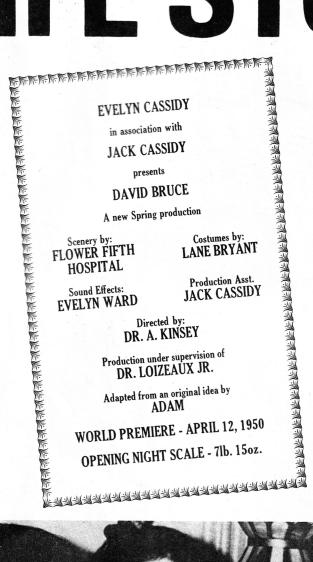
LIFE STORY





Some of this story is told by David's mother, the lovely actress, Evelyn Ward, who was divorced from his father, Jack Cassidy, more than 16 years ago. Other parts of it are told by David himself. Permission to reproduce it has been granted by '16' Magazine of America, to whom grateful acknowledgements are made.

David Bruce Cassidy — to give him his full name — arrived on the dot at ten a.m. on the morning of April 12, 1950. He was born in Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital, New York City and the first thing his mother noticed when the nurse put the baby in her arms was that David had the bluest eyes she had ever seen . . . and *RED* hair!

For a split second she wondered whether the doctor had made a mistake (he told her later most mothers have the same suspicion when they see their babies for the first time). Then she remembered her husband's mother telling her that all Cassidy kids start life as 'carrot tops'.

For the first ten days of his existence David was spoiled ridiculously by the nurses in the hospital. He was the only boy born there in that period, so of course he got the all-star treatment. Unfair, did someone say?

Even before he arrived, his mother and father had decided on the name David for him. That's not quite true. His father wanted him to be called David. His mother rather fancied Bruce, but she allowed herself to be over-ruled. Today she's glad she gave way because the name David seems exactly right. In the old Biblical sense it means 'the beloved'.

To the delight of David's grannie and granddad, the Cassidys moved into their big house not just for economy but also to allow the old folk to get to know their grandson.

David was a fine happy baby. And fat! He was such a roly-poly and so contented that his nickname became Smiling Sam.

David and his real Mum actress Evelyn Ward.