



URBAN MAN FREEZE FRAME

For some youthful-looking male stars, time seems to have slowed down or stood still. IMRAN JALAL asks consultant plastic surgeon Tan Ying Chien of The Sloane Clinic Plastic Surgery Centre and Mr Wilkins Lu, managing director of Mary Cohr Paris by Espritre De Nature, what they think these celebs might have done



BAE YONG JOON
 Age: 39
 Looks like: 30

His turn in the hit drama series, Winter Sonata, in 2002 cemented this South Korean hunk's "auntie killer" credentials, making him a household name among Korean drama fans in Asia and beyond.

In 2004, to mark his first decade in show business, he released a book which contained topless images of himself.

Bae is also the face of South Korean beauty brand The Face Shop and posed for its 2009 ad in a rose garden.

These days, however, the bachelor looks more like a 30-year-old auntie than an auntie killer. The brooding good looks are gone and in their place are starkly feminine features.

Eyes: It is likely that Bae has undergone upper eyelid surgery as his eyelids look less droopy compared to pictures of him in his younger days.

Forehead: He might have had Botox shots to remove the appearance of fine lines. Fat implants or filler injections are also popular lines which he could have used to achieve a more rounded forehead.

Face: The skin around the face usually sags over time due to collagen loss. However, his skin is taut and poreless smooth. This could be the result of Thermage treatment, which utilises radio frequency technology to tighten the skin and stimulate the formation of new collagen.

Meanwhile, fillers could have been used to give the appearance of fuller and younger-looking cheeks.



AARON KWOK
 Age: 46
 Looks like: 40

This is one guy who knows how to put on a show. His makeup antics on stage usually involve high-drama costumes, such as a brief worn as a top or a warrior outfit fashioned from light bulbs.

But when it comes to his grooming regimen, the Heavenly King is no showman. He sticks to earthy approaches, except for a few shots of Botox.

Dr Tan of Sloane Clinic says: "To be fair to Aaron, I can't pick up anything else. He may have done Thermage or Ulthera - a treatment that uses ultrasound technology to tighten the face - to maintain his looks, but that's about it."

And he leaves vanity to his girlfriend, Ly Hung, the Miss Asia. The Chinese model-actress has been going under the knife, even after old photos of her looking less attractive surfaced in 2010.

She told the Chinese media then: "I am actually quite happy to see a photo of myself from back then, because it shows that I have changed a lot and validates the hard work I have put in."

Face: The thinner skin, creases underneath the eyes and a slight sagging of the skin on the lower part of the face are visible signs of ageing. There is also the loss of volume in his lips and general deflation in the face.

Together with these signs, one would expect to see more crow's feet around the outer corners of the eyes. But this is not the case here, so it is possible that he has had some Botox treatments.



NICKY WU
 Age: 41
 Looks like: 30

In 1988, the Taiwanese singer burst onto the entertainment scene as a member of the boyband, Little Tigers. He then pursued a very successful solo career, releasing 13 albums which led to him being hailed as one of Taiwan's four Heavenly Kings. The others are actor-singer Jimmy Lin, actor-singer Tommy Su and heart-throb Takeshi Kaneshiro, formerly known as Anki Ji.

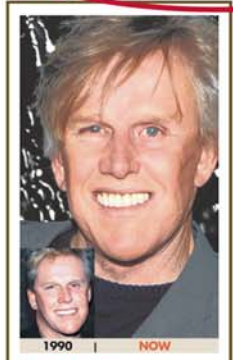
Wu, who starred in the hit TV drama series, Scarlet Heart, last year, is now red hot in China, where he enjoys a thriving acting career.

While his career has seen its up and down, his looks seem frozen in time. He now sports a new haircut and a nicer set of teeth but, otherwise, the bachelor, who is divorced from Chinese actress Ma Yasha, still boasts the pop-star good looks from his early days.

Teeth: There are no more gaps between his teeth. This is most likely due to braces.

Eyebrows: The slightly arched eyebrows suggest he might have had Botox shots in the forehead. These shots can freeze the muscles that normally keep the eyebrows in a more natural position.

Cheeks: The fuller and youthful-looking cheeks could be the result of fat injections or Thermage treatments.



GARY BUSEY
 Age: 67
 Looks like: 55

Busey's uneven eyes and perpetually shell-shocked look are not the result of a botched plastic surgery job.

Instead, the star of The Buddy Holly Story was involved in a motorcycle accident in 1988, which left him with a fractured skull and brain damage, plus permanent disfigurement on his face.

That is not to say that Busey has not had a little nip here and a tuck there.

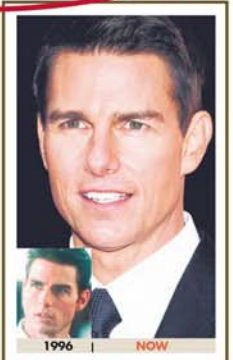
When shown photographs of Busey, Dr Tan declares: "This one is even more amazing than the others. His face hasn't changed over 22 years."

Face: The expressionless quality is the result of a face-lift. This surgical procedure pulls any sagging skin to the hairline on both sides of the forehead.

Eyes: Eyelids are usually droopy for men around this age. The brighter look around his eyes could be the result of upper eyelid surgery.

Teeth: Those honey-looking dental veneers give him a younger, albeit feisty, smile.

Others: Overall Botox treatments and fillers to give a smoother and plumper appearance.



TOM CRUISE
 Age: 49
 Looks like: 40

The Mission Impossible star is apparently stealing beauty products from his missus, Katie Holmes. But it is his alleged relationship with a certain plastic surgery guru from Brazil that has us scrutinising his evergreen looks.

Brazilian news magazine Epoca reported that the Hollywood star is so chummy with Dr Ivo Pitanguy that he invited the plastic surgeon to the Rio de Janeiro premiere of Knight And Day in 2009. The magazine also ran photographs of Cruise, Holmes and their daughter Suri lunching at Pitanguy's private island.

Pitanguy allegedly has a long list of illustrious clients. He is said to have worked with Jacqueline Onassis, the widow of the former Shah of Iran, Farah Fajri, and late crooner Frank Sinatra. He is also reported to be friends with French First Lady Bernadette Chirac, the subject of recent speculation about cosmetic work.

Of Cruise, Dr Tan says: "Tom shows reasonable signs of ageing. His skin has become thinner and there are signs of mild deflation in the face."

Face: The skin is relatively taut. At 49, men his age would normally have more wrinkles and sagging skin. Botox, fillers or non-invasive lifting procedures, such as Thermage and Ulthera, may have been used.

Spots: Being an action star means his skin could suffer from pigmentation as a result of sun damage. But, in general, men are less prone to pigmentation than women due to their hormones.

A treatment like intense pulsed light could have removed pigmentation in this case.

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