

SHIRLEY JONES

Her Debut In Comedy

Academy Award winner Shirley Jones makes her television series acting debut as Shirley in the new ABC Television Network's musical comedy half-hour, "The Partridge Family."

The musical comedy star was born in Smithtown, Pa. Her father, Paul Jones (deceased), owned a brewery there and her mother, Marjorie William Jones, was a housewife. Shirley attended South Huntingdon Township High School and later joined the Playhouse School of Drama in Pittsburgh. She started singing when she was three and was active in church choirs and high school plays.

She became "Miss Pittsburgh" and the runner-up for the "Miss Pennsylvania" in the Miss America competition and the following year was singing in Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera productions. She next auditioned for Rodgers and Hammerstein and won a part in the chorus of "South Pacific." A small role in "Me and Juliet" followed, and she later played the lead in the national touring company.

The turning point in her career was the lead in the movie version of "Oklahoma!" But it wasn't until several feature film roles later that she received recognition as an actress. Her performance as Lulu Baines in "Elmer Gantry" won her an Oscar.

She next co-starred with Robert Preston in "The Music Man." Among her other films are "The Courtship of Eddie's Father" with Glenn Ford, "Bedtime Story," co-starring with Marlon Brando and David Niven, "Fluffy," "The Secret of My Success" and "April Love."

Miss Jones has appeared in over 40 major television shows including most of TV's top drama and variety shows. She was nominated for a 1969-70 Emmy for her performance in the World Premiere film, "Silent Night, Lonely Night." She recently completed the motion picture "The Happy Ending" with Jean Simmons and John Forsythe.

Shirley met her husband, actor Jack Cassidy, while working in "Oklahoma!" They have appeared in several productions together including the National Theatre Guild tour of "Wait Until Dark" in 1968.

The Cassidys have three sons Shawn Paul, 11, Patrick William, 8 and Ryan John 4. Jack's son by a former marriage David Cassidy, co-stars as Shirley's oldest son in "The Partridge Family."

The Cassidys make their home in Beverly Hills, a short driving distance from where David lives



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Shirley Jones stars as Shirley Partridge, the mother of a very groovy singing clan who accidentally became one of the top rock groups in the country. on "The Partridge Family" premiering on the ABC Television Network and aired on Fridays, (8:30-9:00 p.m. EDT).