Children in the Spotlight

Bridgette Ivkovich
Amanda Bynes

In 2012, she went on hiatus. The next time she appeared in the public eye was for driving under the influence, setting fires on personal properties, and multiple other incidences.

She also posted very questionable statement on twitter that had people questioning her mental state.

Eventually, she had to be treated for severe mental health concerns (Gruttadaro 2017).
Media Types:
Movies
Television: Shows About Kids for Kids
Television: Adult Shows with Kids
No matter the type of media, it is difficult for children to keep their lives private, or avoid corruption while living in the spotlight.
Central Problem

“The central problem which appears to plague child stars is that they frequently claim to have missed out on a “normal childhood” (O’Connor, 2011).

“Former child stars seem to have an added dimension of pity and shame, which suggests more is somehow lost when such high achieving children fall from grace than merely a promising career, and this loss is closely related to notions of childhood innocence which are at the heart of contemporary ideologies of childhood” (2011).

“Because their lives were so abnormal and distorted, [child stars] were never able to make the transition from adolescence to adulthood, and this ‘failure to launch,’ to use a colloquial term, is what left them vulnerable to the dangerous temptations that the entertainment culture offers so readily” (Drugrehab.us).
Parents and Guardians

Both stars had parents pushing them to succeed in their careers, which took away from their childhood and stunted their growth in maturity.

Having parents who add to the pressures of show business instead of alleviating them, can take a toll on a child still growing mentally and physically.
Parents and Guardians

“It’s really important to surround your child with the right people. All the different people you put around them on their team are going to be a role model to them in some sense or fashion, so it's really important to pay attention to who those people are” - Pattie Mallette (2013).

“[We] have the Duffers, and Natalia [Dwyer, who plays Nancy Wheeler, Mike’s sister], and we have Joe [Keery, who plays Steve Harrington, Nancy’s boyfriend]. I just miss the whole crew. We [are basically all] brothers and sisters now, it's one of those things where we have to trust each other on set” - Finn Wolfhard (Ceron Oct. 3, 2016).
Stranger Things’ Finn Wolfhard Fires His Agent After Sexual Assault Allegations Surface, And His Agency Follows Suit

By Matthew Dessem
Pressures

Identity
Parents
Privacy
Drugs, Alcohol, Sex
With the growing possibilities to gain fame, it is essential for child stars to have a support group acting as a moral compass and ensuring that they can live a semi-normal life.
Is there any way the entertainment industry can be changed to allow children to mature normally, protect them from drugs, sex, and alcohol, and alleviate the various pressures?

Do you think children experiencing these new types of fame will undergo similar effects the TV and movie stars face?
Sources


