

THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY

PART 12

David spent just over a year with the Los Angeles Theatre Workshop Group after he left school, and he reckons that it must count as one of the most important years of his life, as far as his career goes.

During those vital months he learned about the art of acting . . . it made him into a 'professional' in the fullest sense of that word. He recalls, jokingly, how apt the word 'workshop' was to describe the group:

"Man, did we work! We just never stopped from morning till curtain-down at night. But, I never resented the work, like I had done most of the time at school. This was the sort of challenge I couldn't get enough of . . . I was prepared to go on and on till I dropped. But the other folk in the group used to force me to put the brakes on when they thought I was in danger of overdoing things out of beginner's enthusiasm.

"Seriously, though," he explains, "it wasn't called a workshop because of the hard work we put in! That's a fairly common name in the States for any theatre group which stays together long-term with the aim of developing every actor as an individual and, at the same time, extending their range in ensemble work.

"It's just so different from the sort of company that's dragged together simply to put on one specific play. You're there to play your role in that one effort and that's all they ask of you — and all they give to you — till the end of the run."

The L.A. Workshop was very different from that kind of set-up. Their normal schedule included a number of classes, as well as rehearsals for productions. David had been to acting classes before,

of course . . . but never among professionals who could teach him almost as much by their examples as the instructor could by his lectures.

David remembers the agony of his first improvisation session with the group:

"We were all gathered there in a little room with bare boards on the floor and I scarcely knew the other guys in the group. The next thing I knew, I was supposed to get up there with a couple of the others and just talk out a situation! Well, even if they'd given me a script to learn, I reckon I'd have dried in that sort of situation . . . as it was, I could feel my heart pounding like a sledge-hammer inside my chest, while my tongue seemed to stick stubbornly to the roof of my mouth!"

HIDDEN TREASURE

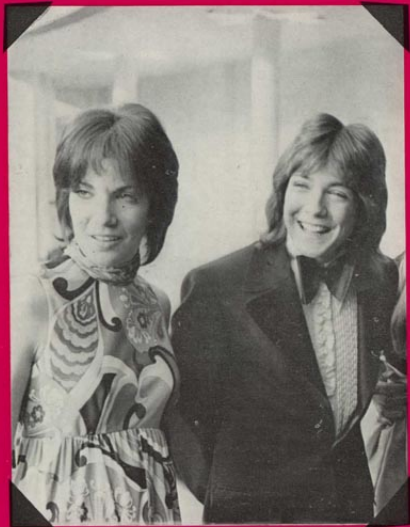
In that first session, David reckons that he played the part of a dumb idiot to perfection . . .

"The only trouble was that, as far as I recall, I wasn't supposed to be trying to put across the image of a dumb idiot!"

But it didn't take him too long to get confidence in himself and build up a trusting working relationship with the other members of the workshop, with the result that he soon began to discover entire areas of his acting talent that had, until then, been buried underground.

David sets a very high value on all these aspects of the training which the Los Angeles Theatre Group gave him. But the greatest moments of the time he spent there were when he actually came out on stage, in front of a live audience and ACTED!

His first part was quite a small one, but it was enough to give David a true taste



MYSTERY QUIZ

YOU ALL KNOW THE GUY ON THE RIGHT
BUT WHO'S THE GAL ON THE LEFT?

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