DAVID CASSIDY'S LIFE STORY

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"I don't know how I got through the reading," David laughs as he recalls that day. "I wasn't calm at all but, anyway—for some reason—they called me back for a second reading and then a third! And after that, I really got the surprise of my life!"

The surprise of David's young life turned out to be the fact that a lady whom he knew and was very close to had already been chosen to play the part of "Keith's mother" in the TV series. That lady, actress-singer Shirley Jones, had also already been told that her step-son, David Cassidy, was up for the role of "Keith". When producers Bob Claver and Paul Witt asked Shirley if she would *mind* if David was chosen for the role of "Keith", she replied, "Of course not. I see David often. He's a constant visitor to our house and he adores his little step-brothers—Shaun, Patrick and Ryan.

In fact, if I could choose a young actor to play the role of 'Keith', I would ask you to let me choose David!"

Later that afternoon, Paul and Bob took David to meet his co-star Shirley Jones who, for the past 15 years had been married to David's dad, actor-singer Jack Cassidy. (David's dad and mom—actress-singer Evelyn Ward—had gotten divorced when David was five—and about a year after that time, Jack had married Shirley; all of the various Cassidy clan members have become and remain close friends since those early days.) After David got over his surprise and affirmed that if he could choose any actress in the world to play his TV mom, he would choose Shirley—Screen Gems drew up the contracts, signed Shirley and David to star in The Partridge Family series and began to scout around for the rest of the cast.

That night David and Sam celebrated not only David's incredible good luck in getting the starring role on an important TV pilot—with the possibility of a long run in a series—but also getting the opportunity to make music on that pilot. But, alas, little did David know that storm clouds loomed on the horizon—that other people in high places had other ideas about who was going to make the music for the Partridge Family series—and that if they had their way, David Cassidy would never sing or play a for-real note as "Keith Partridge" either on The Partridge Family show or on recordings!

To find out how David faces grim disappointment and how his musical career was actually saved for him by an enterprising and curiosity-filled young genius from New York City, be sure to get the December issue of 16! The December ish of 16 goes on sale October 21! Meet David here then!!

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