



File photo

**FROM THE SHOW:** Unisex fashion plates Keith and Shirley Partridge (David and Shirley Cassidy) unload rock-star paraphernalia from the family's psychedelic tour bus. Nickelodeon has added 'The Partridge Family' to its weekday evening schedule.

## Gettin' happy (again) with those groovy Partridges

By Diane Werts  
Newsday

And you think TV shows are farfetched now?

Take a look back at Nick at Nite's latest nostalgia entry, "The Partridge Family." Here is a single-parent family that is supposed to be also a top rock group, touring the country and Europe, making gold records and just generally being world famous. And where can mom Shirley Partridge be found?

On the sofa needle-pointing family doodads. Or in the kitchen peeling potatoes.

Maid-shmaid for this Partridge family. This is just the clean-cut world-famous rock group next door!

Ah, yes. The '70s. Nick at Nite continues its headlong plunge into that mindless decade, having cleared away such musty (and hopelessly black-and-white) '50s and '60s relics as "Mister Ed" and "Car 54, Where Are You?"

No, the future for Nick at Nite is clearly 20 years ago — nothing before President Nixon — when everything was colorfully garish and cheerfully vacant. Those mustard-colored hiphuggers! Those tangerine rib-knits! Those really ugly cars and groovy shag carpets! Those

### Nick trots out the Partridges' funky bus for a promotional tour

The Tucson Citizen

**T**he Partridge Family" is back on TV as the Nickelodeon cable channel is airing a week of themed episodes, through Friday, from 8-10 p.m.

Then, on Saturday from 10 p.m.-midnight, David Cassidy (teen dream Keith Partridge) hosts "Very Very Nick at Nite" and shows his four favorite episodes. The show assumes its regular weekday time slot at 8 p.m. next Monday.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, Cassidy hosts a 16-episode marathon of "Partridge Family" episodes on MTV, Nickelodeon's sister channel. The shows will air back-to-back from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and from 4-8 p.m.

Nickelodeon is also bringing back the psychedelically painted school bus the family used on

**TOUR** continues C2

By Diane Werts

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David Cassidy "walked away from it at the top," he says "and the only person that cares about that is me." He was maybe the biggest teen idol of the TV age during the "Partridge Family" run, but he didn't exactly parlay that fame into a continuing career. After all that non-stop work and overwhelming fan mania what he did next was:

"Nothing. I retired. I went for four years without working at all. I was rich, and I could afford to do it."

Financially, maybe. Professionally, he took a hit, since there's nothing more fragile in Hollywood than teen-idol status. But that was never Cassidy's goal. He was an actor to begin with, who before his big gig had played guest roles on such shows as "Marcus Welby, M.D." He never dreamed when he first signed on to do "Partridge Family" that his life could turn around so dramatically.

Or that the show would remain his identifying credit for a quarter-century. Cassidy's subsequent stop-and-start career has been marked by persistent bad luck and

bad timing.

So here he is — 43 years old, settled down with his third wife and their 2½-year-old son, Beau — talking about "The Partridge Family" again.

"But nobody forced this on me," he says. "I've started feeling over the last couple of years very protective of 'The Partridge Family' and, if anything, defending it. People don't remember just how successful it was and what a well-crafted show it was for what it was."

He's writing a book about those experiences and preparing a touring concert show that's "a '70s celebration, since that was the last decade dedicated to having a good time, having a party." (He'll also join the cast of Broadway's "Blood Brothers" next month.)

**Danny Bonaduce**

Nobody is happier to talk about



**CASSIDY:**  
Proud of show

## Gettin' happy with the Partridges

**PARTRIDGE**  
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vacuous rock ditties and shag-haired teen idols!

In other words: "The Partridge Family."

Every weeknight, you'll hear that tinny refrain, "C'mon, get happy!"

Can you resist?

Seventies viewers couldn't. "The Partridge Family" was in the Top 25 for three of its four ABC seasons (1970-74). And here's a news flash: The much beloved "Brady Bunch" never got there, despite being paired with the recording star Partridges on ABC's '70s prototype of Friday-night TGIF scheduling.

Maybe that's because the Brady boys were no match for Partridge lead singer David Cassidy in the teen

idol department — not to mention on Top 40 radio, where Partridge singles like "I Think I Love You" regularly went gold. Was there any Brady as hip and smart-mouthed as scheming Partridge shrimp Danny Bonaduce? As winsome as stringy-haired teen Susan Dey? And don't forget Partridge matriarch Shirley Jones (who was married in real life to David's actor dad, Jack Cassidy). Brady mom Florence Henderson may have been cute in those minis, but Shirley was sexy. She could sing (both she and Cassidy provided vocals for the Partridge records).

OK, so the episodes' plots weren't always boffo ("After a skunk leaves his scent on their bus, the Partridges fear their bad odor will spoil their next performance"). The dialogue, so, was often less than sparkling and hardly tinged with reality (!) anny's goal during the

the "Partridge Family" revival than Danny Bonaduce.

"It's the most press I've ever had without being busted," says the one-time kid quipster turned 33-year-old quipster, whose new career as a radio disc jockey has gotten much less ink than his late-'80s appearances on police blotters. "I've had some pretty severe addiction problems in my life," he admits, leading to much publicized "child star" arrests involving drugs and prostitutes.

Bonaduce's straight now, and after stints in Phoenix, Ariz., and Philadelphia, he's the evening talk man at Chicago's WLUP-AM, where "I earn a much better living as a DJ than I ever earned as Danny Partridge."

His TV career shrank as he grew taller, but radio revived him. "I did a couple of movies-of-the-week and about nine episodes of 'CHiPs.'" Radio also turned out to be the right medium for his quick mind. "I don't find TV a real creative venue. They dress you, they tell you what to say, they even put your name on your dressing room in case you forget where to go. It's not like a job for adults."

**Shirley Jones**

Shirley Jones had the most visible career before "The Partridge Family" — top Hollywood musicals ("Carousel," "The Music Man") and an Oscar ("Elmer Gantry") — and the most visible after. Married to actor-turned-agent Marty Ingels, she regularly does TV and sings with orchestras. "I have more work than I know what to do with," she says, "unlike so many people my age (59)."

Jones still plays the mother role in updating the whereabouts of her TV kids: She says Suzanne Crough has three children and owns a bookstore in a small town south of Los Angeles, although "I've lost total track of whatever happened to Brian Forster. I believe he's out of the business." As for Susan Dey ("L.A. Law," "Love & War"), Jones says "I see her in this town quite a lot at parties and so forth."



**JONES:**  
Busy career

## Groovy bus rides again

**TOUR**  
continued from C1

the show for a cross-country promotion junket. Even better, Cassidy — who used to joke about wanting to blow up the bus — will be behind the wheel. The tour stops in Washington, D.C. (Thursday), Philadelphia (Friday), Atlanta (July 19) and Orlando (July 20).

Shirley Jones (Shirley Partridge), too, is helping Nickelodeon hype the show. She took a break from her busy schedule of symphony concerts to pose with Cassidy and Danny Bonaduce (Danny Partridge) for an upcoming People Magazine cover story. And Arsenio Hall has booked the trio for tonight on his late-night talk show.