

# NOW BACK ONSTAGE, DAVID CASSIDY HAS A NEW FIANCÉE AND A CONFESSION: HIS ROCK DAYS WERE NO PICNIC

## Couples



Between Broadway curtains, David lunches in Central Park with Meryl Tanz. "We're very protective of each other," she says.

*You never go through that kind of experience for five years and come out the same. Believe me, that tunnel is long, often cold and very dark. There is no way you come out unscarred.*

**S**o says David Cassidy of his glory days, when he burst into showbiz as the squeaky-clean, 20-year-old rocker on TV's *The Partridge Family*. Almost overnight he became the teenyboppers' No. 1 heartthrob, and by his 21st birthday, in 1971, he had made his first \$1 million. A kind of pint-size (5'8", 120 pounds), G-rated Mick Jagger, he

played some 350 concerts in 17 countries while turning out 10 *Partridge* albums, eight solo albums and 17 singles. There were also posters, bubble gum cards, even David Cassidy dresses. But early in 1975 he quit, burned out at 24.

He was further seared when he tried a comeback three years later with a short-lived crime series, *David Cassidy—Man Undercover*. On the difficulty of finding work again, Cassidy says, "To the people who put you on TV and in films, it was like: 'Who are you? Goodbye.' I was yesterday's news. I

felt a lot of pain about that, for having to almost apologize for having been a teen idol."

But now, after an intermission of almost five years spent mostly performing in regional theater, there is a second act in Cassidy's life. At 33, he is at last starring on Broadway, as Andy Gibb's replacement in the hit musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. And today there's more to lean on than just his career, most notably Meryl Tanz, 37, a South African-born redhead who is both his fiancée and his partner in a horse-breeding