

"I want to be an actor," David says. "Not a teenage idol." But, nevertheless, he is a teenage idol, the biggest TV sensation of the year. Although he comes from a super talented family, he had practically no professional experience when he auditioned for and got the role on The Partridge Family that gave him the chance to outshine even his stepmother—and co-star—Shirley Jones. "At first David was overwhelmed by the whole thing," Shirley revealed recently. "And his ego blew way up." But little David soon found the demands of stardom could be a bit of a drag. He is followed by a gaggle of giggling girls wherever he goes, and he had to move twice to get a little privacy in his own home. "They'll say anything to get an autograph," David sighs. "It's always for somebody who's sick or somebody who's dying and her last wish is to have my autograph." Even when he had a serious gall bladder operation last summer, adoring fans crept into his hospital room with flowers and food, "Wow!" David exclaims in recalling the incident. "It frightened me at first. But," he admits with a grin, "I'm rather complimented by it now." He's finally beginning to get used to all the hullabaloo and he's beginning to take it in stride. How long it will all last is anybody's guess. Teen stars have been known to disappear without a trace. But whatever happens, one thing is certain: Little David has made the biggest impact of them all.

david cassidy a teenagers idol with grown up woes