

3 Cassidys: Their successes, their plans

David had it the hardest.

What's going on with David, the oldest Cassidy? Malicious tongues claim that he has passed the peak of his success. He himself vehemently denies this. The fact is that David has been making headlines more for his marriage to Kay Lenz than for his music in recent months. Three years ago, he went on his last world tour. For him, it was a farewell to his teenage years and, at the same time, a farewell to the music that had made him the world's first big teen superstar. But let's start at the beginning...

Of the three Cassidys, David had the hardest time making it to the top. He grew up well protected with his mother Evelyn Ward and his grandparents, far away from show business in New Jersey. At 17, he wanted to become an actor. He moved in with his father Jack Cassidy, who had since married Shirley Jones, and performed for meager wages in small theaters in New York. With the help of his father and Ruth Aarons, Cassidy's manager, he made his way to Hollywood and landed one guest role after another in TV series. This led to his role as Keith in "The Partridge Family." David became famous overnight. And he worked like a dog: during the week he filmed the series, in the evenings he recorded new records, and on weekends he went on tour.

This became a big problem for David, because he wanted to be respected as an actor rather than loved as a celebrity. But the record bosses had other plans for him: he had to keep recording "Partridge" records, even though that sound wasn't really his thing. 1973 was the peak of his career. Then nude photos of him appeared in the American magazine Rolling Stone, in which he opened up about his life as a teen idol.

David as Keith Partridge: The series made him world famous

And suddenly, many people turned against him. They dropped him. David became sarcastic, dismissive, bitter, dissatisfied with himself and the world. He wanted to break through barriers and recorded three LPs with music to his taste, but the fans couldn't relate to it.

The long-awaited comeback failed to materialize.

Then came his marriage to Kay Lenz. And since then, David has changed completely. The aloof, moody star has become a cheerful, well-balanced person with both feet firmly on the ground. Today, he would accept any TV role as long as it has nothing to do with his "Partridge" image. He is negotiating with a new record company. If the contract is finalized, Elton John will firmly stand behind David and work with him. As an actor, he still has to fight against the Keith image. Nevertheless, David is not pessimistic. He believes in his comeback. He just needs the right role or the right song...

Shaun learned from David's mistakes.

The 19-year-old Shaun Cassidy had it much easier. All doors to an international career are now open to him. Shaun is familiar with show business, knows what he wants, and has no illusions. Even as a 15-year-old, he looked up to his half-brother David (both have the same father) as a role model. This allowed him to benefit from David's experience. At that time, he played with his band "Longfellows" in Hollywood discotheques against his parents' wishes. The disco owners were delighted, after all, he was a Cassidy. His parents forbade him to play music because he had to finish school first. BRAVO finally gave him his first chance. The many Shaun stories and letters from readers convinced his mother Shirley Jones, manager Ruth Aarons, and a German record company. His first single produced in Germany, "Morning Girl," was a hit. Shaun performed live at a BRAVO DISCO, and soon after, he snatched the Golden Otto award from his brother David.

In December last year he landed the role of Joe Hardy in the TV series "The Hardy Boys." This television show finally made him famous among American teenagers.

His love for Kay Lenz transformed David into a new, cheerful person

A new star was born. Wherever Shaun goes now, girls lie in wait for him. Unlike David, he enjoys the fuss surrounding him. He doesn't hide or isolate himself like David. His future prospects are excellent. There is a lot to suggest that he will ultimately surpass David. Especially since Shaun has learned from David's mistakes. Shaun has signed better contracts and gets more money for his TV role than David ever did. What's more, Shaun was allowed to play the music he likes right from the start. On his new LP "Born Late," which he is currently working on, Shaun even sings five songs that he wrote himself! His record company is fully behind him, which was never the case with David. Furthermore, David filmed "The Partridge Family" for four years, for example, and became completely typecast by this role. Shaun will say goodbye to "The Hardy Boys" after a year. And immediately afterwards, he will star in a major film. He has no shortage of offers...

Pat is still undecided: music or sports?

Shaun and David's successes have naturally inspired 15-year-old Patrick Cassidy. Like Shaun, he started his own band called "Quorum."

Shaun on his way to becoming a superstar: He is celebrated everywhere

3 Cassidys: Their successes, their plans

Pat plays the drums and loves to play Beach Boys songs at parties. Blond, tall, and already a bit of a heartthrob, he thinks he can follow in his two brothers' footsteps. Only his mother is against it, just like she was with Shaun back then. Shirley Jones, who is an Oscar winner, sensibly insists that Patrick finish high school before he throws himself into the unpredictable world of show business. "Mem is totally against a show business career, but when you fight for it with all your might, like Shaun and I did, she's right behind us!"

When Patrick got a little publicity with his band and Shirley couldn't talk her son out of music, she sent him to her manager, Ruth Aarons. She sat down with Patrick to discuss how Pat envisioned his career. And suddenly Pat started stuttering and couldn't say exactly what he wanted. He seemed only interested in the hype surrounding Shaun. Until recently, sports had been everything to him. He is a sought-after football player at his school. But to give Pat a chance to perform and to show

him how hard you have to work in this business, his mom Shirley took him on a theater tour this summer. She got him the role of Rolf Gruber in "The Sound of Music." Shirley played the lead role. Patrick even had his beloved blond mane cut off for the part. But two weeks before the end of the tour, sports suddenly became more important to him again. While Shirley was still on stage in Chicago, Pat was practicing football diligently in Beverly Hills. He wanted to join the football team at Beverly Hills High School.

And so he currently wants to finish high school, maybe go to college later and become a football star. "I'm not sure whether I should concentrate on singing or television. I'd like to be a teen idol," he grins. Friends who know him predict that he will soon have a record out.

By the way: Pat is not the only potential star in the Cassidy family. Shaun and Pat have a little brother named Ryan. He is only eleven and says he wants to be a mechanic. Let's wait until he is 15...

Frances Schoenberger

Pat Cassidy as drummer for his band Quorum

Pat's show debut: He played in the theater production "The Sound of Music."