

# DAVID CASSIDY THEN...

The following is an article on twenty-year-old David Cassidy reprinted from a *Teen World* magazine from 1970.

It's midnight and you know what that means! It's the witching hour. It's that magical time when romances begin—or break up. And sometimes when you're sharing those late-night romances with someone special, it's the time you tell all sorts of things you've never told anyone before.

If that someone was David Cassidy, he'd be sure to have some secrets to tell you—and some confessions to make, too. Listen...

**STAGE FRIGHT:** You'd probably find it hard to believe if you heard David tell you he gets stage fright. It's difficult to imagine handsome, self-confident David feeling nervous before going on stage, starting to shoot a scene or beginning to sing. But it's true.

"No matter how well I know my part," David says, "no matter how sure I am that everything's going to go perfectly, there's always at least a moment of pure fright before I begin. But I don't mind it. In fact, I think I'd be even more nervous if sometime I didn't get stage fright!"

**DAVID'S FLOP:** It isn't often that David talks about his experiences acting in a Broadway musical called *The Fig Leaves Are Falling*. And no wonder! The play wasn't open that long and wasn't what you'd call a rousing success. What's more upsetting about being in a play that fails is seeing all the work you've put into it wasted.

"You work on a play for months," David says, "trying to get your part just right. And then it's all over after a few performances."

**RETIREMENT:** One of the most startling confessions David could make concerns his plan to retire at the age of thirty. Actually David's idea of retirement is much different from most people's. He doesn't expect to stop working completely when he's thirty. But he does hope that by the time he reaches that age (10 years), he'll have enough money saved to enable him to just work whenever and wherever he wants.

Then David hopes he'll have time to do a lot of travelling, to go all over the world and find out how other people live. It should be a wonderful time of his life!



David Cassidy became a major star because of his role in *The Partridge Family*. Like his half brother Shaun, he has cut records and written music and appeared in concerts around the world.

**DAVID'S DOUBTS:** Believe it or not, though, sometimes David worries about whether he's doing the right thing with his life. He enjoys acting and singing, of course and he works hard at becoming the best performer he can. But now and then he can't help asking himself, "Is there something else I should be doing instead?"

"I guess I'll work it all out eventually," he says. "The more you do something, I think, the more you know what it is you really want to do, whether it's something you're doing at the moment—or something else."

**APPEARANCES ARE UNIMPORTANT:** You might be a little surprised to find out how little possessions and appearances mean to David. It really makes him stand out in Hollywood, where most of the people he meets seem quite concerned with material things.

"I can understand why it's so easy for people here to feel that way," he says. "Money—

and the things it can buy—are just so important here."

But they're not very important to David, as you can tell when you pay him a visit. He lives in a small, modest home furnished with odds and ends and a lot of orange crates—not all the way a star's expected to live.

"A house should be a place where you're comfortable," David says, "a home, not a place that's designed to impress other people."

**WHAT ANNOYS HIM:** But there's one sense in which David *does* care about his possessions. The only things David owns are things that matter to him, things he enjoys and that express his personality. So naturally he takes good care of them and expects other people to do the same.

One of the easiest ways to get him annoyed is to scratch one of his records when you play it. Anyone who loves the music on his records, David believes, is sure to treat them very carefully. Someone who handles them carelessly is a person who doesn't care.

**LOOKS YOUNGER:** Although David's grown used to being thought younger than his twenty years, he confesses he still gets a little irritated when older people talk down to him.

"I know I look young," David says, "but I'd like to be judged on actions, not appearances."

What bothers David is to be treated as someone who isn't old enough to know what he wants or what's good for him. He's still young—but he's not a child.

**PLAYS THE FIELD:** David enjoys meeting and dating a lot of different girls, but he admits he isn't really looking for that special someone yet. Of course, eventually he does hope to find a girl he'll want to settle down with. In the meantime, he's enjoying looking around, and getting to know many girls. In fact, he sort-of hopes he won't become too serious about one girl for quite awhile, so he can concentrate on his work and career.

**HIS BEST FRIENDS:** David has two dogs, Shush and Sam, and he confesses, they often seem like people to him. Sometime's he even feels they're his best friends because they're so loyal and friendly and always seem happy to be around him. Nicest of all, animals aren't ever critical of the way people are. They always love him.

"And there's that almost extra-sensory communication you have with animals," David says. "They seem to sense instinctively the way you feel and are sympathetic. And they always make you feel better."



So that's David's twenty-year-old midnight confessions. Here's an interview done just last month.

At 21 David Cassidy had made his first million as a teen idol. At 41 he's back on tour. But the twenty years in between were not filled with superstardom. Some were filled with therapy, others with marriage, failed comebacks, theatre and thoroughbred race horse breeding.

At his peak, playing Keith Partridge on the *Partridge Family*, there were magazine covers, posters, board games, bubble gum cards, 18 gold records and more than 300 concerts around the world. But at the age of 24, he quit, burned out. Three years later he tried a television comeback, which failed, then after five years of performing in regional theatre he landed the starring role in the hit musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* on Broadway. In the midst of all that there was also a marriage to actress Kay Lenz.

Despite the seeming lack of success and stardom throughout those years, he still couldn't walk down the street without being recognized as Keith Partridge, and his records continued to sell in Europe and on the black market, believe it or not, behind the iron curtain.

Then in April of 1989, a twist of fate sent David Cassidy on the comeback trail, again. He was listening to a radio station in Los Angeles, when the DJs launched a roast in his honour. He called the station, just for fun, and the DJs invited him down to the show. He played three of his new songs on the air and by the end of the show, the parking lot was filled with fans and he had three recording offers.

Since then the ball has been rolling. An album

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was released by Enigma last year. Despite the fact that Enigma has since gone out of business, the album has done reasonably well. He went on tour in the Soviet Union, has done several personal appearances and concerts, and is working on a new album.

I talked to him recently about now, not then. I didn't mention Keith Partridge or the *Partridge Family* or his days as a teen idol. I only talked about the past two years, his new career and new life, but during most of the conversation I sensed Keith Partridge lurking somewhere in the background, waiting to be brought out. He didn't bring him up though, as a matter of fact, the word Partridge never entered the conversation, not even once.

This tour is called the "Credibility Tour" and he's talked, recently, about trying to attain an "adult" image. But is this an older and wiser David Cassidy? At least he thinks so.

"I have to say, that all of the things I've ever done in my life and my career, I'm glad now that I'm doing this, at this stage in my life and that I have the opportunity to do it."

Today he is remarried, this time to his song-writing partner, Sue Shiffrin and has his first child, a son, named Beau Devin, born in February of 1991. David Cassidy, teen-heart throb, a father? Actually, since he is 41 years old now, the surprising part is he waited so long.

"I'm glad I waited as long as I did, for my own sake, I think, and for his. I now know, in my life there were things that I wasn't sure of in my twenties - that I wanted to go out and, sort of, sow some more wild oats and I'm really now much more settled as a human being."

When asked how fatherhood was treating him, he responded with, "Boy, what an interesting slant on life." He went on to admit for most of his life

he has led a "very narcissistic and very self-centred existence." He talked about his son being a clean slate, and wanting to "give him as much as I can of myself...And give him as much, in terms of tools and to prepare him so he can go out and face this planet and this world."

That doesn't sound much like Keith Partridge to me. Yet, throughout the interview he used words like WOW and COOL, and described his concert tour by saying, "this is not let's sit back and get mellow. It's the antithesis of that. It's stomping, screaming, shouting and it's been really exciting."

When we talked about his tour of the Soviet Union and his series of sold-out concerts on Moscow, the older and wiser David Cassidy said he "went over for the cultural experience. But later said, "Russian guys came up to me and started playing me songs that they know of mine, and WOW, you know, it's such an incredible thing. The second quote sounded a lot like Keith Partridge to me.

Keith got lost somewhere when he was talking about his next album though. He described the music he's working on now as being "more in the classic sort of blues, rhythm and blues, soul singer kind of...Saloon, early Ray Charles kind of style." You can't get much further away from Keith Partridge than that! Of course, on this tour he playing about 60 per cent old Partridge era stuff, and only 40 per cent of his new music.

So, who was I talking to? Keith Partridge or the new David Cassidy? Maybe he's made up of the same percentage that he gives his concerts. 60 per cent of Keith Partridge and 40 per cent of the older, but wiser David Cassidy.

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