

Close friends since school: David and Sam during this year's Australian tour Sam was still sporting a beard back then

I've known Sam Hyman for a long time. As long as I've known David Cassidy. Sam belongs to David like the guitar or the Partridge family. Sam is a very nice boy, the sweetest buddy David has. They've known each other since they were at school... When I call Sam and ask him for an interview, he laughs: "What? How do the kids in Germany know me? Are you sure you don't want to see David?" I assure him that it's all about him. Okay, then come and see me tomorrow at 11. Please be on time, you know I have to work from 12 noon." Sam is currently working as a waiter. Shortly before 11 a.m. I'm standing in front of the large garden gate of David's property in Encino, a district of Los Angeles. Sam lives in the small guest house here: two rooms, kitchen, bathroom. Sam opens the gate for me. David's dog Bullseye jumps up at me. He has also known me for a long time. He's obviously surprised that today, for once, I'm not coming to David's, but to Sam's. "David is still asleep. He was up late last night in the record studio," says Sam. The weather is glorious. So Sam and I sit outside and drink ice-cold lemonade. Sam starts: "David and I, oh man, we've known each other since we were 13. and became friends back then." Since then the two have been inseparable. Unfortunately, neither of us were great at school," he says. "We used every free hour to play music"

They formed their first band when they were 15. "I don't even remember what we called ourselves. David sang and played drums, I played guitar. For five dollars a night, we once performed at the Sportsmen Lodge club. My goodness, we were miserable! It was our first and last engagement." Sam is the same age as David: 24 years old. He was born in Los Angeles on May 24, 1950. He has brown eyes, dark brown, curly hair, is 1.70 meters tall and weighs 60 kilos.

David's career took off - Sam didn't make any progress

At the age of 16, David and Sam agreed that they would become actors. At 17, they graduated together from Emerson Junior College in Los Angeles. Sam then went to drama school. David, however, got on the next plane to New York. He wanted to take Broadway by storm," grins Sam, "I thought he was completely bonkers. But in fact, after six months of working in a mail room, David got his first role at a Broadway theater. It was a flop and David returned. "But from then on, David's career took off. Only I didn't get a single step further," says Sam, somewhat depressed. David was cast in several TV series

Ever since BRAVO readers found out that David Cassidy has a good friend, the editorial team has been getting a lot of questions: What does he look like? How long have they known each other? Where did they meet? BRAVO correspondent Frances Schoenberger visited Sam Hyman and tells you everything you need to know about the friendship between him and David...

small guest roles. And when I saw the fan mail he received as a result, I knew right away that he would make it one day." It wasn't easy for Sam at times: he witnessed first-hand how David went from nothing to superstar. "We both started out with the same intentions. While David made progress, I gave up my plans after a few years." Why? "I didn't have enough self-confidence, unlike David. And that's part of it!" After David became a star with the Partridge family, he moved into a "befitting" mansion in the Hollywood Hills. He offered Sam the chance to move out of his tiny apartment with him. "The house was so big you could get lost in it. Of course I said yes. I was happy to live better. And David was happy to have company. You know, he has few friends and is very suspicious of strangers." David and Sam are neighbours but each lives his own life Sam took over the commercial side of David's career for a while. He took care of the post office and the sale of Cassidy posters, rings, plaques and so on. "I made a good living at it. But I soon stopped doing it again. I didn't want to be dependent on David. Friendship and finances should always be kept separate."

After eleven months in the luxury villa, David looked for a place that suited him better. He found it in Encino. It is a kind of ranch with a large plot of land and a garden with lots of orange trees. A solid, spacious house with lots of wood. Sam moved again: the small guest house on the property provided ideal accommodation for him. The "ranch" in Encino is now home to a housekeeper, David, Sam, three dogs and five cats. "David and I live here like good neighbours. We have a lot of mutual friends. But we still each live our own lives and have our own circle of friends." Sam lived in the little house with his girlfriend for a year. Six months ago, she broke up with me. I still don't know why." Since then, Sam has been single again. He currently works as a waiter at Chuck's Steakhouse in the Marina del Rey district, the largest marina in the world. "I earn a reasonable wage. But it will still be some time before I can fulfill my dream of owning my own sailing boat." A sleep-deprived David comes across the garden at this moment. He speaks with a croaky voice and has a sore throat. The two of them are talking about what still needs to be painted in the guest house. Sam wants to order painters, but David says: "Nonsense. We'll do it ourselves." Sam has to go to work. Chuck's Steakhouse is waiting. While he packs up his waiter's uniform, I go over to his house with David to keep him company for breakfast... Frances Schoenberger