

Sometimes the best way to find out about someone is not to speak to the actual person but instead to have a chat with someone who is a friend, someone who is really close, someone who can let you in on sides of the person's personality and character that he may not even know about himself. But sometimes it can be difficult — for example, when the person you are interested in doesn't have anyone that is really close to him. And this is quite common with the stars — the lives they lead rule out any possibility of having the time to develop a real relationship with anyone. Take David for example. There are very few people who can truly say that they know what he is really like as an individual. Sam Hyman is one obviously — and the other one is David's manager, Ruth Aarons. She was in London recently on a flying visit, so we sent Jean along to have a chat with her... about guess who?

DAVID = THE INSIDE



Ruth Aarons must be the envy of every David Cassidy fan. 'Cos she's known him since he was eight, and is one of a few people who can really get close to him.

"It's not that he doesn't like people — far from it," she told Jean. "It's just that he's really a very shy, very private guy.

"He likes people, he loves having friends and relaxing with them as much as he can. But it's hard to make

friends when you're a star.

"He has to make sure that people aren't just coming round because he's David Cassidy. But even when he's on his own or with a few friends, David is not a very public guy. He's not the most talkative person in the world.

"The only time David comes on strongly is when he's performing. Then he just loves it, and he's really excited and exciting when he's performing."

Whenever David turned he found showbusiness, so it wasn't the way it would have been for someone whose father was a chemist, or something like that.

NEW YORK

"Anyway, David graduated from high school, about which I was glad — at least he wasn't a high school dropout or something.

"He was supposed to go to college, but he went to New York to spend some time with his father and step-mother, who were doing a musical show over there.

"I think it was always being in that showbiz atmosphere, and the fact that he was just out of high school, that made him just turn to his father one day and say "I want to give it a try."

So Jack Cassidy called me up and said "Well, you've got another Cassidy to look after. Will you keep an eye on him?" And I said I would. Famous last words!"

STAR SPOT

And Ruth Aarons knows. Since he was about 18, she has guided David's career and helped put him into the top star spot he holds today.

"David was an enchanting child, a really bright kid. He always had a sense of humour, and came from a theatrical family.

"That made a great difference to him. His father is Jack Cassidy, who is a brilliant actor and singer, and his step-mother is an Oscar-winning actress and a beautiful singer.

"So when you think of all that background, he was really well equipped to go into the business.

