



David with his third wife Sue and their son Beau, now 26. The couple divorced in 2016.

# DAVID CASSIDY THE SAD DEATH OF AN IDOL

**THE  
PARTRIDGE  
FAMILY  
ACTOR AND  
'70s POP  
SENSATION  
TRAGICALLY  
DIES AT 67**



David and his daughter Katie Cassidy at the Family Television Awards in 2007.

**S**erenaded by screaming teenage girls wherever he went, David Cassidy – who sadly died last week, aged 67 – was once the biggest pop star in the world.

On tour, lovelorn fans tried to book hotel rooms next to the *Partridge Family* favourite. They woke him in the middle of the night, bothered him constantly for autographs and, in Australia, bombarded him with so many toy koalas and items of underwear, the stage collapsed.

Yet, true contentment eluded the thrice-married singer and actor, who suffered alcoholism, substance abuse and a well-publicised estrangement with only daughter Katie in his later, less successful years.

'I just want to be happy. I really want to be happy,' David told *People* magazine in one of his final interviews last year, poignantly revealing his battle with dementia.

'If I want to have a great life like I have now, I've just got to stay on track. I love that I've had an amazing life that has touched millions of people all over the world. I'm flattered. The world needs more kindness.'

But fate was cruel to the 1970s heart-throb, who had always dreaded falling victim to the disease that killed both his grandfather and mother, Evelyn Ward.

'In the end, the only way I knew Mom recognised me was with one single tear that would drop from her eye every time I walked into the room,' the

father-of-two said in February last year. 'I feared I would end up that way.'

The only mercy was that multiple organ failure claimed the *I Think I Love You* hitmaker's life – on Tuesday, November 21, at a hospital in Fort Lauderdale, Florida – before dementia stole his mind completely.

A statement released by his publicist simply said: 'David died surrounded by those he loved, with joy in his heart and free from the pain that had gripped him for so long.'

Among the family farewelling him was actress daughter Katie, the former *Melrose Place* star with whom he had been at odds.

'I wasn't her father,' he sadly told one reporter last year. 'I was her biological father, but I didn't raise her. She has a completely different life.'

David first shot to global fame as clean-cut Keith

a huge crush on the baby-faced star and coveted a pair of Keith Partridge-style dungarees.

But 'Cassidymania' turned sour on May 26, 1974, when 800 fans were injured in a concert stampede at London's White City Stadium. One of them, 14-year-old Bernadette Whelan, died four days later when a pre-existing heart condition triggered a cardiac arrest.

David was heartbroken, and nothing was ever quite the same again. Although he had occasional hits, TV and musical theatre roles in later decades, his demons got the better of him.

In 2008, following a string of drink-driving offences, he admitted he was an alcoholic. In 2014, there was a stint in rehab for substance abuse, and in 2015, he declared bankruptcy.

Through it all, he retained a deep affection for his fans.

'I'm kind of in awe of them.'

**'HYSTERIA FOLLOWED DAVID'S  
EVERY FOOTSTEP. VIRTUALLY EVERY  
TEENAGE GIRL HAD A HUGE CRUSH'**

Partridge in TV sitcom *The Partridge Family*, which launched in 1970. David's real-life stepmother Shirley Jones played his mum in the show about a family band on the road. It rapidly became a smash hit and launched Cassidy's music career when the TV band achieved a series of six gold albums in two years.

Going solo, hysteria followed David's every footstep. Virtually every western teenage girl had

'Truly,' he told *People*. 'To be that connected and supportive of someone, it's a very beautiful and emotional thing for me... everything – it has more meaning.'

Cassidy is survived by daughter Katie, his son Beau by ex-wife Sue Shifrin-Cassidy, brothers Shaun, Patrick and Ryan, stepmother Shirley Jones, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

By Jenny Brown