



Hi!

Welcome back to my page for another issue. It's good to be back.

Wow, these last few weeks have been incredible. As you all probably know, I was ill during the summer and had a gall bladder operation. That held up shooting on "The Partridge Family" and forced me to cancel a few concerts I had scheduled. Making up that lost time has really been a hassle. But I want to thank every one of you for sending your best wishes, either to me personally or through the magazines. Your cards and letters were wonderful—I really think they helped speed my recovery! So thanks again.

Speaking of cards and letters, I've certainly been getting bags full through this column. And I've been noticing one thing. A lot of you are interested in how I got started as an actor and what kind of life an actor leads. Here are just a few of them:

Dear David:

I watch "The Partridge Family" every Friday night and I think you're the cutest boy on earth. Could you tell me how you got started in show business?

Jodi Hansen, Woodland Park, Colo.

Dear David:

I watch "The Partridge Family" every week and I think it is a great show, but I wondering one thing. You are such a great actor that I was wondering if you've ever been to acting school or taken drama classes. If not, how did you develop your acting talent?

Myra Plummer, Washington, D.C.

Dear David:

Do you like being an actor and working on "The Partridge Family?"

Debbie Sheets, Annapolis, Md.

Thanks for the compliments (they do make me feel good) and here goes . . .

I really can't ever remember not being interested in entertaining. I just grew up in that atmosphere. I guess it would have been much different if my father were a carpenter or salesman and my mother were a housewife or a teacher. But both Mom (Evelyn Ward) and Dad (Jack Cassidy) were in show business. So singing and dancing and "pretending" were very natural to me.

I remember seeing my father on stage for the first time when I was about three years

old. It made quite an impression on me and I really picked up on it. I used to go around the house all the time singing and I'd sing myself out of blue moods. For a time, I even sang myself to sleep!

Music was actually my introduction to show business. I sang before I ever thought of doing anything else. I used to do the solos a lot in church and that was fun. I remember one rendition of "Silent Night" I did as soloist with a falsetto voice. It was pretty far out!

Because my parents were insistant that I take care of my education before anything else, I didn't pursue a career while in school, except for one summer when I acted in a summer stock company with my mother. After graduation, though, I started studying and getting as much experience as I could. I worked with a theater group in Los Angeles, a summer stock group in New York, appeared on Broadway, studied musical comedy and did some television guest shots before "The Partridge Family."

And that's the story. It may seem easy, but it wasn't, believe me. Performing is hard work, just like everything else and every other job. There are a lot of disappointments, too—and they're usually personal ones. That is, you may feel you didn't get a job because you weren't good enough or because you did something wrong at the audition. There's a lot more that goes into getting a job than that, of course, but a lot does hinge on ability. That's why it's so great to be successful.

Sometimes fans get the idea that an actor spends all his time playing golf (tennis, in my case) or going to parties with hundreds of glamorous people. It's not true. There's no way that happens. Acting is work. Even sitting around waiting to be called for a scene is work. Perhaps that's the hardest part of it, in fact.

Still, I love it. And I'm grateful to you for enjoying it, too.

This is YOUR page, too. You can write to David, ask him anything you want to know about "The Partridge Family," himself, members of the cast, his past or future, his opinions—anything! Send your letters to:

TALK TO DAVID CASSIDY

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Then keep watching this column for your letter—and David's own personal answer!

