

The Phone Call That Changed My Life!

A phone call from his manager changed David Cassidy's life. It offered him the chance of auditioning for the part of Keith in what was to become the Partridge Family, a part he nearly turned down.

Now sitting on the Hollywood set of the series three years later he told me: "I felt it was all a bit icky when they told me what the story was about. Then I got a copy of the script and I knew that everything would be all right."

Although the BBC decided to drop the series in Britain, it's still a big success in the States and there will be at least 52 new episodes this year. All of which means tremendous pressure for David, who also continues his own musical career at the same time.

"I'm tired," he said, slumping down in the chair next to me, "really tired. Do you know what I'd like to have most in the world right at this moment? A sleep. A really long sleep. I'm working an eighteen hour day and it really is tiring."

This is the side of success the public never really realise. All they see is David's smiling face. But I don't think it's often appreciated, or appreciated enough, how much hard work goes into being a success. Especially, perhaps, in America where there are queues outside waiting to step into your shoes if you slip.

David is the epitome of the dedicated star. This is how he described the start of his day.

"I reckon the most difficult thing I have to do all day is to get up. I get three wake-up calls and two alarm calls. The phone rings three times and two alarms go off.

"The first call comes through and



says; 'It's six a.m.' Then I get another at five past six, and the third at ten past.

"At thirteen minutes past, my alarms go off!

"I don't eat breakfast because I've got no time. Sometimes I've got to be in the make-up department by seven."

Not having breakfast presents David with another of his continuing problems: weight. Or rather his one man fight to put more weight on. While the rest of us watch our calories David goes out of his way to put on those extra inches.

"I'm a vegetarian, but I eat bread and starchy things like bananas," he said. "I weigh nine stone but I could do with being a bit heavier. I think it's the pressure of all this work that stops me gaining. I try. While everyone else is watching their weight on the coffee breaks, I stuff into doughnuts and things like that."

And to prove it, he did just that as we talked.

"When I'm working on the series I have little time for anything else, because I have to go into the studio at night when we've finished here. I usually record two songs for the show a week and then I like to record a few others besides, for my next album. So that only leaves me the week-end and I usually do a concert on a Sunday. When I get home for a day off I just like to laze around in the sun."

Even this sounds simpler than it really is. David has had to move house three times in the past

year or so because of the pressure put on him by fans who just wanted to get a look at him. Now he lives on private property in a house next door to one of his closest friends, Sam Hyman, whom he knew when he first moved to Los Angeles from New York. They used to share a typically disorganised bachelor apartment in Laurel Canyon, one of Los Angeles' more unusual suburbs.

In those days, before David was signed to the Partridge Family show, they used to split all the household duties between them. Doing the laundry, going out shopping (which in America usually means getting into the car and motoring down to the nearest shopping precinct) and cleaning up the house. Then, when stardom came, Sam decided that as David didn't have any time, he'd have to take charge. Which is just what he did.

Now they live in separate houses, although next door, and David has to look after himself.

"I'm not really much of a cook," he confessed. "Never was, I suppose, but I can boil an egg very expertly and make tea. I've always liked tea more than coffee and that was one of the things I really liked when I visited England for the first time earlier this year. Those pots of tea were fantastic."

At the studio David is dressed entirely from the wardrobe department, so when he gets home he likes to relax and put his own clothes on.

"It's a bit strange always wearing

clothes from wardrobe and I always feel a little dressed up as it were. At home I just usually wear jeans. I have some leather things I wear that were made for me—soft, easy, work-shirts, things like that. I'm definitely not into the David Bowie, Rod Stewart thing.

"I once tried to be a little bizarre, but found out that dressing up really inhibits me. I feel I have to act like my suit—do you know what I mean? So I'd prefer to wear things that people don't really notice me in. Not like Alice Cooper or anything like that."

Like all young Americans, David was very excited by the clothes he saw here when he was in London, and wished more like them were available in America. But on his next visit he plans to spend more time so that he can have a good look around the clothes shops.

David says that he loved Britain and especially the letters his visit here brought him.

"I think one of the things in Britain that was really rewarding was that the girls there who appreciate me are just that bit older than they are here in America. Of course this has to do with people in Britain judging me more as a singer than an actor, now they don't show the series there any more.

"It was really nice in Britain although I have to admit that being an American everything seemed much smaller to me than it is here!

"Certainly I hope to spend more time there. I found the people so sympathetic. Really kind and nice."

Next Week: How David gets on with his co-stars, particularly Susan Dey!

