

"I think I was very reluctant to get into a serious relationship, because having been in a couple of painful marriages I never thought that I'd do it again.

"Both my ex-wives were really good people — I just never should have married them."

Meeting Sue came at the end of a long period of self-doubt for the singer. "I've had to struggle a lot in the last 15 years, trying to get people to look at me in a new way, and I did a lot of theatre including *Time* in London's West End (he took over from Cliff Richard in 1987).

"I had never wanted to be a teen idol. I was an actor who had worked on Broadway and then I got cast as Keith in *The Partridge Family*. I was just trying to pay the rent — not trying to be a phenomenon.

"But once I decided to retire and then start afresh later no one wanted to know, so I vegetated for a while," he says with a sad smile.

"I then went back to acting classes and the theatre before exposing myself as a songwriter at the end of the Eighties."

David and Sue wrote eight of the 10 songs on his new album and his film *Spirit Of '76* has just opened in the States.

"The kind of success I've been having in the States with my last single has inspired me to go out and do it all over again, and I'm hoping to do a world tour in the next year or so," he reveals.

"My life is a lot different now than it was in the Seventies and I'm a much more comfortable and less paranoid person. I just want to watch Beau grow up and share his joys and heartbreaks," he says with feeling.

"Every day I get up and I really do appreciate my life. I just feel so lucky." **H**

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