

**DAVID'S LIFE
BEHIND THE
CAMERAS**
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saw them on the street, but you see their names every week at the end of the show—and without them, there wouldn't be a show! They're not stars, but there wouldn't be any stars without them!

These people are very important in David's life behind the cameras. Some of them have become his close friends, and on days when he knows all his lines well in advance, or when he's waiting to do a short scene, he sits with these super-important friends and passes the time in talk, laughter, and occasional impromptu music sessions. Two of them, especially, have become very close to him, and they visit him and Sam at home on weekends from time to time.

And it's very important to David that these people are there, because when you're an actor in a TV show, you spend three-quarters of your time *waiting*, and for David, that's the hardest thing of all! When you see him come smiling through a door on the show and say a line as if he had just thought of it, it seems impossible to realize that he may have been sitting for *three hours* to do that single line! Everything connected with filming takes a long time, and usually longer than it was supposed to... and so David spends a lot of time in his world behind the cameras just waiting to step in front of them!

He's very close with the other stars of the show—especially Shirley and Susan—and he'll pay a call on them in their dressing rooms, or they'll come to his, but usually, at least *one* of them is working on the set when David is waiting. Still, there is no doubt that Susan has been very important to him. In their long, quiet talks together, they've traded views on their sudden fame, and each has helped the other to keep both feet on the ground. Sometimes David will come in in the morning and go over to Susan and say "Hello, Star," and Susan knows that it's time for them to have a talk. They've both been exposed to several "stars" who have lost sight of reality completely—after all, it's

hard to keep your sense of proportion when everybody looks at you with awe—and neither David nor Susan want to fall into *that* trap!

But most of David's life behind the cameras is spent alone, in his private dressing room. This is the only place in the entire studio where he can close a door on the hustle and hubbub of filming a show, and he alone with his thoughts. He's fixed it up to look a little like his room at home, and, in a sense, this room is his home, at least while he's working.

He's got a favorite place on the couch, where he can sit and play guitar when he's got something he *really* needs to think about. When David has a problem he can't quite work out, he picks up his guitar and plays it, improvising chords and sometimes making up words too, so that anyone who happens to be around gets to hear a brand-new song that will probably only be played once! While David directs his attention to the music and the words, his problems seem to come into clearer focus—and sooner or later, he puts the guitar down... and his problem with it.



DURING A taping, there's no audience to watch him, and sometimes it's a lonely feeling sitting in an empty theater like this!



STRUMMING his guitar is a good way to relax—and come up with new songs at the same time!



SUSAN AND David clown around on the set—they're very good friends!

On certain days, he'll use his "alone time" to go over letters from his fans, trying to find out what they're thinking about, and how they feel about his most recent records or performances. David calls this "checking in." He says that it does him good to "check in" with his fans at least twice a week, because he can get to working so hard on so many things that he'll lose his sense of what he should or shouldn't be doing more of... more "up" songs on his albums? More singing on "P.F.?" Should he do another dramatic role on TV? When he's not sure how he feels about a proposed project, he simply "checks in" with his fans and gets the answer!

One of David's favorite things to do while he's waiting to work is something he calls "phone tripping." He'll be going through a bunch of letters, and he'll find one from a girl who includes her phone number—and an especially urgent reason to want to talk to him. David just picks up the phone and dials—and gives some fan, somewhere, the biggest surprise of her life. Nine out of ten of them, he says, don't believe it's really him until he reads them part of the letter they sent!

Working and *waiting* to work—that's David Cassidy's life behind the cameras. But whether he's doing the part you see every week, when he's Keith Partridge, or whether he's somewhere else on the huge soundstage, waiting for the "magic time" when filming will begin again... he's thinking about you.