



In scenes from the TV movie, Andrew Kavovit (above) plays David Cassidy singing with the Partridge family — and, far left, with Katie Wright playing Susan Dey. Left, the real David Cassidy with his father Jack.

tell them to get down on their knees and bark like a dog or act like a choo-choo and they'd do it gladly.

"I think they were happy just to get close to me. 'You can see me for 10 minutes,' I'd tell them. 'Do you want to talk to me for 10 minutes, or do you really want to have sex with me? Tell me the truth.'"

His sexual conquests included co-star Susan Dey, who played *Partridge* sister Laurie and later starred on *L.A. Law*.

"We had a sort of semi-aborted sexual experience that I've tried to black out of my mind. What occurred was a brief sexual encounter without my wanting it to happen. Susan felt rejected by me. We've never discussed it."

Some of his confusion over his life came because of his tormented relationship with his father, actor Jack Cassidy, who died in 1976 in an apartment fire sparked by his own cigarette.

"He taught me a lot about how to become a good parent — that is, do everything he didn't do," David writes in *C'mon Get Happy*, his autobiography that documents much of what appears in the TV movie.

He says years of therapy have finally helped him to deal with his mixed feelings about his father. His dad walked out on David's mother, actress Evelyn Ward, when he was just a toddler.

"It's not that my father didn't love me, it's just that he wasn't capable of consistently being there."

"His mood swings were gigantic. He was a manic depressive and an alcoholic — and a gifted, wonderful human being who was damaged."

"He was terribly charismatic, the most powerful person I ever knew. He was

very gifted. So he was intimidating to be around, and to have been rejected by."

Both father and son struggled with addictions. Jack's penchant for whiskey sours prevented him from becoming the Hollywood leading man he longed to be, and instead kept him toiling away as a guest star on such shows as *Columbo* and *Bewitched*.

David also succumbed to alcohol, as well as adding bouts with heroin, LSD and cocaine. He also lost virtually all the money he made during the glory years when he played Keith Partridge on TV from 1970 to 1974 while also churning out hit records on his own.

"I made millions in the '70s and assumed it would always be there," he says. "Then suddenly I found out it was all gone. The