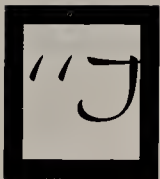


THE LIFE AND LOVES OF DANNY BONADUCE



was an obnoxious child," says Danny Bonaduce, referring to

his years on the musical sitcom "The Partridge Family." "It was

a grown-up world, and sometimes acting like a grown-up when you're ten years old doesn't look right." Danny's immaturity, however, carried over into his adult life, filled with cocaine addiction, spur of the moment marriages, and an arrest for an altercation involving a transvestite prostitute.

Born on August 13, 1959, Danny is the youngest of three children raised by Betty and Joe Bonaduce. The Bonaduces, television script writers who worked together on the original "Bill Cosby Show," divorced in 1974. At age two, Danny began earning his keep as a child model and later as an actor in commercials. He was a television veteran by the time he auditioned for "The Partridge Family" seven years later.

Loosely based on the experiences of a real-life recording family, the Cowsills, "The Partridge Family" depicted the comic exploits of a widowed



DANNY BONADUCE (*RIGHT*), HERE WITH DAVID CASSIDY, WAS ARRESTED FOR THE BEATING OF A TRANSVESTITE PROSTITUTE.

HERM LEWIS/GLOBE PHOTOS

mother and her hyperactive children, who take their musical act on the road in a multicolored bus. The show, which ran on ABC from 1970 to 1974, starred Oscar winner Shirley Jones as harried mother Shirley Partridge.

Although David Cassidy became a teen idol on the show, it was Danny Bonaduce who was the comic star of the series. Danny played his role of a wisecracking troublemaker to perfection. Shirley Jones remembers her former co-star as a rebellious little kid. "When I was working with him, I would swat him once in a while and make him behave," she told *People* magazine in 1992. "We got along really well, but you just had to keep him in line."

Danny thoroughly enjoyed the four years he spent wearing bell-

bottoms and crushed velvet tunics. "I spent my childhood on jet planes and with mayors. I didn't play baseball, but I did ride an elephant. I missed out on football, but I flew on the Concorde. I totally lucked out."

But Danny's luck was quickly running out. By the time the series was cancelled in 1974, Danny was well into his awkward teens. Short and overweight, the unemployable actor moved away from home over the next several years and proceeded to spend all of the \$350,000 he had earned from the show.

His acting credits after the show ended came in several unreleased kung-fu films and various guest appearances, including "C.H.I.P.'s," "California Fever," "Moonlighting," and "Spenser for Hire." He also lent his voice to several cartoon series, including "Partridge Family 2200 A.D." and "Goober and the Ghost Chasers." According to Danny, "There's a time, when things are at the bottom is when you find yourself clawing over the bodies of 'My Three Sons' to get on 'The Love Boat,' that you realize that things aren't going as planned." Things are definitely not going as planned when you find yourself opening supermarkets and singing on cruise ships, as Danny did.

In 1985 he was arrested for possession of four grams of cocaine after running a red light in West Hollywood. The charges were later dismissed when Danny agreed to enter a drug counseling program.

Shortly thereafter, Danny met a Japanese woman in an L.A. restaurant. Three days later, they were married, so that the woman could apply for a green card. The couple separated six months later.

In 1989, Danny moved to Philadelphia where he landed a job as a raucous late-night deejay at WEGX-FM. In a 1989 interview with *People* magazine, Danny declared, "I'm one of the luckiest men alive, because I basically have no skills, and if I had to get a job and function in the regular world, I couldn't do it. I'm only qualified to be a celebrity."

Just one year later, however, Danny was arrested in Daytona Beach, Florida, after allegedly attempting to buy \$20 worth of crack cocaine. After pleading no contest to the charges, he was sentenced to fifteen months' probation and community service. Deciding to make a fresh start in his life, Danny relocated to Phoenix, Arizona, where he landed another deejay slot at KKFR radio.

In 1991, Danny married his second wife, Gretchen, during their first date. According to Danny, after Gretchen declined to go to bed with him, saying, "No, no. I'm sorry I can't do that 'til I'm married," Danny went through the yellow pages and called a minister and "we were married by midnight."

The marriage did little to provide tranquility. In April of 1991, Danny was arrested in connection with the robbing and beating of a transvestite

prostitute. The police report alleged that Danny picked up a prostitute and paid him/her \$20 to perform oral sex. When the prostitute, who was actually a man dressed as a woman, refused an encore performance, Danny allegedly beat the transvestite, took back his money, and fled the scene by car while patrol cars and police helicopters chased him on a 90-mph sweep through central Phoenix.

Alerted by local residents, police found Danny, naked and bloodied, hiding in the bedroom closet of his apartment. After a struggle, Danny was arrested and booked with the felony charges of flight, aggravated assault, and strong-arm robbery. Facing a two-year prison sentence and a \$150,000 fine, Danny pleaded guilty to endangerment and no contest to misdemeanor assault.

Danny later denied that he was seeking sex from the hooker. "That's completely untrue," he said. "The police never even considered charging me with soliciting sex for money. There was no sex involved and no attempt at soliciting sex. . . . I pleaded guilty to winning a fistfight and running home." At his sentencing in August of 1991, Danny received three years' probation and was ordered to perform 750 hours of community service. Additionally, he was ordered to pay \$4,500 in restitution to the victim of his assault, who suffered a broken nose during the incident.

The incident cost Danny his job at KKFR. Said Danny, "I guess it was because I brought so much bad publicity to the station." He paused, then added, "I also tripled their ratings." Not one to let grass grow under his feet, Danny launched another career as a stand-up comic. His first gig was as opening act for "Partridge" co-star David Cassidy. According to Danny, "David's a fairly serious man. He told me it was time to start being funny and stop being a joke. He made me feel awful."

After a ten-year absence from acting, Danny returned to Hollywood to film *America's Deadliest Home Video*, in which he plays a video-cam fanatic who is forced by a gang of thieves into taping crimes.

CHILDREN

OF

BABYLON