

When I caught up with David Cassidy at his home in Florida, he was fretting about picking up a gift to celebrate the seventeenth wedding anniversary to his beautiful wife Sue Shifrin-Cassidy. Mentioning that he "wasn't very good" at this sort of thing came as a surprise, given the fact that this man had dominated the teen magazines as one of the world's top heart throbs. One would assume he was an incredible romantic – right? Then he shared with me his non-stop lifestyle created over the last thirty years – "Oh" was my response.

After a highly successful solo singing career, alongside his acting as Keith Partridge on the Partridge Family series, David took three years off. In his stream of remarkable works, Cassidy has been from Vegas to Broadway and back, and he has seen his share of accomplishments. David's need to bring back some balance to his life is the backing for devoting more time to his passion – breeding and racing thoroughbred horses.

His preoccupation with horses started as early as age three and is evidenced in those early photos displaying horses all over his room; toy horses, RCMP plastic toy policemen on horses, Hop Along Cassidy watch, etc.

During the divorce of his parents (Actor Jack Cassidy and Actress Evelyn Ward), his uncle used to take him on pony rides in the dead of winter to cheer him up. He also recalls watching horse races in front of the black and white television at three to four years of age. Later on he attended the Garden State Park races, (at age ten) when he spent the summers with his Grandparents. Cassidy became totally absorbed in the event of racing. He never forgot those early experiences which brought him a deep feeling of satisfaction



At age twenty-three, the Governor of Maryland invited David to come to the Preakness. Spurred on by his passion, Cassidy cancelled concerts at a crucial time in his career in order to attend the event. There is no question that this lifelong love of horse racing accelerated from that moment on, and started gaining momentum. This type of deep desire leads to his dedication despite an intense work schedule. David began researching pedigrees before starting to purchase horses to breed and race.

He currently owns anywhere between 25 – 35 horses including broodmares, yearlings, weanlings and horses at various levels of training. Cassidy's horses race in both the U.S. and Canada.

Still, when you speak to David Cassidy the horseman, his knowledge is impressive. He can talk for hours about pedigrees and breeding race mares, because his keen interest and humility have sent him on a learning curve that still has not come to rest.

When asked what one person in the world had the most impact on his life, his answer is not surprising – actor Jack Cassidy, his father. Jack's successful career spanned his lifetime, and David held tight to Jack's work ethic and talent. The other gift bestowed on David from his father was Jack's great sense of humor (which got David through some rough spots along the way).

Although David is still first and foremost an entertainer, he doesn't mind getting up early to dig his heels into the dirt and grass and just "be" with his horses. That is true commitment that only a fellow horsemen/women would understand. "They are my soul food, they calm me down, and I find great fulfillment just being with them. They inspire me".

Next time you're at the track and your thinking "Could that be....?" it probably is! •