



him that it would be bad for his singing. And, after all, David still hoped he'd be allowed to sing in the role of Keith Partridge. . . . It really hit him hard when they explained to him that session musicians and singers were already lined up to do the sound and that it would all be dubbed on afterwards!

POSSIBILITY

That had simply never occurred to him as a possibility. In fact, part of the attraction Keith had held for him was that it was a role combining acting and singing.

At least, it had looked that way to him! Sure, he'd been hired as an actor, and nobody had asked him if he could sing. . . . But somehow he'd assumed that they'd taken it for granted. . . . Would he have gone up for that part if he couldn't sing?

He felt kind of let down about the whole thing. . . . As though a big part of his bubble of happiness had burst. . . . He couldn't reconcile himself to the idea that, when he opened his mouth to sing, someone else's voice would be coming out of it!

He explained how he felt to the guys in charge, trying not to sound as though he was complaining too much. Because, in spite of everything, he really was very grateful that he'd been given this part. And he didn't want to get a reputation as a whining trouble-maker.

They were very sympathetic—and pleasantly surprised with it!

They explained to him that they'd given up hope of finding a perfectly cast 'family', all of whom just 'happened' to be great singers as well!

IN TUNE?

Of course, as they pointed out to him, it wasn't enough that these kids should be able to sing in tune. . . . The music on the show had to have something special about it. . . . Special enough to convince the audiences that this family really could come up with a chart-topping sound.

The producers reckoned that, to be absolutely sure, the best way was to hire professional musicians.

PARTRIDGES: CIRCA 1972

Naturally, Shirley Jones would be an exception. She had already proved herself to be a brilliantly talented singer, and everyone was agreed that she'd be singing on the Partridge sound tracks.

But David was rather a different matter. He'd never made a record in his life; he had no smash-hit musicals behind him, and he readily admitted that he "wasn't too hot on guitar"!

On the other hand, it would be a marvellous bonus if it turned out that he really could sing!

It would mean that at least two of the real Partridge Family stars could feature in any future music. And they realised that that could be a big help if record releases followed.

SUGGESTION

So they met David's suggestion with interest and encouragement. They made him a promise. . . . If the networks picked up the show, he'd be given his chance to audition as a singer.

But, as far as the pilot went, the original decision had to stand.

"Sure, I was a bit upset that they wouldn't consider me singing on that first show," David admitted. "But I could see their point, so I wasn't uptight about it or anything."

"Like they explained to me, they were on a pretty tight schedule to get the pilot through, and they didn't have time to nurse anyone through it. Besides, they'd already gotten all the music lined up to suit the musicians who'd been hired to play it. And they couldn't afford to take any risks at that stage."

"So I reckoned that was fair enough. Anyhow, it wasn't worth a fight for just one show—especially when it would have put so many folks out."

"I was quite happy to sit tight and wait. I knew that, if the pilot was a success, I'd get my chance to show them what I could do. . . ."

"It just made me extra-specially determined to do my bit towards making that pilot the biggest hit Screen Gems had ever known!"

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OF THE DAVID CASSIDY
STORY IN SUPERSTAR
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