

1950-2017

David Cassidy

The former child actor and *Partridge Family* star struggled to shed his heartthrob status, but his fans stayed with him for a lifetime. BY LYNETTE RICE

BY THE TIME HE TURNED 21, DAVID CASSIDY was the highest-paid performer in the world, whose fan club had more members than Elvis Presley's or the Beatles'. Synthesizing to superstardom with hits like "I Think I Love You" and "Come On Get Happy," the *Partridge Family* teen idol had an omnipresent smile and sparkling eyes that belied an uneasiness with a life full of sold-out stadiums and hordes of fawning admirers. He told Oprah Winfrey in 2011 that he found the attention made it "difficult to be just a human being."

Though he went on to prove that he was more than just an adorable face, Cassidy—who died of organ failure at 67 on Nov. 21 in Florida—will forever be known as the shaggy-haired phenom who made the girls scream.

Born in New York City to singer Jack Cassidy and actress Evelyn Ward, he began playing piano at 5 and was auditioning in Broadway as soon as he left high school. A scout spotted the 18-year-old in a short-

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David
Cassidy
in 1966

