



A behind-the-scenes report on how they almost forgot to ask David to sing on the Partridge Family Series

AT the time it struck David as being a bit odd. He had had three audition calls for the part of Keith Partridge and he hadn't yet been asked to *sing* a single note! Still, when you want a part, you're hardly likely to stand up and shout: "Hey! You're doing this audition all wrong! What about the music?" At least, you don't take that attitude if you've got any sense or the slightest chance of getting the role!

Well, David had both . . . So he just did what they asked him to and put everything he could into the reading of the lines they gave him.

But it still didn't occur to him that Screen Gems planned on somebody else doing Keith Partridge's singing for him! Even when he'd been given the part, signed his contract and everything was settled, David simply took it for granted that he would be singing and playing in the show.

After all, that was one of the aspects of the role that had really attracted him in the first place . . . He had already made several appearances on TV before this, but they were just straight acting roles, without any chance to develop and use his tremendous musical talent.

This part had seemed to come into his life on cue from Fate. So David put in lots of singing practice in preparation for going into production on the pilot. He sort of assumed that the word must have got round to the producer and director that he could sing . . . Maybe someone had even come across him before in a musical show . . . Anyway, he took it that Screen Gems

were counting on him being able to make music when the time came.

But, one day it struck him like a bolt from the blue that they weren't counting on this at all! He found out that studio musicians had been hired to cover all the playing and singing—including that of Keith!

David was stunned—but it didn't take him long to come round and realise that he had to do something about this—fast!

So he brought up the subject with Paul Witt and Bob Claver, the guys who were to produce the show. He put it to them that he *could* sing, that he *wanted* to sing very much . . . So why not? They in turn explained to him that the sound was to be dubbed in because it made for a much faster and more economical system. Of course, they agreed, David could sing on the show—it was just that it wouldn't be *his* voice that would go over the air and reach the ears of the viewers!

Recording Test

But the whole thing seemed to be burning into David so much that they decided to arrange for him to give it a try-out in front of the show's music man, Wes Farrell. They have confessed since that they only really did this to humour David . . . They felt pretty sure that they'd got themselves tied up with one of these young actors who *think* they can sing, but who should definitely confine their attempts to within the confines of the bathroom!

They liked David well enough, but they had hired him as an *actor*—simply because