

# 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.

## Breaking Into Show Business

So you want to be a star, huh?

Well, I don't blame you. That was always my ambition so I know that burning pain at the bottom of your stomach that tangles up your mind and begs, "Act, act!"

But actors and actresses have a hard time showing what they can do. A painter can pick up a piece of canvas and paint a picture. A writer can jot down lines on the back of a notebook, if necessary, to show what he can do. But an actor or actress can't exactly run out into the street pretending to be Robin Hood. They jail people for things like that!

### THE FIRST BREAK

Just getting your first break is the hardest thing in an actor's career. I thought I'd warn you about that because I'm writing this column for you, the girl who wants to be a star but doesn't know quite how to go about it.

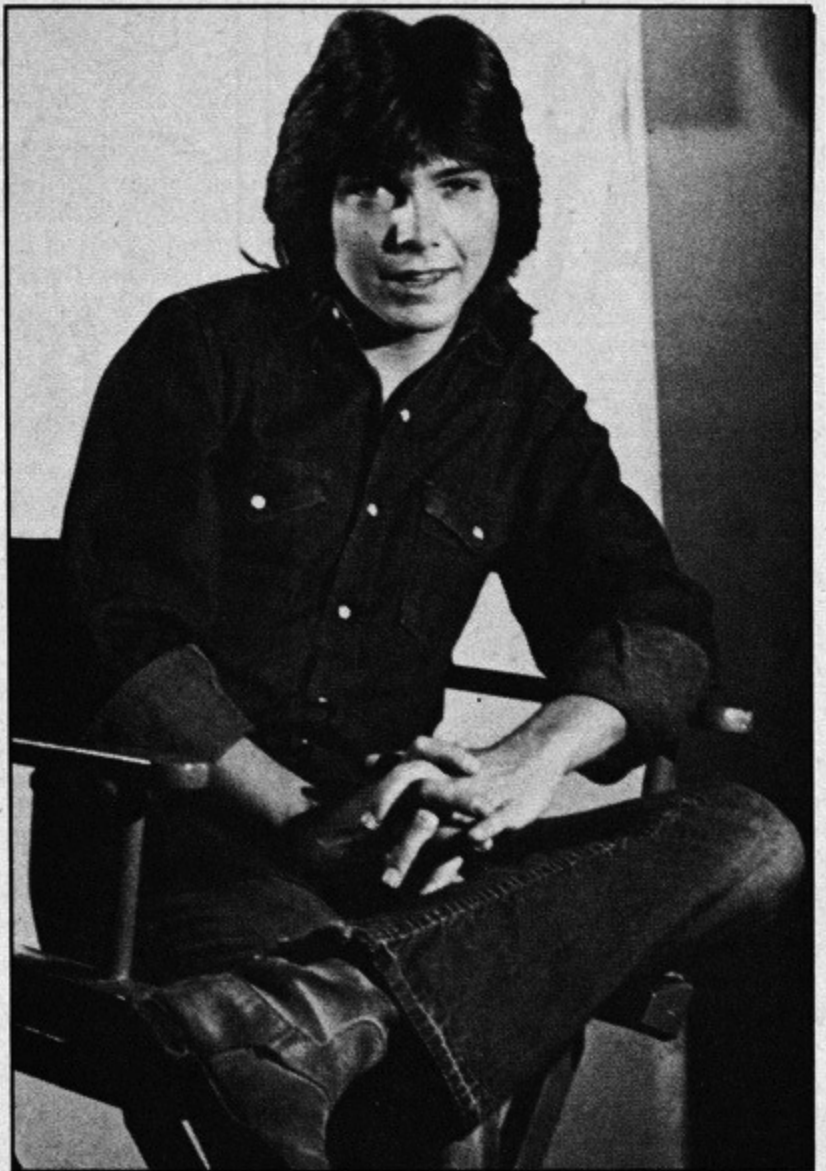
I had it pretty lucky, of course. My dad is a singer-actor and my mother, Evelyn Ward, is an actress-singer-dancer, and of course you know what my step-mother Shirley does, so all in all, I was born into show business.

When I was little, I'd go to a movie or a play and I'd come home and want all the kids to help me act out the parts. I guess most kids do this but those of us who have parents who act can be a bit more serious about it. Luci and Desi Arnaz even had a real little theatre with a stage and dressing rooms built for them when their mother, Lucille Ball, saw them acting out plays.

Maybe because my folks didn't have the superstardom of other names in the theatre, they were always a little cautious about my wanting to be an actor. Unanimously, they all urged me to go through school first before trying to make it on the stage. And like a good, smart, intelligent kid that I am, I listened—at least until I was finished with high school.

But the day I graduated from high school, I was down at the office of the Los Angeles Theatre Group, knocking on the door and asking for a chance to play anything—butter, bum, even a 12 year old boy—I just wanted a chance.

I worked with this group and debated about going to college when I made the decision to move to New York to live with Jack and Shirley. I wanted to be close



to the Broadway stage where I could get some real coaching—both from actors there and my parents too.

But when it came time to try out for parts, I just didn't want people to know that I was part of the Jones-Cassidy family. I felt that I never would have known whether I got my opportunities because I was the son of somebody well-known or whether I got my job because I was good.

It's like when the Beatles, after they'd had all those hit songs, couldn't stand the curiosity any longer so they recorded a record under a phoney name. It was a hit, naturally, and it restored faith in themselves.

So that's why, when I went to apply for a co-starring role in the Broadway musical, "The Fig Leaves Are Falling," I didn't tell anybody who I was. I just said my name was David Bruce. When I got home that night and told my family that I'd gotten the part, it was just terrific... even though the show only lasted for four nights on Broadway.

After my dab of Broadway success, I came back out here to California and started working in small television parts. I built up quite a few reels when the part in "The Partridge Family" came around.

Shirley helped me with that one. She suggested me for the part but I like to think that I would have gotten the role anyway, based on my previous performances on television. And you know what? That's how I really feel. I put in some years of hard work learning to act and I think that if the show weren't on tomorrow, I could go out and get a good role.

But even when the Partridge thing came around, I was busy trying to catch up with the college classes that I should have been taking all along. I'll do that again someday so that I'll have a career to fall back on.

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