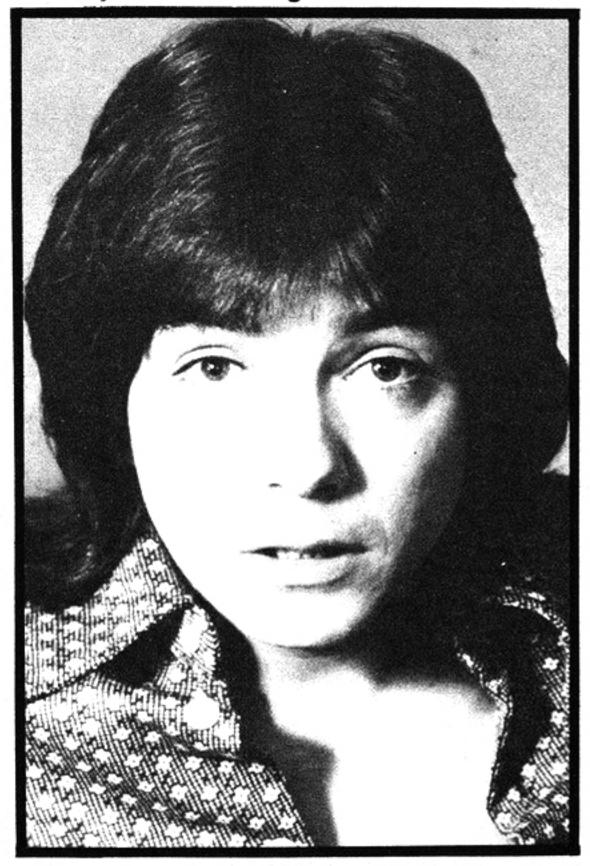


Inside the heartbreaker who plays sweet 'n naive "Keith Partridge," there's a serious young actor who, though he hates to leave you, is burning to break free!



Did you know that David is really and truly sick and tired of good-natured, well-meaning, cute-but-oh-so-bland "Keith Partridge?" For the past two seasons, every Friday night at 8:30 P.M., you've turned on your TV set to ABC, curled up in your coziest chair, and watched the boy of your dreams move gracefully into your living room—dancing, singing, acting! And, if you had your way, you'd welcome him into your home and life forever! But what about "Keith?" How does he feel about keeping a steady date every Friday night for the rest of his life?

GOING OFF?

Does this mean THE END for David and the "Partridge Family" and for your idyllic Friday night dates with your beloved? Perhaps not, little girl, because even at press time, David hadn't yet put his signature to a new contract with Screen Gems. But, if David does break away, try not to grieve. You wouldn't want to see the boy you love unhappy in a role that locks him into the personality of a 16-year-old cutie pie. Although his slender frame and five feet and eight inch height—and his romantic-flirty expression suggest a 19-year-old, darling David reaches the ripe old age of 23 on April 12. Sooo,

it's understandable that this heartbreaker fears that if he stands still much longer he'll be going backwards. He knows it takes lots of time and hard work to develop as a serious actor and that as long as he spends a 12-hour day filming "Partridge Family," evenings doing recordings, and weekends performing at concert gigs, he won't have time for anything else.

HE WANTS TO ACT

Sometimes David gets very tired and he may occasionally flirt with the idea of standing pat on his accomplishments. (In his meteoric rise as a teen rock idol he has reached a point where he could stop working right now and live comfortably on his earnings for the rest of his life!) But David has too much drive and enthusiasm to stand pat. Now that his solo recording career is established (he has already cut two albums), he hopes to produce his own records, continue to write songs, sing and play the guitar for you in live concerts, appear in a variety of guest roles on TV shows and do a full-length movie. As David himself confesses, "I want to become a good actor and I hope someday to make a really super film."

David's acting debut actually took place in New York in 1969 on the legitimate stage. The play, Fig Leaves Are Falling, was an immediate flop and left David pretty depressed for awhile. Fortunately, he followed up with a series of dramatic appearances on top TV shows (Marcus Welby, M.D., Medical Center, Mod Squad, and Bonanza, for example) and he received good critical notices. Matter of fact, David became known as a singer only after he had signed with "Partridge Family."

LIKE FRANK?

For any sweeteeny who wonders whether David, the teen rock idol, can transform himself into a serious actor, here's a real mind-grabber for you. Once upon a screamin', swoonin' time, there was a youth, small and gentle as David, who had a light, smooth, sensuous voice that drove young girls clean out of their ever-lovin' minds! The youth's name—Frank Sinatra! (Just ask your mom or grandma about Frankie Boy and watch her eyes kazoom alive and her smile light up her entire face!) Anyway, Frankie and David have a lot in common—the compelling voice, the slender build and the winning personality that make girls of all ages want to take care of them, plus the ambition to act as well as to sing. To top it all, both hail from New Jersey, proving, perhaps, that this state has produced some grade-A talent! Frank proved himself long ago. David still has a way to go in the acting business.

GRACEFUL GOOD-BYE

Although David's future as an actor has still to be written, his musical success is history. Yet, even here, David refuses to take credit for accomplishments he feels he doesn't merit. In spite of stories to the contrary, he has freely admitted his limitations. "I wouldn't say I'm a drummer and I wouldn't say I'm a piano player, but I would say I play guitar (and) . . . I've written a couple of tunes." For a headliner, David sure isn't vain! The fact that he can be so objective about his work is a healthy sign, a sign that David will continue to be successful. So, when you finally kiss David goodbye some fateful Friday night, kiss him with warmth, sincerity and generosity and say, "Good luck, David—I'll miss you but we'll meet again someday at the movies—and I'll always love you for the pleasure and fun you've brought into my life!"

(Who'll be the next "Keith Partridge?" See page 58.)