

'Partridge Family' made David Cassidy a teen dream

By SUSAN KING

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HOLLYWOOD — "If I hadn't done 'The Partridge Family,'" says David Cassidy, "who knows what my career might have been?"

But because of his role as adorable Keith Partridge on the 1970-74 ABC sitcom about a singing family, Cassidy became one of the top pre-teen and teen idols around the world. Now, 20 years later, fans can enjoy their favorite teen dream again. "The Partridge Family" joined the prime-time "Nick at Nite" lineup Monday. A two-hour block of shows can be seen tonight through Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 10 p.m.

Besides Cassidy, "The Partridge Family" also consisted of Cassidy's stepmother Shirley Jones as the mother, Susan Dey as fresh-faced Laurie and Danny Bonaduce as the wise-cracking Danny. The Partridges also cut several top-selling albums, including "Come on, Get Happy" and the single "I Think I Love You," which sold 4 million copies.

None of the Partridges, though, were professional musicians. Bona fide musicians worked on studio recordings, though Cassidy and Jones supplied the lead vocals. Cassidy, now 43, enjoyed a successful solo career.

Before "Partridge," Cassidy was a dramatic actor, having starred on Broadway in "The Fig Leaves Are Falling" and guest-starred on such TV series as "Marcus Welby, M.D." and "Bonanza."

It was his then-manager who



The Partridges: (top) Brian Forster, left, Danny Bonaduce, Suzanne Crough; (bottom) David Cassidy, Shirley Jones, Susan Dey.

steered him into doing the series. "When you are 19 years old and trying to support yourself, you do every job that you are up for," Cassidy says. "You have no idea what's in your future. I was trying to pay the rent. I did this pilot and who knew? It might not have sold."

Cassidy says he believes people are nostalgic for the '70s because the '80s ushered in a dark period of terrorism and AIDS. "I think the last time people remember going out, partying, sweating and not having life-or-death consequences was the '70s. I mean this in a gentle kind of fun way, but it was the last kind of mindless fun we ever had. I think a lot of people really long for that. I want to celebrate that mindless generation."

Beginning July 19, "The Partridge Family" will air weeknights on Nickelodeon.