

# A Letter From DAVID

EXCLUSIVE IN FaVE!

David reads each and every letter you send to this column, and he promises to answer as many of your questions as he can! If you want some info, write him c/o FaVE Magazine, 1800 N. Highland Avenue, Suite 600, Hollywood, Calif. 90028.

## Working With The Partridges

People are always sending me postcards from places like Tahiti or Brazil or Switzerland with "Wish You Were Here!" scratched across the back. I never thought I'd ever do that to anyone—and I still haven't—but now I know how my friends feel. Once in awhile, something you do is so outasite, so absolutely fantastic, that you wish you could gather up hundreds of thousands of your friends and invite them along.

That's how I feel about shooting "The Partridge Family!"

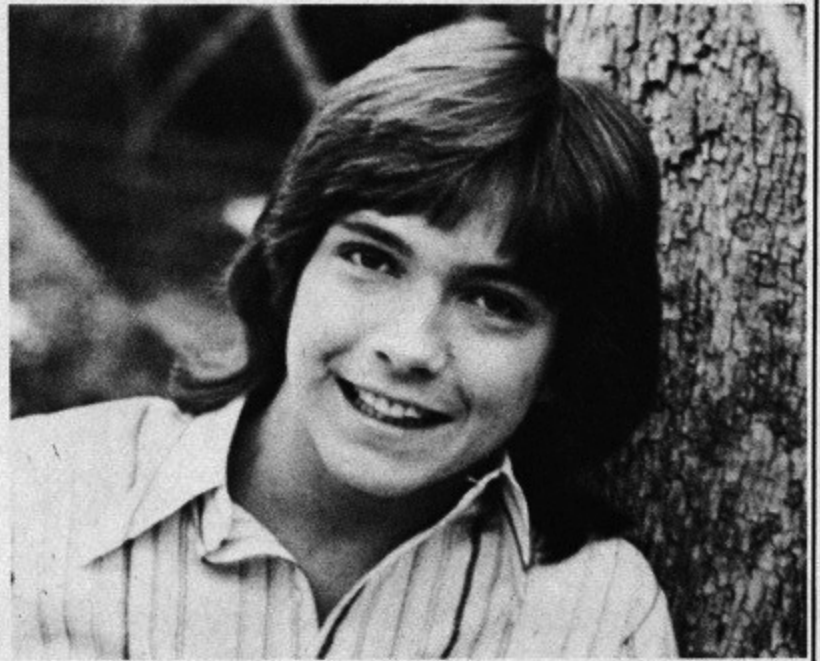
I'm always being asked what it's like to work with Susan or Shirley or Danny every day. How can I answer honestly? Sometimes I say, "Groovy" or "outasite" or maybe "really fine" but those few words never get the whole thing across. So sit back while I take some time and tell you what it's really like!

I guess I'm sort of a big brother to Jeremy, Suzanne and Danny. But that's not to say that they ask me for advice on how to play their parts. Once in awhile, maybe Suzanne or Jeremy will want to see how I'm going to play something so they can fit into the action but believe me, they're polished performers who really know their jobs!

We all have different interests so when we're not shooting, Jeremy and Suzanne aren't hopscotching on the top of my trailer or anything. They're usually off studying or Jeremy will have his favorite model cars out. I'm a freak for those so we'll both be down on our knees, racing them around chair legs, until it's time for another scene.

Jeremy has those big eyes that make everyone melt right off when they look at him and he knows how to use his eyes to melt secretaries, wardrobe ladies and female visitors to the set. But he uses his eyes to wink at me. He knows that I'm hip to his game so even during shooting, we trade glances that say, "This is fun" or "This is a drag."

Suzanne is a happy, friendly girl who always seems to know the right day to trade her jacks for a Barbie doll or roller skates. She's very aware of what's going around the set and she's never intimidated like so many kids are. If strangers are around, she doesn't hide. She marches up to say hello and shake their



hands. Suzanne knows when to stay out of the way—you know, when people would rather be alone—and she's cool about girl visitors on the set. If a girl comes by she thinks I'd like, she whispers something in my ear. She's usually right, too!

Danny is a real nut. I like him a lot. He's funny, though not quite the same way that he's a riot on the show. He's a strange combination of boy and man. Sometimes, when we're doing a particularly difficult show, I can see, "I'd rather be playing football" written all over his face. But then, I usually feel the same way so we both kind of buckle down to the job and get it done.

Danny has unlimited energy and likes to do things I dig, like going to the show. He can work all day, go to the movies at night and still be bright and cheery the next day. I just can't keep up with him.

Shirley is super. Working with Shirley is a little hard for me sometimes because, after all, she's my step-mom. She's great about my freedom though. She'll do a scene with all of us and then she'll head back to her dressing room to talk or knit or something. She doesn't spy on me or try to keep track of what I'm doing and that's really cool because it would be awful to always feel I was being watched.

I'm embarrassed about making mistakes in front of her though. I guess cause she's there and because I like her so much, I want to be perfect all the time. No one can be perfect, I know, but I still like to try.

Susan is fantastic to work with. That's the straightest I can say it. We really understand each other and know how to work together. You know how girls can get very uptight when they're doing something that really matters to them? Well, Susan doesn't usually get that way. She stays loose and free and calm and unconcerned.

Oh, to be honest about it, once in awhile she'll get uptight if she thinks I'm blowing my lines or her lines but that only lasts a few minutes and I'd rather she did that than carry it around till she exploded one day. Besides, if I think she's messing up, I'll tell her too.

That's why the scenes between Susan and I are usually the easiest of any on the show. We're comfortable together because we're friends. If we were in love, those scenes would be terribly difficult because we'd act a little differently to each other. This way, everything is warm and friendly and cool.

Hope this answers some of your questions about working on the show. Like I said, "Wish you were here!"

David