

awards

Acting was first choice

ALTHOUGH 24-year-old superstar David Cassidy (right) has grown rich and famous as a pop singer, he began as an actor.

He decided to be one at the age of three, it is said, when his actress mother took him to see his first Broadway play. It starred Jack Cassidy, his actor father.

The marriage broke up when David was five. His mother, Evelyn Ward, took him to Hollywood when he was ten. He took acting lessons after graduating from a Beverly Hills high school.

He has since appeared in any number of television shows. In 1970 he was briefly on Broadway with a musical titled "The Fig Leaves Are Falling." The critics' notices about David were the kindest things said about the show.

Back in Hollywood, he was given a part in "The Partridge Family" TV series, in which his real life step-mother Shirley Jones plays the mother. Afterwards Shirley said she didn't mention the relationship until she knew David had got the job.

The show slanted him towards his meteoric career as a solo concert and recording artist and pre-teenagers' idol. Already he has collected seven gold records.

Becoming a pop star sidetracked him from acting very pleasantly, with a total of 17 million records sold and an undisclosed fortune in his bank account.

At present David is on a concert tour starting on February 26 in New Zealand and ending in Perth on March 15.

But his feet are well and truly on the ground, and his sights still set on acting as a solid, continuing career.

For beauty: sleep, love

FOR beautiful, fiery-tempered Italian actress Gina Lollobrigida (left), it is her first visit to Australia, although she nearly made it here in 1965 and 1970.

She is also appearing at the Sydney Opera House.

Although La Lollo is now well into her forties, time has left little mark on her. Her stunning figure has the same vital statistics it had 20 years ago.

She adores food, but must crash diet every few months to keep slim. Her tips for beauty are sleep and love — and La Lollo says she needs a lot of both.

"At least seven hours sleep every night — and being in love is most important. All the efforts women make to remain beautiful would be useless without the love of a man. Love makes our eyes sparkle, gives the skin a soft glow, and is a reason for living."

She always makes up carefully. "I never leave home with a naked face. I would feel undressed. After all, makeup exists to help us look more beautiful."

For ten years Gina was married to Milko Skofic, who had fled his native Yugoslavia after the war and studied medicine in Rome. He gave up his career as a doctor to supervise Gina's business activities.

Eight years after they were married Gina gave birth to a son, Milko, Jun., and the birth was almost a national event. Milko is now 16, good-looking, and considerably taller than his mother.

At the height of her fame, Gina said of her husband: "He is my personal physician, my tennis coach, my business manager. He is the keeper of my luck, my happiness, my well-being."

The marriage ended in divorce in 1968 and Gina said categorically she wouldn't marry again. However she was reported to be enjoying Dr. Christiaan Barnard's courtship right up to the time he remarried, and was engaged for four months in 1969-70 to George Kaufman, a wealthy New York businessman.

Since then she has had no steady escort.

Gina is also a photographer of note, respected by professional cameramen. She has taken photographs in most countries and many have appeared in top international magazines.

