

Washington University in St. Louis

Washington University Open Scholarship

Volume 13

Washington University
Undergraduate Research Digest

Spring 2018

Juvenation's Masks: From Mary Pickford to "Little Fresh Meat"

Tina Chen

Washington University in St. Louis

Follow this and additional works at: https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/wuurd_vol13

Recommended Citation

Chen, Tina, "Juvenation's Masks: From Mary Pickford to "Little Fresh Meat"" (2018). *Volume 13*. 36.
https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/wuurd_vol13/36

This Abstracts A-I is brought to you for free and open access by the Washington University Undergraduate Research Digest at Washington University Open Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in Volume 13 by an authorized administrator of Washington University Open Scholarship. For more information, please contact digital@wumail.wustl.edu.

JUVENATION'S MASKS: FROM MARY PICKFORD TO "LITTLE FRESH MEAT"

Tina Chen

Mentor: Christopher King

Dr. Gaylyn Studlar, program director of the Film and Media Studies Department, conducted research on juvenation in the era 1910-1968 of Hollywood cinema. Juvenation is the phenomenon where actresses portray young characters throughout their acting career even when they mature, as this attracts a larger male audience. In her book "Precocious Charms: Stars Performing Girlhood in Classical Hollywood Cinema," Dr. Studlar examines actresses who became victims of male gaze in the form of juvenation. Upon conducting an interview with her, I posed the question: is juvenation limited to only female actresses in twentieth-century Hollywood? Could it be relevant in twenty-first century in a different region and gender population? Through visual and textual analysis and observation of peers, I study several young male celebrities who are at the height of their fame today, including Luhan, TF Boys, Ning Zetao, and G-Dragon. These men/boys are classified as "Little Fresh Meat," a term used to signify their youth and innocence. They are all targets of juvenation, though analysis of each case shows that their juvenation comes in different forms: some of the celebrities gain popularity based on athleticism while others could be subjects of a female gaze. In analyzing the condition, I question the root of male juvenation and conclude that it could be influenced by foreign culture, affected by a population's own culture, or provide a way for females to challenge patriarchy. By examining juvenation in a different region of the world and a different gender group, my research shows that the audience's obsession over youth culture is already rooted in human nature and influences the trends in societal values. Regardless of the region, era or gender, it is a universal phenomenon.