



I dress for the occasion. The way I do this is to ask my date in advance where we are going. Also, I try to be ready on time, but this isn't easy because I always seem to be late.



I always introduce my date to Mother. It's not only polite, but she's had more experience with people than I, and I respect her judgment of boys.



I give the boy a chance to talk and tell me what he thinks about movies, music, anything. But I have my own opinions, too, and I'm not ashamed of airing them.

A talented young star gives some candid advice on a subject close to every teen-ager's heart

When I go on a date

by SANDRA DEE

I KEEP GETTING letters from girls my own age asking for help with their dating problems. Frankly, at 17, I'm just getting over my own awkwardness with boys. I must confess it took a number of painful mistakes until I learned what can turn an uncomfortable evening into an unforgettable one. But I ended up with a set of rules that have worked wonderfully for me. So I asked Troy Donahue, my costar in "A Summer Place," to help me illustrate them for you.



When he takes me out to dinner, I consider how much he can afford. A good rule is to ask him to suggest something from the menu.



I show appreciation for a pleasant evening by telling him I've had a good time. I don't absolutely feel it's necessary to throw in a kiss, too. I save that for people I like in a very special way.