

important events ever to happen in David's life. It has been one of the biggest influences on his attitudes towards love and marriage.

At first his shock and unhappiness nudged him to everything else . . . he cried himself to sleep most times, convinced that his father couldn't really love him and that he wouldn't have a father any more.

But, gradually, he started to re-adjust to a slightly different kind of life. Evelyn was overjoyed when she saw that David had begun to laugh again and was putting all his old enthusiasm into the things he had always enjoyed. Every Sunday he sang in the Episcopal Church Choir and this was something he really loved and looked forward to.

First Engagement

So this was David's first public singing engagement! Of course, it was all very different from today! For a start, David was a boy soprano at that time, and the hymns he sang were a bit different from the numbers he goes for now! Another big difference was that the church, although fairly well attended, never had to turn away hundreds of screaming fans who had queued all night in the hope of seeing young David!

No. . . . At this time his mother and grandmother must have been his greatest fans - they never missed a performance! But there was no doubt at all that David's love of singing was already strong. And it wasn't long before he put a first foot on the ladder of his acting career, too. In fact, he played his first stage part at the age of six! And he got it more or less by accident really!

You see, while Jack and she had been together, Evelyn had let her acting fall very much into the background of her life. But, once the divorce had gone through, she had to start thinking about picking up her own career again. On the other hand, she had David to think about and she was determined that she would not let her work break the bond between them - especially at a time when David needed her more than ever. Well, it didn't

take her long to come up with the answer to this problem. . . . Whenever she went on tour, David went along with her! And that was how he came to make his acting debut so early.

It was in one of the summer stock productions his mother was starring in. The play happened to have a part for a little boy - just a very small part which involved being on stage for a while and saying one or two words. So the producer had the headache of finding a child actor who would look good on stage and who was available right through the run.

Well, David was available all right . . . He was around the theatre all day, passing time by getting to know all the stage hands and the other actors.

It was around this time that he first got to know Ruth Aarons, who was to be so important in his career later in life. But at this stage she was simply a family friend and she admits that it never really occurred to her that David would one day turn out to be one of her biggest success stories of all time.

Now, of course, Ruth is David's manager and has been since he was 18 and decided that he wanted to go in to acting seriously. But in those early days, she looked at him and saw only a lovable little boy with a crew-cut who was the son of her friends, Jack and Evelyn.

Ruth realised that David was quite a talented child actor. . . . But then, she had seen many child actors lose the gift as they grew up, so she set no particularly great hopes on David. . . . It wouldn't have surprised her to learn that he had changed his mind and wanted to become a doctor or something. . . . But, of course, David never did!

DON'T MISS PART 5 OF
THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY
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ABOVE: Shirley, David and Susan all have a quick look at the script before the cameras start rolling

BELOW: Everybody lines up for a real family type shot

