

Curse of the creeps

By MICHAEL GILTZ

ACTORS who make slapstick comedies don't walk around getting pies thrown in their faces. And actors who appear in musicals aren't forced to break into song at their local Starbucks.

So why does it seem like child actors who appear in horror films get cursed career-wise (and sometimes otherwise)?

Now we're sure Seamus Davey-Fitzpatrick — who plays Damien, the spawn of Satan in the new version of **"The Omen"** — will be just fine. Even if the studio has tempted fate by opening the remake (also starring Liev Schreiber and Julia Stiles) on June 6 — that's right, 6/6/06.

But here are the fates of other child actors who danced with the devil in the pale moonlight. Mr. and Mrs. Davey-Fitzpatrick, please take care with young Seamus.



BAD OMEN: Damiens old (above) and new (below).



"THE OMEN" (1976)

Harvey Stephens, who played Damien, was so scarily convincing that apparently even casting directors were afraid to meet him. Aside from one TV credit, he never acted again. Or WAS he acting?

"THE SHINING" (1980)

Danny Lloyd, the 6-year-old kid who creeped us out with "Redrum," made only one other movie. Now, the greatest horror of all: He's trapped in a room filled with screaming kids. That's right — he's a teacher.

"POLTERGEIST" (1982)

Blonde cutie Heather O'Rourke turned "They're here!" into a catch phrase. But persistent illness — and perhaps a misdiagnosis — plagued her young life and she died at age 12 while filming "Poltergeist III."

"THE SIXTH SENSE" (1999)

Haley Joel Osment shot to fame playing a little boy who sees dead people. But ever since then he's clearly been possessed by the spirit of a 63-year-old man. What else can explain his unnerving maturity?