

Susan Dey is - alongside David Cassidy – the focus of the TV series "Partridge Family". Here she tells how she, a normal American teenager, became Laurie Partridge

"That's how I became David Cassidy's partner"

Susan Dey: "My mother got the ball rolling

When I really get down to it, I have to be more than grateful to Laurie Partridge. She made me known overnight and changed my life forever, says Susan Dey (20), Laurie from the TV series Partridge Family, with whom I met in a cozy restaurant in Hollywood. And at the same time I apologize to Laurie if I was sometimes angry with her. "Playing the same role for four years is quite annoying at times," Susan continues. I ask her how she got her role. That was over three years ago now. I was a 16-year-old teenager like millions of other people back then and lived with my two brothers, my sister and my mother in Mount Kisco, which is a small town near New York. I mean she is actually my stepmother, my real mother died when I was eight years old. Every year Susan looked for a job so that she could pay for her expensive college during her summer vacation. This became more difficult from year to year. I've already been through everything: nanny, housemaid and so on. Then something strange happened: My New York model agent wrote to me and asked me to come to them for a test shoot." Susan thought it was a joke and told her mother. She

clarified the secret: Without revealing anything to her daughters, she had sent photos of Susan and her sister Lesley to the agency. Susan was the lucky one... From now on, worrying about jobs was over. I was quite in demand as a teen model. Well, one day my agency was looking for a cast for a new TV series called Partridge Family." Susan took part in a test with a hundred other girls, was selected - and three weeks later she was on the flight "It was just a matter of luck," laughs Susan as she picks at her jar of salted shrimp. She also drinks a glass of water. It's absolutely terrible. At the moment I have to starve down ten pounds for filming. I had just been visiting my family in Mount Kisco for four weeks. And of course my mom filled me up with delicacies and calories." Susan sighs. I didn't have any problems like that when I was 16. Back then, I lost a pound almost every day in Hollywood out of excitement. I didn't even know what was happening to me, had never stood in front of a film camera and never given an interview. In any case, it really affected me. And the stupidest thing: In California there is a law that a girl under 18 has to have a chaperone if she lives alone here. Well, I just looked for one and it was there

"It's nice." Susan no longer needs a chaperone. She lives alone in a small, cozy house in the San Fernando Valley. What's it like to be so known overnight? A strange feeling. My parents raised me very democratically. They never made me feel special. Suddenly, after the first episodes of the Partridge family, I was adored and bombarded with letters I've already done great things? I was the same Susan as before... Are there similarities between Laurie Partridge and Susan Dey? Yes, a big one. Because Laurie has the same kind of relationship as with my siblings I also try to be a role model for my younger siblings and educate them a little. Of course, sometimes they don't like it when I try to get something out of them with gentle prompting and sarcastic comments. But one thing is certain: I would do anything for my family. And if I were to earn a lot of money, I would give them all something." Is there a dream that Susan wants to realize? In any case, I want to prove myself as an actress. I'm pretty committed to the series. But when it comes to the end of the Partridge family, I'll convince everyone that I can handle other roles too!"

Frances Schoenberger