



FEATURE

STORY CELINE TAN

Electric youth

Ahh, to be young and free... of social media and the Internet. What was it like to grow up without iPads, Facebook and hashtags? These two short films offer a sweet, analog-tinged glimpse.



PHOTOS: DERRICK CHOO

Yesterday
once more!



Centrepoint Kids

#CentrepointKids #TooCoolForSchool #80sFashionFTW #ImNotABadTeenImJustExpressingMyself

In a nutshell: A loving tribute to the too-cool-for-school Centrepoint Kids of the '80s, with a coming-of-age story weaved into the technicoloured works. Meishi wants to be part of the exclusive clique of teens who dress up all crazy and hang out at the mall, but is that her place in the world? Another burning question: Why do these teenagers from the '80s look so much like hipster kids from the Twenty-Teens? Fashion comes around, much?

Born after the '80s? #Confused? Back in the more conservative '80s, wearing anything more than a T-shirt and shorts and not going home after school was almost enough to brand you a wayward teen. Says director Wee Li Lin, "Centrepoint Kids were these quietly cool fashionista teens who hung out at Centrepoint during the '80s. They were regarded as delinquents for the most part, but I saw them very differently, and I'm sure they saw themselves very differently too. They were a big sub-culture of the '80s and we've never seen kids like them since. With their outrageous and colourful outfits, they were the daring fashionistas of the '80s, which was a very conservative era in Singapore. I've always wanted to recreate this memory of the Centrepoint Kids as well as show them in a more celebratory light, as Singapore history has painted them a bit negatively." So kids, go ask your mum and dad if they were Centrepoint Kids. Your parents may once have been cool. You never know.

My Autograph Book

#AutographBook #OldSchoolStationery #RosesAreRedVioletsAreBlue

In a nutshell: Before Facebook came along, the autograph book was the 'wall' on which you messaged your friends. But instead of angsty and self-indulgent musings, the 'posts' were sweet and simple. So something that sounds like "Yo, BFF, wanna hang? Whatsapp me" today may go "Roses are red, violets are blue, best friends forever, call me at 4483202."

Wee Li Lin's nostalgic short film is about a middle-aged lady who reminisces about a former best friend in primary school through her old autograph books.

Born after the '80s?

#Confused? In the era before social media and smart phones (kids, your parents survived this 'dark age', believe it or not), autograph books were passed around at the end of a school year for friends to scribble

"keep in touch" type messages. Lose your autograph book, and you may lose your pal's phone number and address forever. Li Lin tells us, "Autograph books were in existence for decades and I think only came to an end when Facebook came to light (around 2004 or 2005). They were shared during the end of each term or year and were most popular in primary school. They are marked by personalised poems of friendship, and drawings and stickers." And by stickers, she doesn't mean LINE stickers, okay?

