



→ Cassidy (far right) with the Partridge Family during a performance in 1972



Wood Broadway musical and persuaded him to move to Los Angeles in 1969. Cassidy quickly landed parts on *Murder, She Said*, *M.D.* and *Adam-12*, then won the role of eldest son Keith opposite Shirley Jones on a new ABC sitcom about a single mom and her brood of musically talented kids who form a Top 40 band that tours the country in a psychedelic school bus. *The Partridge Family* debuted in 1970, and while there was something familiar about playing *son-of-a-*—he had been his real-life stepmother once marrying Cassidy's father in 1956—the overnight success of the series was surreal and overwhelming. Cassidy's popularity quickly eclipsed the show's, and his face was everywhere from posters and pens to lunch boxes and packs of gum. After his first solo single, "Chestnut," hit No. 9 on U.S. charts in 1971, he posed naked for the cover of *Rolling Stone* in a bid to change his image, something that only amplified his already rabid following. "I was emotionally unwell," Cassidy told *People* in a 1993 profile. "I became paranoid. There were people all over me all the time."

A low point came in May 1974, when a stampede at a packed concert in London led to the death of a teenage girl and hundreds more were injured. When ABC canceled *The Partridge Family* that same year because of low ratings, Cassidy was ready to put all those *Tiger Beat* covers behind him, but he never lost his love for performing. A 1978 guest appearance on *Police Story* earned him an Emmy nomination, and he returned to Broadway in 1983 in the lead in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. More recording success

came in 1990 with his single "Lovin' to Myself," as did a starring role opposite his half brother Shaun in the 1993 Broadway production of *Wood Brothers*. He also headlined *ETX* at the Las Vegas MGM Grand in 1996 and made appearances on *The Celebrity Apprentice* and *CSI*.

His personal life was less glamorous. Cassidy divorced three times, received multiple DUIs, and declared bankruptcy in 2015. Earlier this year he announced that he was suffering from dementia, a disease he'd watched his mother endure. "I was so normal, but a part of me always knew this was coming," he said at the time. "I want to focus on who I am without any distractions. I want to love. I want to enjoy life."

In addition to the legions of baby boomers who posted heartfelt Facebook messages about him after his death, Cassidy leaves behind a daughter, Arianna; partner Katie Cassidy; a son, Beau; his stepmother, Jones; and half brothers Shaun, Patrick, and Ryan. "My father's last words were 'So much wasted time,'" Katie Cassidy tweeted days after his death. "This will be a daily reminder for me to share my gratitude with those I love [and] to never waste another minute." •

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