

David's personal letter to you

Well, what do you know?

There I was last month — a failure! I had to go and fail a movie screen test, which sure did bring back some vivid memories of the days when I got used to failing auditions practically every day of the week!

Don't worry, though, it was all part of the job! It was Keith Partridge who really goofed the screen test rather than me (David). I must say, it gives you a funny kind of a feeling when you're an actor playing an actor who's not much good... sort of confusing to say the least!

Anyway, I had a lot of fun that week. You see, I was supposed to be a gangster and it was really great to have an opportunity at last to make myself look like another guy altogether and to experiment with make-up and a few false moustaches! Imagine the kick I got when one of the technical crew turned round and asked a be-gangstered me if I'd seen David Cassidy around anywhere, because he was due on the set!!!

UNCOMFORTABLE

That was the first day I'd appeared in public in the full rig-out and it sure did cause some sensation!

The only hang-up was that it was so hot in the costume! I used to have a steam-bath inside that heavy suit every day. So, from my personal experience, you can take it that crime doesn't pay! Fortunately, the gangster rig-out only came into a couple of scenes in that episode, so I did have a few breathing-spaces when I could escape back into my usual shabby jeans and a T-shirt!

You know, I'd almost forgotten what a weird experience it is to look into a mirror and see a face you don't really recognise staring back at you! You want to try it some time... I found myself looking over

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my shoulder to see where the usual me had got to! Of course, we used to take classes in make-up when I was training for acting, but I never needed to use character make-ups, simply because I always got cast as a young boy — almost invariably younger than my own age!

CHRISTMAS PLANS

Anyway, at Columbia we usually just sit back and let Mel go to town on us. He even 'touches us up' during the day, if he spots a shiny nose or a smudge of eye-liner anywhere on set. But I couldn't resist having a go *myself* for my brief career in the world of crime! I sure hope you'll be able to see that show some time in the dim and distant future... or at least that Ed's shots come out okay, so you can see the effect from a few stills.

Hmm, let's see what other news I've got for you right now... Well, the minute I put my pen down when I finish this letter, I'll be starting my packing, ready for a quick exit to Hawaii — at least for a week or so. I might well stay longer... maybe over Christmas. But, you see, I've got this voice inside my head that keeps on telling me how I should try to make it to Europe for Christmas this year and do the whole thing in style... snow, the lot!

Oh, I want to obey that voice — sure I do! The problem is that I've got a pretty good idea of exactly what would happen as soon as I set foot in Europe... I'd start telling myself how it wasn't really worth flying back to the States; that I might as well stay put right there till it was time to start my concert tour in March.

And I **MUST NOT** do that, because I want to put in quite a bit of time over here before I leave, working on a completely new-

