



Jones & Co. get happy

## THE PARTRIDGE FAMILY

### The Complete First Season

Shirley Jones, David Cassidy

*Unrated, 11 hrs., 5 mins.,*

*1970-71 (Sony)*

Television

**T**hey owe a lot to two previous funkily clad clans—the Monkees and the Bradys—but the Partridges broke significant TV ground with their single matriarch (Jones), teen heartthrob (Cassidy), and precocious wiseacre (Danny Bonaduce). There's no finer display of the show's unique appeal than a so-wrong-it's-right first-season ep: Richard Pryor and Lou Gossett Jr. play inner-city entrepreneurs whose club is rescued from thugs when Mrs. P sweet-talks the fuzz, Keith pens an "Afro song," and Danny summons Panther types for backup. **EXTRAS** Bonaduce's dishy commentary (on the ever-dieting Susan Dey picking at a bowl of strawberries and cream: "There's something you almost never see—Susan Dey eating"); Jones' sweet but, alas, not-so-dishy commentary; two episodes of the painful *Jetsons* rip-off, *Partridge Family 2200 A.D.*; and two does—one on the hired hands who composed, played, and sang (turns out Cassidy and Jones were the only Partridges with pipes), and another including such bombshells as Mom being originally written as TV's first divorcee! **B+** —Nisha Gopalan