

THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY

PART 38

From the very first moment David had landed a role in the Partridge Family Show, he had wanted that show to be a big success.

But the way he felt when he first started work on the pilot was *nothing* compared to his feelings when it was all finished and the time had come to say goodbye. He knew that, at that moment, the Partridge series was the most important thing in his life.

He was staking a lot of hopes on that show. . . . Hopes he didn't confide to anyone, but kept completely to himself.

Of course, to some extent everyone who'd been involved in the pilot was feeling the same way. They all hoped it was only a case of 'au revoir', and that, come the summer, they'd all be back together. They all liked the idea of working on this show long-term. But they'd done all they could for the moment.

Now it was simply a case of waiting. . . .

On the whole, most everybody was optimistic. They'd seen the rushes as they went along. And when the pilot was completed, they'd been given a preview run of the whole show. It looked pretty good to them.

As always, every member of the cast could spot little things about their own performance that they'd like to change if they were doing it a second time round.

But they were only little things. . . . All the actors were tripping over themselves not to be biased in favour of the show. Even so, there could be no doubt that the general impression was good. They actually took themselves by surprise by laughing at moments in the preview!

I couldn't understand why the laughs were so unexpected. After all, I'd seen the show myself and found parts of it really funny. But David explained: "Surely it was funny. And I guess we'd found it that way at the first couple of read-throughs. But you know, any joke goes off

when you meet it for the fifteenth time within a three-week period!

"Anyway, it's no good an actor delivering a funny line and then collapsing all over the set with laughter, is it? He has to get to a point where he no longer finds it comic himself, but he can make it so for his audience.

PRACTICAL JOKES

"That's always been Danny's strong point as an actor. He really can keep a straight face in comic dialogue. But, then, I guess he puts in a fair bit of practice with all the practical jokes he plays on everyone off the set!"

David, Shirley, Danny, Dave, Susan, Jeremy and Suzanne knew where the laughs should come—from the audience. But they'd forgotten what it was like to laugh at those lines themselves. . . . Until they saw the run-through. It was as though they, too, were seeing it for the first time.

They reckoned their show had a good chance of making it. So the goodbyes that Spring weren't too sad, although everyone was naturally just a little bit subdued.

On the last day at the studio, promises were exchanged to keep in touch "whatever" Addresses and phone numbers were written down. And everyone was hoping that they'd never need to use them. . . . that they'd be together again within a matter of months.

Meanwhile, the waiting started.

It would have seemed an unbearable time for David, if so many things hadn't suddenly happened to take his mind off the suspense.

David had already discovered that he had some fans, and he was very excited at the thought. He'd been receiving fan mail ever since his very first TV show had been aired. It gave him a kick to think that people had even noticed him!

Here's an early photo from the Partridge set

