
The David Soul Appreciation Club

NEWSLETTER

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Kindly authorised by D Soul

Dear Members,

Here is what David has been up to in September:

- **Nestlé Commercials** - On Friday 6th David recorded a series of voice-over commercials for Nestlé, where he plays an old detective. He said they were the funniest voice-overs he's ever done...but they haven't been sold to any radio stations just yet, so whether we'll ever hear them, your guess is as good as mine!
- **Dispatches** - David recorded five separate instalments, on Friday 6th and Tuesday 10th, from this book written by Michael Herr, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of its release. The book inspired such films as 'Apocalypse Now' and 'Platoon'. It was recorded for BBC Radio 4. David said it was wonderfully written and he really enjoyed it.
- **Alexa's Gig** - On Thursday 12th Alexa, David's girlfriend, appeared along with other artists at the 'West 14 Club' in London. She has just recorded a CD of her own compositions (not released yet) and performed five songs on the night with a great backing band. There was a decent sized audience and she received a good response. David attended along with Stewart Bevan and Gerald Kydd, his co-stars from Death Trap. However, Czechy stayed at home!!
- **Ice Blonde** - David starred as the tough-guy detective in this play which aired on BBC Radio 4 on Saturday 14th. The production also featured Alexa as a lesbian singer !
- **Milton Keynes Autograph Convention** - David attended this venue on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd along with other stars including Mark Prowse, Darth Vader in the 'Star Wars' movies, and the leading actor from the horror film 'The Hills Have Eyes'. (see later in this issue for Sylvie's report on the event.)
- **The Fab Café, Leeds** - David appeared at the opening of this new bar on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th and sang a number of songs accompanied by Hugh Burns on guitar. (see also later in this issue for Sylvie's report.)
- **Classic Songs – No sooner had he been back from Leeds** that David went straight into the recording studios on Friday night to re-record demos for 'Surrender to Me' and 'Silver Lady'.
- **Italy** – The very next day, he flew off to Italy for a mini-break, and returned on Oct 1st.

Other Information:

New Album - David is currently in talks to record a new album. The producers were in attendance with him at the Fab Café in Leeds as well as at 'The Innocents Ball' where he performed recently in Spain. He has currently chosen 9 out of 14 tracks, which will be a mixture of updated versions of his hit songs, as well as new tracks. We will let you know when we have any further information.

In friendship,

Milton Keynes by Sylvie (20 + 21 Sept)

I went to Milton Keynes and am proud to say that David was just **fantastic** with everybody. Even though most people had a very limited time-slot to spend with him, he made sure they went back with fun and fond memories. He was in a sweet, crazy mood and would tease people, joke with them.... or try to confuse them (!!!).... and it was just sheer entertainment. At one point he decided he'd take out his digital camera ... so that when the next person asked 'Can I take your photo?', he'd say [quite seriously] : 'Sure pal, if you let me take your first'..... the **reaction** on people's faces was such that it made the whole thing a lot less tedious for him ! :)

He was especially kind to people who had disabilities (wheel-chair users with cerebral palsy, people with learning difficulties or dawn syndromes). He'd treat them extra nice, with hand-shakes, kisses, whatever they wanted... and wouldn't even take any money from them. They all left beaming endlessly.... and feeling really welcome. He was a real sweetie towards children too, and would shake their hands or stroke their faces... and took a genuine interest in them - though they had no idea who he was.

I found it hugely rewarding because he proved to me, time and time again, that he has such a big heart. His **love** for people in general really **shone** through. For him, that was the true value of it all -- meeting people.

The fellow actors also got along with him... I heard that on the Saturday night, after the official dinner, they stayed up to chat till.... 5:15am !!! He had a ball, talking about everything from acting to New Zealand (3 of the main actors were from NZ so they knew all the same business people over there.... and David, as you may know, loved NZ so much when he lived there early 94 that he actually applied for residency over there too.... but didn't get it --- *thankfully* ! :).

I hardly watch TV so none of the celebrities looked familiar to me (half were featured in Star Wars or Lord of the Rings - but covered in various masks in the movies). But most of the actors swapped addresses to keep in touch later. The shared 'acting experience' made the week-end all the more interesting for David as he was able to relate to everybody quite happily. Football was high on the agenda... on the Saturday he just HAD to find someone who could tell him if Arsenal had won or not..... and every time a fan came up wearing an Arsenal T-shirt, he'd be thrilled for the chance to talk football with them !

One fan turned up with a cardigan, and a Hutch doll for David to sign.... he was with his son but the chap said the doll was actually for him - and that he was a cop in real life. David teased him endlessly about the fact that, really, his son should be the one playing with the Hutch doll if anything - everybody looking on was just cracking up...

I took a few great portraits which I hope will show what a fun mood he was in. He was wearing a grey shirt on the Saturday and an Hawaiian shirt on the Sunday (one I'd never seen before). Both suited him nicely. I'll just have to find access to a scanner.... a big challenge !!! I won't have enough pix for a whole set though (as I was mainly there to take photos of David with fans - so 90% of my two films show him posing with strangers) but I'll see if I can take some more in Leeds (for the rehearsals) and add the ones from Peterborough on the train-platform, and this hopefully will come to about 30 decent negatives. We'll see....

David said a few times that he probably wouldn't do a convention again as he's an actor because he loves **acting**... not signing autographs (this, to him, has zero value as it's not a 'real' job). *But then, that's what he said last time..... and he still did another one.* David told a few fans he's hoping to have a single out in November (probably a remake of an old hit) and is aiming to have the new album out in March 2003 (that's a mix of old & new songs). And he definitely wants to tour with it..... so, start saving up ! :)

He wasn't sure at this point what he'll talk about at the Fab Cafe.... but said he may do an impression of the Minnesota accent (VERY Swedish-like, and he is hilarious when he tries to sound Scandinavian !!! He made an impression for one of the helpers who was from Sweden) AND he may even do a drag-queen impression ! :) ... *if we get lucky*..... David has told me for years now that one day, he'd like to portray a drag-queen, before he gets too old.... and believe me, when he gets going, with the right tone of voice and mannerism.... he has me in fits of laughter. He's such a natural ! :) And the more I laugh, the more he puts it on.... (because he does love entertaining people SO much).

Also, David was not supposed to give away free autographs to **anyone**, but could never resist doing so if a child would come up to his desk... One little girl came up and said something like *'I'd really like your autograph for my mum, because she talks about you a lot... but I don't have any money, would that still be ok ?'*... David then said, leaning forward *'Well sweetie, the deal here is that if I give you something, you have to give me something back.... so, how about your watch ? Do you really need your watch or could you give it to me ? [the girl looked puzzled so he continued] 'ok, maybe you do need your watch, how about what's in your pocket ? Do you have any chewing-gum or anything ? You have to give me something'*.... the girl was still speechless and unsure what to make of it (even though he was smiling), so David eventually said *'OK, I'll let you off the hook, but that's strictly between you & me ok ?'*... he then asked for her name and wrote 'Rebecca, with love, DS 'something for nothing''. It was a real sweet moment....

Then a Spanish fan came over and he tried his Spanish out as her English was limited, and two French fans came over too, and as I started talking to them in French he tried to add the odd word in French into the conversation too - they were well impressed ! One of them was called Sylvie so, as she was about to spell her name, he said *'Don't bother sweetheart, I know how to spell that one !'*

At one point I was keeping an eye on the money whilst David had gone for a cigarette break a bloke came up to me and said 'Are you his wife or his daughter ?'.... :))) So, the next day, I got out my 'DS UK 82' T-shirt and looked a lot more official.... Believe it or not, we also had about 5 people who, when picking out one of the S&H photos said *'and, of course, Starsky is dead now'*... David would reply : 'Well, that's news to him if so.... I can assure you he's doing very well. I think you got confused with his wife'.

One final quote is worth mentioning: A 30 something chap came up to David's desk and said :

- "You know that scene when you jump off the wall and land on the car top.... I tried that once"

- (David laughed !) "You didn't, did you ?"

- "Yep... and, I don't know about you... but I found it hurts!"

- (David laughed again) "Gee, I'm really sorry about that.... our fault really, we forgot to put a warning that said "Don't try this at home" !!! :)

David then went onto to explain that it triggered a congenital lower back problem which eventually led to back surgery. Voila ! :)

Fab Café - by Sylvie (25 + 26 Sept)

Another report.....

I think that those of us who were lucky to attend all agreed that David looked really lovely and sang just **beautifully**, but that the audience was disappointing. The cafe itself looked great, fun and all, but as the doors opened at 7:00pm and David didn't come on till 10:00pm or so, most people who had come over for a night-out, as opposed to 'coming to see DS' had had a few drinks by then, were quite merry and loud... and therefore paid very little attention to what David was doing. It was hugely frustrating for us (the dedicated gang) who wanted to enjoy the performance... *but couldn't really ignore all the chit-chat in the background.*

I attended the rehearsals and David seemed to sound so much better then, simply because it was possible to **hear** him properly - **just** him.... He was planning to sing 11 songs actually that first night, but gave up after 9, when he realised that 2/3 of the audience just wasn't paying attention **at all**. It must have been pretty disheartening for him.... (I couldn't help but think of all the people who **wanted** to see David but were unable to.... it seemed SO unfair). They also played a video of The Matrix movie, which I personally found distracting as the screen was just above David's head from where I was seated... I don't know how he found it possible to ignore it either.... :(The next night they played 'Children from the Lost City', a very gruesome movie.... ugh. Weird choice if you ask me...

I was looking forward to the Q&A session, as this, to my mind (and to the mind of many of us who had attended the very first Fab I'm sure) **is** what made the Fab Cafe such fun and so **different**, but David couldn't face going ahead with that - understandably. So, we all ended up short-changed... *well, those of us who did care about him...* not just the venue.

I had a chat with the owner of the Fab Cafe and they all agreed that this wasn't ideal for him. That a Q&A session is where David is likely to shine the most because he is so witty and so quick at building a rapport with an audience. Hugh, funnily enough, also quoted almost word for word what I was telling you the other day... i.e. when you put David in a position when he can make people laugh, if people respond at his jokes, he will feed on that and give you back more & more energy.... Steve & Paul (who run the cafe) understand that and are determined to get David for a proper Q&A evening again (like the very first one), where DSAC members would get priority for seating so that David can have an **attentive** audience !!! Steve and Paul I must say, were absolutely delightful and couldn't have been kinder.

For the record, the songs David sang on the first night were:

Let's have a quiet night in / the Mexican folk song / Covered Man / New York Town / Hooray for Hollywood / Black Bean Soup / Don't Give Up / Surrender / Silver Lady.

The second night he sang:

Ain't No Sunshine / Mexican song / New York Town / Hooray / Carlito / Black Bean Soup / Don't Give Up / Tattler / Help Me Make It Through The Night / Surrender / Silver Lady.

The second night was much better as the audience was a bit more respectful and it sounded as if 2/3 of us were paying attention.... David also got **lots** more applause after each song. His voice was just superb and I think he was pleased with his own performance, even if they had a few technical itches to start with.

I personally enjoyed the rehearsals more, because, as I said, not only because voice filled the whole room.... and it sounded so pure and wonderful - but also because he looked better still (and the drooling factor is always high on my list as I'm such a visual creature !)... He was wearing a stunning blue silky shirt on the first day (with blue jeans), and on the second day he was wearing dark jeans, a pale blue T-shirt, and sometimes his beige jacket (very Hutch-like look actually). When my pals & I first turned up at the Club that 2nd afternoon we found David was already there, in a corner, playing the guitar to himself until Hugh turned up. We just left him to it (didn't even go over to make our presence known). Hugh had actually told us earlier that day (we bumped into him in a coffee-shop in

town) that he's worked with lots of artists before but that he'd **never** ever known anyone to put in **as much** work as David does into projects. *He just sang his praises....* He also mentioned that Marbella was a huge success and that people remembered him really warmly, so the response he got was phenomenal.

After David finished singing 'Help Me Make It Through the Night' during the 2nd day rehearsals I asked if he was planning to include this in the new album as it was one of my top 10 songs of all times and he said *'I can't, too many people have covered it already'...* I asked if he was going to sing it later that night at least, but he wasn't sure yet. Anyway, he eventually did do it, and when I bumped into him after the show later that night, I gave him the thumbs up (you couldn't really **talk** at length as it was SO loud) and he smiled and said *'You see... I did do your song'...* which I thought was sooo sweet. I always love hearing him sing 'new' material (i.e. never previously sang by DS) and so it **was** a treat.

Anyway, I didn't really have the chance to talk to him much..... he was just too pre-occupied during the day (and he even apologised for it later, bless him !!!). But he was **very** accepting of my taking photos and so I was able to take about 45 gorgeous portraits, from every angle possible - *besides, when he wears blue... I get vividly inspired !!!!* I just hope they turn out wonderfully I also took some during the actual performances, but not many as I didn't like the lighting so much (too red) nor the shirt as much (same as MK, on both nights, so I felt I already had enough shots of him in it by now....). I do love variety in photos... makes them more interesting. I've got him wearing 4 different outfits on my last film. I'll let you know but I'd say I have enough for a 36 pix set at least....

Voila! Gotta sign off now.... but thanks again for support & interest in David.... he's a pretty amazing and generous guy. He surely deserved an Appreciation Club !
