



DAVID CASSIDY

this page: (b. 4/12/50, New York City) The son of actor Jack Cassidy and

actress Evelyn Ward, Cassidy became a worldwide sensation when he starred opposite stepmother Shirley Jones on the hit television series *The Partridge Family*. (Notably, he and Jones were the only actual singing members of the TV cast, and Cassidy had no idea that Jones was playing his mother until he was signed on. He also had a long-term affair with actress Susan Dey, who played his sister Laurie—which outlasted the run of the show.) The “group” had a first big hit with “I Think I Love You” (the biggest-selling record of 1970), followed by “I Woke Up in Love this Morning” and Cassidy’s solo version of “Cherish.” So adored was he at the time that his fan club membership was the largest in history, exceeding those for Elvis and The Beatles. At age twenty-one, he was the highest-paid performer in the world. Cassidy had come very far from his days as a school troublemaker and college dropout. But maybe not: anxious to shed his teen image, he appeared seminude in a *Rolling Stone* magazine feature. The publicity greatly hurt his popularity, and he sank into a three-year “dark” period of alcohol and drug abuse in Los Angeles. Lately, he has taken up theater acting and has played in the shows *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (you will hear this name again!), *Time*, and *Blood Brothers*, this last one with stepbrother Shaun Cassidy. (Gene Trindle/MPTV)

opposite: (b. 9/27/58, Los Angeles, Calif.) Shaun is the son of actors Jack Cassidy (who certainly had some strong genes and good-looking boys!) and Shirley Jones, and the stepbrother of David Cassidy. When just eleven, slim Shaun sang and composed music with his own band; at sixteen, he signed a record deal (with Warner Bros.) and had a major European hit, “Morning Girl,” in 1976. Cast in the television show *The Hardy Boys Mysteries* (1977–79) with Parker Stevenson, Cassidy began his stateside career in earnest. His remake of The Crystals hit “Da Do Ron Ron”—featured on an April 1977 episode—went to number-one. Comely Cassidy is easily one of the most recognized teen idols of his, or any other, age. Yet his popularity far exceeds the expected payoff from such a paltry run at the charts: he had only two more top-ten hits. Though by no means unique, this is evidence that a pretty face can make it seem like you are a bigger star than your talents warrant. But Cassidy had an ace up his sleeve: he became a noted behind-the-scenes television worker, and the series *American Gothic* (1995–96), which he created, wrote, and produced, was a critical, though short-lived, success. (Michael Ochs)

SHAUN CASSIDY

