Could you tell me what caused Jack Cassidy's death, and if he was then still married to Shirley Jones? — (Mrs) K.C. Edwards, Spotswood, Vic.

Jack Cassidy (above), 49, died in a fire in his Los Angeles apartment on December 12, 1976. Cassidy was born in Richmond Hill, New York, on March 5, 1927. He had a son David, now 32, from his first marriage, to actress Evelyn Ward. In 1956 Cassidy married actress Shirley Jones. After a couple of separations they finally divorced in 1975. Their three sons are Shaun, 23, Patrick, 20, and Ryan, 16. Shirley Jones and her stepson David Cassidy starred in the TV series The Partridge Family (1970-74). Shaun Cassidy's series have been The Hardy Boys Mysteries (1977-79) and Breaking Away (1980-81). Jack Cassidy was a regular in the Richard Boniamin/Paula Prentiss series He & She (1967-68). He won a Tony Award in 1964 for his performance in the Broadway musical She Loves Me.

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