

David Cassidy, Superstar With Teen Set, Talks Shop

By Martha Smith
Staff Writer

Advance press releases reveal all of the "inner secrets" of David Cassidy's personality. He loves animals. He is sensitive. He is a superstar.

But the man himself tells another story. He can't really be called a boy, because although his flawless complexion and boyish smile enable him to portray a 16-year-old, he is, in reality, 21.

And, although he may at one time have been able to pursue hobbies or personal amusements, those days are gone. At least for a while.

In a telephone interview Monday, the young man who stars in television's "The Partridge Family," indicated that there are many things he would like to do if he only had time. He plays the guitar and drums, and especially enjoys composing. But filming the series, recording singles and albums, and making concert appearances such as the one scheduled for Oct. 10 in Charleston, leave little time for outside enterprises.

"I don't get much time to compose," he said. "Concentration on work is a requirement at this point. Maybe I'll get there and maybe I won't."

Other career pursuits have never occurred to David Cassidy. He was one of those kids who was cursed and blessed at the same time; his was a "show business family." His dad is Jack Cassidy, noted comic ac-



David Cassidy
Rough Road

tor, formerly of the television series "He and She." His stepmother is Academy Award winner Shirley Jones.

DAVID APPARENTLY never gave much thought to the size of the shoes he was trying to fill. He began performing because he liked to. "I started when I was about three," he recalled softly. "I always had a sort of feel for it. I loved it."

His formal education took him through the usual steps, up to graduation from Rexford, a private Beverly Hills school. Somehow he just couldn't hack college.

"I'll never go back," he said firmly. "For one thing, there's

no time. "The city college I went to offered an education which was on a lower level than my studies in private school."

So he quit. He worked in theater summer stock in New York. He studied at the David Craig School of Musical Comedy. Then, an audition got him his first Broadway role in "The Big Leaves are Falling."

He was still relatively unknown, however, until the series. Then, as teen age Keith Partridge he captured the hearts of America's young girls.

He doesn't seem to mind that his following is predominantly the younger set. He also doesn't mind looking like a teen. "It seems to have worked for the better," he notes. "Looking young has been my success."

Long working hours are also part of the game, according to David's philosophy. It's nothing for him to work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the series, then dash off to a recording studio and cut a record until 1 a.m.

"For a while," he muses, "I'll have to concentrate. The opportunity is there to all those things. Even when I have time to myself, I usually end up strumming my guitar."

Although the series, which costars his stepmother, has been successful, David says he wouldn't do another one.

Somehow, as he answers the questions, he doesn't seem very happy. Maybe reporters' questions have become boringly typical. Maybe he is simply tired. Maybe, at last, the shoe size is important.