

My Special Secret

BY DAVID CASSIDY

as told to FaVE

FaVE is proud to say that we are one of the few teen magazines that the stars trust to print the truth! Your idols know that we wouldn't make up lies about them. This is why we are able to bring this monthly feature where your faves confide their Special Secrets, never told anywhere else, to you!



When I tell you what my secret is, you might not believe me, but it's true. To be very frank about it, I'm one of the *shyest* people in the world! I guess you could say that I'm a very "secret" person, because I keep things hidden inside me and I've always been this way.

It's easy for me to be myself when I'm with old friends. With them I'm talkative and outgoing. We groove on the same things, we know each other inside out and I feel relaxed and comfortable. But put me with strangers, whether it's a crowd or just one person, and I start getting uptight!

You're probably wondering why I decided to go into acting and singing when I feel this way. It's not really that strange, if you think about it. As an actor, I'm getting involved in another character. I stop being David Cassidy and become a whole different person—a guy whose ideas and outlook on life could be entirely the opposite from mine. The deeper I get into him, the more I forget about myself and my own problems!

ACTING WAS ALWAYS IMPORTANT

I can't remember when I wasn't interested in acting and music. (And music runs a very close second!) My parents are both professional singers, and I'm sure their help and encouragement had much to do with my getting turned on to it. Although I was born in New York City, I grew up in Beverly Hills and have been around show business people all my life. I went to Rexford High with Jon Provost, Dino Martin and lots of other kids

who were involved in acting or singing.

So you see, I never had any thoughts about pursuing any other career. And when I began to find work on different TV shows, I lost a lot of my inhibitions and became more confident in my ability. When I'm acting or singing, I forget about myself and everything's groovy!

On the other hand, the life an actor is expected to live is not for me at all! Big parties turn me off completely, and so do some other things. I have always wanted people to like me for myself, and I feel the same now that I'm working on a TV series.

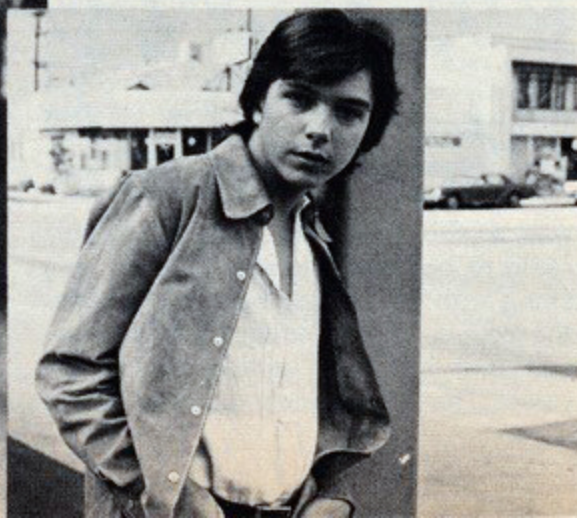
PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND!

One of the disadvantages of being shy is that people often misunderstand and think you're kind of stuck up or conceited. It really hurts me sometimes when I hear that someone who has met me casually got that impression of me!

I want to be liked, just like everyone does. But I'm not used to being in the spotlight, and it's still very difficult for me to talk about myself freely. I remember when I got my first fan letter (which wasn't that long ago) and I thought "Wow! This is great!" It pleased me so much to think that a girl somewhere had cared enough to tell me she enjoyed my performance on a TV show she had seen!

I've been asked how I would feel about becoming a teenage idol. Well, I've never thought about myself in that way. I'm just an actor, and I certainly don't think I'm any more valuable than anybody else is!

Anyway, I know one thing for sure... I *am* beginning to overcome the shyness thing a little bit, because here I am talking to you about it as if I've known you all my life! I feel lots better about everything now, because maybe you'll understand me just a little bit better. Do you? I sure hope so, because it means very much to me!



David