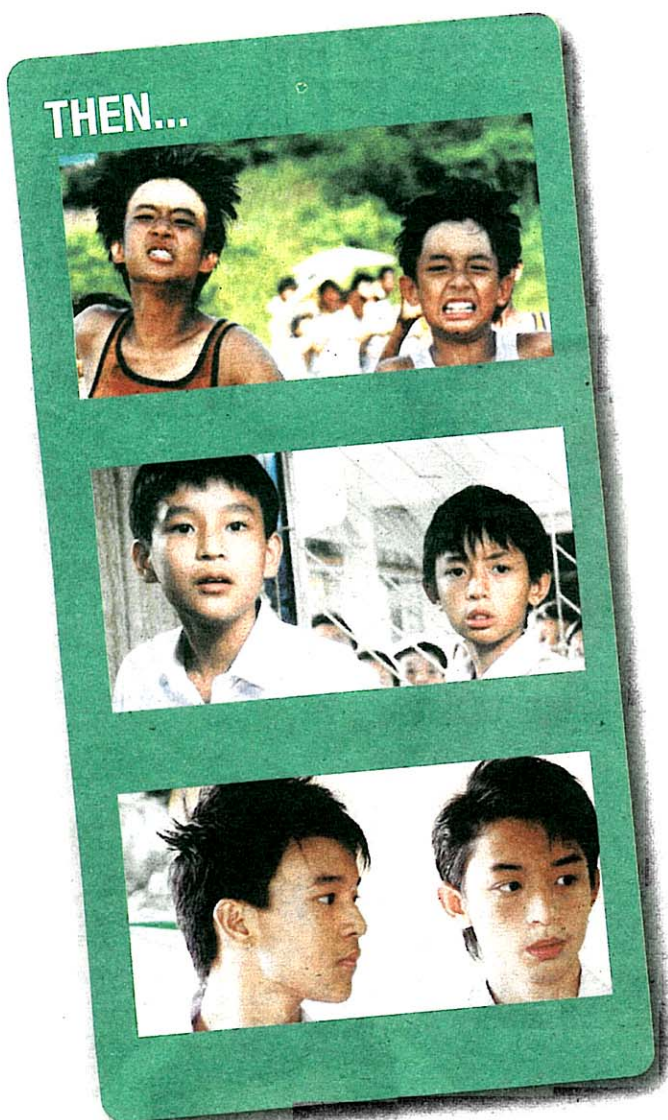


FIRST FEATURE



I Not Stupid's child stars Shawn Lee (above, left) and Joshua Ang reunite after five years for Jack Neo's latest Chinese New Year flick *We Not Naughty*. Oh behave!



EARLIER MOVIES: (From top)
Homerun, *I Not Stupid* and *I Not Stupid Too*.



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It has been a decade since Shawn Lee and Joshua Ang were first thrust into the limelight as child actors.

They acted in Jack Neo's movie *I Not Stupid*, which was released in 2002, as primary school students struggling with parental pressure and societal biases because they were in the academically-inferior EM3 stream.

With the success of the film, the adolescents became stars in their own right.

In the four years that followed, the duo starred in *I Not Stupid Too* and *Homerun*, as well as the TV spin-off *I Not Stupid* and its sequel.

After a five-year hiatus, they are back on the big screen as misguided youths in their mentor Neo's Chinese New Year offering, *We Not Naughty*.

In the film, which isn't related to any of their earlier movies, Lee and Ang play students at the worst tertiary institution in Singapore, so they are looked down on.

They come from troubled families and become loan-shark runners to solve their problems.

Opening here on Jan 19, the movie also stars TV actress Xiang Yun, xinyao veterans Yan Liming, Roy Li and Eric Moo and FIRST Film Fest 2011 Best Short Film and Best Actor winner Amos Yee.

Despite the inconveniences of stardom, which include being objects of public scrutiny, Lee, 21, and Ang, 22, do not regret entering showbiz.

This is even though Ang made the news after getting stuck in a legal tussle with his girlfriend's brother-in-law, Mr Gerald Teo.

Mr Teo, chief executive of Citispa, had claimed in his lawsuit that Ang made defamatory remarks against him on Ang's Facebook and Twitter accounts last September.

The case has since gone to court but Ang told FIRST he hopes to settle it out of court, adding he doesn't mind his life being put under a magnifying glass.

Apart from staying busy with his recycling business, he is filming the Channel 8 drama *Unriddle 2* with Rui En and Chen Liping and studying accountancy part-time.

He's also considering studying law at Singapore Management University.

There's an upside to being a celebrity, Ang said, like receiving better service and not having to wait for a table at some restaurants.

Public scrutiny

But the public tends to watch him too closely, he said.

"I'm supposed to be a good example, so I watch my behaviour in public and what I say on Facebook and Twitter," he added.

"But it's not too much to handle since I'm used to it already."

In fact, he added, he doesn't want to be "too secretive" and enjoys using social media to connect with his supporters.

Lee, on the other hand, confessed stardom has cost him his childhood. He said his school holidays were spent filming.

"I lost my privacy and I'm always (self-conscious) because people point at me and expect me to be a role model," said Lee, who's studying business at the National University Of Singapore.

"I just want to be myself and be playful if I want to, but I can't because I have to be conscious of my image. I'd prefer to be someone people don't recognise or judge."

He added that unlike Malaysians, who are friendlier