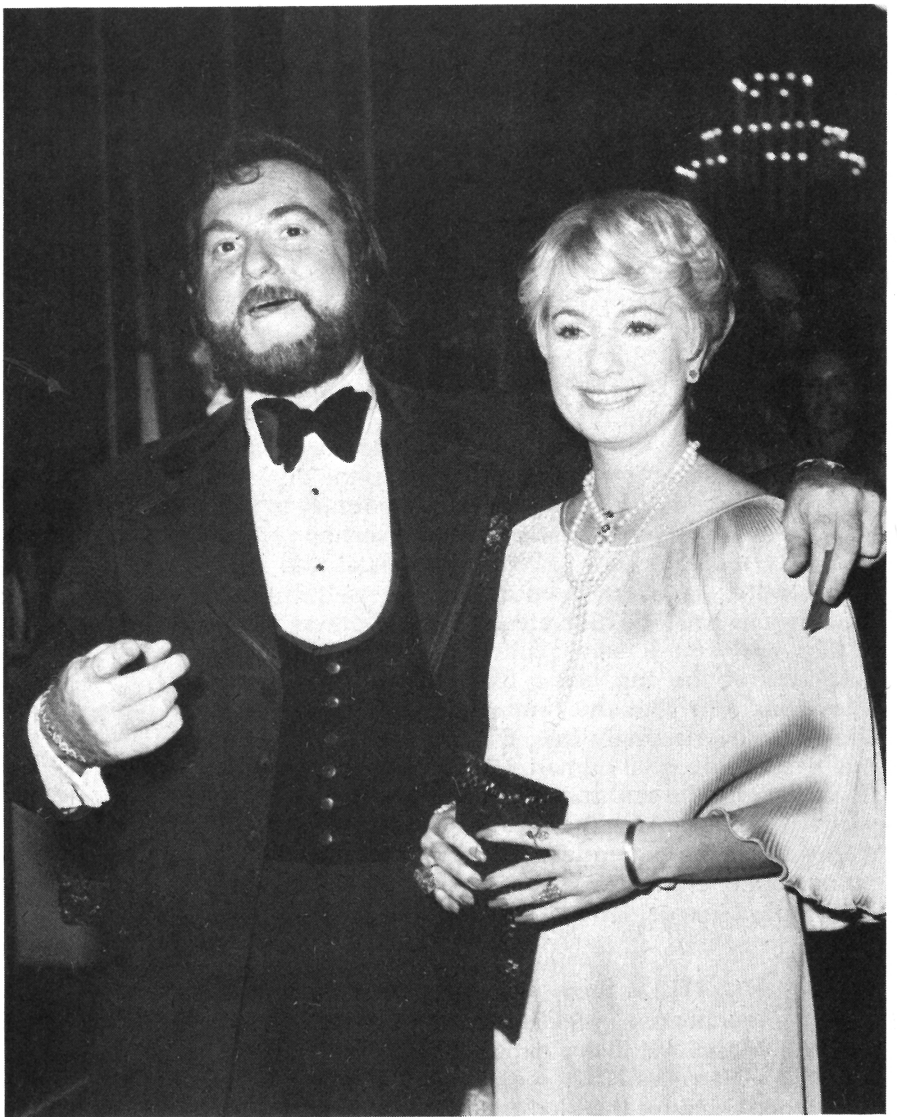


By ANITA SUMMER ■ What would you say if your teenaged son came to you and asked, casually and cheerfully: "Mom, is it alright to have sex before marriage?" If you were Shirley Jones, you'd answer, just as casually and cheerfully, without batting an eyelid: "Well, a lot of people don't think so—and a lot of people do. There are two schools of thought. Some believe that sex is sacred, just for those who are married. Others feel the exact reverse. . ."

Whatever the question put to her—be it what to wear, how to phrase a letter, a problem concerning school, advice on a script—Shirley tries to give them more than one point of view; she wants them to see all sides, before making a choice, giving an opinion, or coming to a conclusion.

Our cover girl, whose fame these days stems as much from being the mother of David and Shaun Cassidy as it does from being the golden-voiced Shirley Jones, doesn't mind when she's recognized more through her sons' current achievements than through her own: "I'm not competitive with my children. On the contrary, I'm thrilled and delighted to be pointed out as their mother." Do they pigeonhole her as their Mom, big sister, pal? "A bit of each one. But they know that first and foremost I'm their mother. I set those rules, because that comes
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No date's been set, but Shirley says she and comedian Marty Ingels will be married by early next year. He says he "fell in love before we said 'hello.'"

The Unbelievable

Shirley Jones

**The Mother Of Superstar Shaun Cassidy
And Step Mother Of David Tells What
It Is Like To Have Two Talented Sons**