

Ideal Casting for David

David Cassidy is a young actor who claims his musical ability comes from his father naturally, and from his step-mother by osmosis.

David co-stars as 16-year-old Keith Partridge in *The Partridge Family*, new comedy-with-music series on ABC, Fridays at 8:30 PM. David's mother in the series is songstress Shirley Jones—David's step-mother in real life.

"I've been singing most of my life," Cassidy reveals, "and I'm sure I inherited my musical ability from my father, Jack Cassidy (former co-star of the *He and She* series), whom I'm sure you know acts as well as sings."



In *The Partridge Family*, David plays the oldest of five children who join their widowed mother in forming a singing group that hits it big in show business.

"It's really a fun experience," the good-

looking youngster states. "I once thought about forming a group of my own. I've played the clarinet since I was eight years old, and now play the drums and the guitar."

In the series, David is the leader of the family group.

"We sing a different song in every episode and I really think they're of Top 40 calibre. Someone said we have a sound something like the Fifth Dimension, and you can't do better than that."

David, who made his Broadway debut in *"Fig Leaves Are Falling"* and has guest-starred in a number of top TV shows, feels his first series is almost too good to be true.

"It's ideal—the perfect thing for me. I'm really fortunate, because very few singer-actors get to do both in a series. Also, it's the first real comedy I've done on TV—my guest appearances have all been dramatic," he states. He doesn't mention that his dramatic appearances on such series as *Marcus Welby, M.D.*, *Medical Center* and *The Mod Squad* have won considerable critical acclaim.

David's singing voice is a trained one—he has a legitimate baritone, but he can sing blues as well.

"Actually, I like to sing sophisticated rock, and that's essentially what we sing in the series."

Since he wants to be known primarily as an actor, however, *The Partridge Family* seems the best of both worlds.