

my dad found out I had the part, he was really flabbergasted and very thrilled! Ever since he saw me do a play out here, when I was with the Los Angeles Theatre Company, he's always felt I could make something of myself as an actor. At least, he's always *told* me he felt that way.

"Dad and I have a very special relationship now. *He is really my friend.* I mean, in so many ways he's more than a father. Sure, I am his son, and he is my dad, but now we have something more—a unique man-to-man relationship. In many areas, I have been able to open up more with him, and he more with me.

"We have long talks about the profession. I really dig talking about acting, about show business, about performing. I respect my father so much as a performer. He is one of the most versatile actors in the business. He is great in comedy, and drama. He is a fine singer and he's a marvelous dramatic actor. I would like to be able to be as versatile and talented as he is. . .

"I am *constantly* happy when I see the things my father does," says Jack Cassidy's son. "He took me to rehearsal when he was making *The Andersonville Trial* and I just sat in amazement, watching his performance. He really is something very special. After the show was run, and the reviews came out, more and more people began to recognize just how great he is.

"When he was Oscar North on the *He And She* TV series, that was really 'high camp.' On Broadway, he has done so much that's outstanding. But I still don't think anyone realized just how great a dramatic actor he could be until *Andersonville*. I know now people are sending him scripts like mad! Everybody is standing in line wanting him to do things. I am very very happy for him.

"As for Shirley and me," her stepson notes happily, "like I said, we're pals . . . good friends. And I really dig their sons! Shaun is 11 now, Patrick is 8, and Ryan is 5. When Shaun had his birthday recently, we all celebrated together and had a marvelous time. He's a Little League pitcher, so Shirley and Dad and I went out and watched him pitch a game. He was great! I really feel especially close to Shaun because he is the oldest and starting to become aware of so many things and we can really talk.

"I love all three of the boys and they dig me, too. I'm a big brother to them and they sort of look up to me and think I can do no wrong. When I look at them now, each of them at different stages of life, I think back and I can remember being

at each of those stages myself, and it's sometimes really weird. They're just such wonderful, groovy kids and we get along very well.

"I really dig the TV series, too. I hope everyone watching feels about the show the way all of us on it do! Working with Shirley has been very fine. She's such a professional . . . and it makes no difference to the other kids that I am her stepson. When we are working together, we are just working together as a group.

### A whole new "family"!

"I am very proud of Shirley and I hope she is proud of me. She is so easygoing, she likes everybody and everybody likes her. As for the other kids on the show, I can't begin to tell you how swell they are! Susan Dey, who plays Laurie, is a *knock-out*, in addition to being a very sweet girl. Danny Bonaduce, at 11, has the wisdom of a mature man—when he starts gabbing, he's fantastic. The two littlest kids, Jeremy Gelbwaks, and Suzanne Crough, complete the family unit . . . and believe me, that's exactly what it feels like—a family.

"Between Shirley and Dave Madden and the kids and that kooky bus we drive around in, it's all turning out to be such a great experience. I hope I don't sound *too* enthusiastic, but I am—I mean, in addition to everything else, we're recording for Bell Records . . . it's just about the most exciting time of my life!

"You know," David grins apologetically, "I sometimes get all wound up about things. I find myself admitting that I'm an actor, that I compose music, that I play the guitar and drums, and I have to stop myself before I wind up sounding like Super Wonder Boy or something! Honestly, I don't think of myself that way at all. It's just that all of these things are part of me—my main interests in life. I am able, through acting and singing and composing and playing music, to release whatever it is deep inside of me that calls out for these forms of expression.

"I've been preparing for all this in my own mind since I was about 11 . . . and now that it's finally happening, I'm just so thrilled that sometimes I can't contain myself. Let's face it, getting paid for doing what you *have* to do—because it's *part* of you—is a pretty darn good way of life!"

Asked about his life away from the studio, where he lives, and the things he likes to do when he's not working, David confessed: "I guess, basically, I am a loner. I always have been. I live in a house in Laurel Canyon with a dog named 'Sam.' He's sort of a combination wire-haired terrier and mutt. I'm writing a song about him. He is such a special dog that he inspired me. Really, he is such a groovy character and a lot of fun to be with. . .

"Also, when I'm home, I like to read. I guess I'm pretty typical. When I went to school, I didn't enjoy reading things because they were required. Now that I don't have to read, I love to. I especially like historical novels and adventure tales. I'm not a fast reader, but once I get involved in a book, I just can't put it down. Sometimes I sit up until 5 or 6 in the morning . . . reading.

"I don't dig big parties. I like to be with a few people if I really dig them. Big

parties are a bore because everybody is so busy being phony—stuff like that isn't important to me. Perhaps that's why I've had trouble finding one special girl. I'm not even sure I know what type I'm looking for yet. All I do know is that I have never met a girl who could keep me interested. So far, I just seem to have met the shallow types who have no depth.

"Maybe I'm a bit on the defensive, too, I don't know. But to me it seems that most girls try so hard to play it cool—because they think guys like that—but then you never really get down to the basic things. Actually, since I've been 17, I haven't dated too many girls my own age. I find girls who are a little older are at least a bit more settled. . .

"The thing that would make me most happy," young Cassidy vows, "would be to find a girl who would really love me and with whom I could spend the rest of my life. That's what I'm looking for: another human being so important to me that I would want to share everything with her . . . to be with her forever. Sure, up until now I've played the field. I've dated a lot of different girls . . . but what I really want is to get involved with someone so special that I wouldn't be able to go through life *without* her!

### What David wants . . .

"What else do I want out of life? Well, basically, to know my own worth, to know that I am really a valuable human being. To recognize my weaknesses and my strengths. To improve myself. To cope with problems that I was not able to handle before. I see life as a long road with a lot of road blocks . . . you have to learn to control the situation, to push aside the barriers, to go under them, or over them, to master them any way you can. To me, it's important in life to have self-discipline, to feel yourself capable of being in control. I think I'm beginning to reach that place now and it's very important to me.

"Sometimes people ask me if I could ever be happy married to an actress. Well, there is that old thing about two egos in a family being one too many," he says thoughtfully. "But I don't exclude *any* possibility. I'll marry an actress, or a secretary—or anyone, no matter what her profession—if she has the qualities that are important to me.

"Look, I feel this way because I've reached a stage in my life where I am stable. I am mentally prepared to accept success or failure without being visibly shaken. Of course, I won't be pleased if I fail, because I do so *want* to make something of my life. But at least I think I will be able to meet whatever life has to hand out to me and make the best of it. Life is really so very short, why be unhappy if you don't have to be?

"I'm happy now. Lucky, too—because there's really no amount of money that would keep me doing something if I didn't like it. I love show business . . . I am grateful for my life . . . I'm devoted to my mother, my father, my grandfather, Shirley, my little brothers . . . in fact, for me life is really very beautiful."

Now if this talented young Cassidy could only meet the right girl. . . !

—MARCIA BORIE

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