a gift." celebrity in particular, fame in and being successful, but for me, it's always been about the work, thing is over in a couple years? not how famous or rich I'm going "We're talking about sad people

David Cassidy album. on the other hand — there's a lot observes of today's "boy bands" The singer was poking of it that is dark and really such as \*NSYNC and the Backfun at his then-fading smarmy and undesirable. Like, street Boys, he senses that talent

ent world.

"In general, I think it's become

years old? What happens when the

who are destined for the garbage "My father (the late actor Jack bin, basically, in terms of fame, in fame-conscious to a point of Cassidy) once said to me: 'Do good terms of Hollywood, in terms of treat for me, to go to Asbury almost being obsessive now," he work. The rest of it comes.' That's how the media and the music Park," Cassidy says. "We're talk-"Talent is the thing that has these people do with their lives at earliest memories was walking

he Higher They Climb, able to go out and make a living always been a commodity. I think that point, become doctors and down the boardwalk. I have pho-

ILLUSTRATION BY ELAINE MELKO STAFF ARTIST

but I kind of know a lot about it. I care about human beings, not just 'What's their latest pop song?' and 'How was their last photo shoot?' In addition to his Atlantic "I don't know how much real, But, 'What happens to the rest of

cion is that they (the bands) were "Then and Now" (Decca), is due Sold out. (973) 376-4343. getting him through the lows.

is truly extraordinary," he says.

"They've supported me for 32 entertainment mediums — as a concert performer, as an actor on

"My Web site (davidcassidy thing like an education to fall .com) is a wonderful tool. I really get some genuine feedback from a "I just wish them good fortune, consensus of people, as opposed "Maybe it's because I've had it and not to end up like so many to: I've got a fan letter here. It's made me much more appreciative for so long," Cassidy says, "but it that, unlike myself, did not have like you get to actually speak with

thankful for being acknowledged imagine being washed up at 18 Cassidy — who was born in \$55-\$100 Manhattan and grew up partly in West Orange — recalls visiting (800) 843-8767 Asbury Park with his grandparents as a boy.

"Every summer, that was the

lawyers? It's a dangerous concept. tographs of my grandparents and went the title of a 1975 care for you. Celebrity and fame, But from what little Cassidy "I'm sorry for going on about it, I on the boardwalk there. There used to be all kinds of great rides. "Are they still there?"

> City shows, David Cassidy is scheduled to perform April 8 at the

9 tonight and 8 p.m. tomorrow Tropicana Casino

Brighton and Boardwalk avenues,

and Resort

