

Hollywood celebre

Cassidy-Lenz union happy despite work

By MARILYN BECK

Actress Kay Lenz reports her two-month marriage to former teen idol David Cassidy is working out well — despite the fact she's working from dawn 'til dusk, and he has hardly worked in two years.

"Actually," says Kay, who's in the midst of costarring stints on Bing Crosby Productions' "Mean Dog Blues," "you have to realize that while David was starring on 'The Partridge Family' he was doing three full-time jobs: Acting, recording and touring. It's no wonder he felt like taking a rest.

"There's a lot David wants to do. The 'Partridge Family' didn't show off his talents at all. David is a very good actor, and is eight years older than when he started the series. He's changed a lot and needs to do something different."

RCA did release a new David Cassidy album last year, and recent reports have had it that the 27-year-old entertainer was starting up a new band. According to Kay, "Musically, he's not doing much at the moment. But he does have ideas about what he wants to do — much different from the kind of music he did on 'The Partridge Family'."

Meanwhile, she says, both of them are "getting used to marriage. I had lived with two men before David — but that was quite a while ago. He'd never lived with a lady, so we have both had quite a bit of adjusting to do."

One of her hardest adjustments, reveals William Holden's 1973 "Breezy" leading lady, will be learning to share her career with her mate.

"David can think of us working together more easily than I can. Work was always the one place I had to myself, the one thing I never let boyfriends in on. I would never even let them on the set to watch me work. With David, it's going to have to be different. I'm trying to learn that you don't give something up just because you share it with someone."

As the tube turns: Producer George Schlatter might be insisting (is insisting) that the new "Laugh-In" will be radically different from the old, but Bette Davis has a different opinion on the subject. The 69-year-old star, who's just completed filming Disney's "Return From Witch Mountain," is spending the week taping the "Laugh-In" segment which airs Sept. 19. She says, "The new TV show is exactly like the old show, the same blackouts, the same format. The only difference is that I'm Rowan and Martin on the episode I'm taping. I'm in all the skits, in all the routines."

Much as she's enjoying the comedic experience, she wouldn't want to do any additional segments. "Once is enough," she makes it clear.

She's also had more than enough of stage work, and continues to turn down legitimate offers because, "I've come to the same conclusion Spencer Tracy did — that the stage is for children and idiots. It's exhausting — and idiotic to sit around all day being scared to death if you're going to be any good that night. And if you're someone like me, the monkey's on your back. If you don't show, people demand their money back. I'd much rather work hard for eight weeks — like I have in this Disney movie — then take a break for a while."

You don't say: Leonard Burtman, executive publisher of the new Eros magazine (which he refers to as "decadent sophistication") says it's been the Roman Polanski case and not the hearings to crack down on child pornography that is causing him to veer away from photo coverage of youngsters in his publication. Polanski is awaiting trial on charges of raping a 13-year-old (of whom he allegedly had earlier taken partially nude photos for a French magazine). And according to Burtman, the heat being generated by the Polanski case has made him decide to even cancel use of photographs by renowned European photog Irina Ionesco — depicting her daughter partially nude. Says Burtman, the same photos appeared in Time/Life "Photographs Year 1977 Edition" and contributed to Ms. Ionesco's being named Woman of the Year in photography — but he suddenly doesn't feel comfortable about featuring nude shots in his magazine of anyone under the age of 18. . . .

Producer Pierre Cossette says he's figured out the perfect way to guarantee that the Western movie he's preparing for ABC will avoid all convention cliches. He's signed Lonnie Elder to script the project, and reports that Lonnie has never been on a horse, met a cowboy — or been any closer to where the buffalo roam than a jet's eye view of the wide open spaces. This movie might not be a cliché — but chances are it won't reek of realism either. . . .