

ENTERTAINMENT




Identity Thief steals the laughs but not the attention

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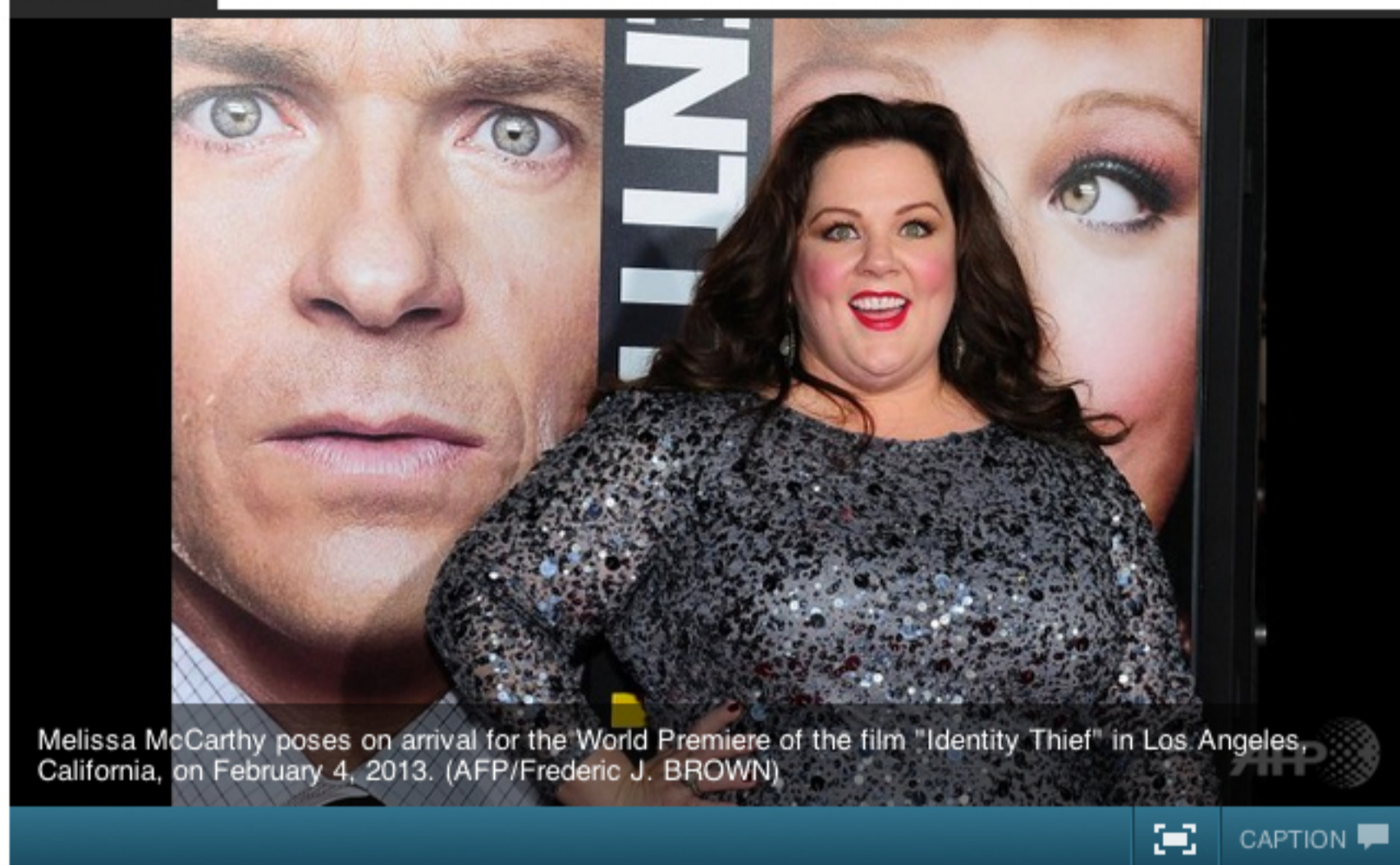
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Melissa McCarthy shines in this mildly amusing film that offers some laughs but may fail to capture your undivided attention.

PHOTOS



Melissa McCarthy poses on arrival for the World Premiere of the film "Identity Thief" in Los Angeles, California, on February 4, 2013. (AFP/Frederic J. BROWN)

SINGAPORE: We've all heard the horror stories of fraud and stolen identities, but when the bank calls you up, it's most often presumed that the person at the other end of the line is the real deal, until things start to fall apart.

While identity theft is no laughing matter, *Horrible Bosses* director Seth Gordon and *Ted* producer Scott Stuber manage to turn what would otherwise be a dramatic plot into a comedy with *Identity Thief*.

Sandy Bigelow Patterson (Jason Bateman) is a pushover who always follows the rules.

So when he receives a credit card fraud prevention call, *Sandy* readily divulges sensitive information to professional scammer *Diana* (Melissa McCarthy), who uses the details to print fake credit cards and IDs.

In the familiar tale of a credit card fraud that takes a sinister turn when it leaves one man's life in shambles, Director Gordon scored with McCarthy, who gives a refreshing performance as the effervescent *Diana* that makes you pity her, love her, and hate her all at the same time.

The film hits a nerve when *Sandy* realises that his identity has been stolen but the police tells him that there is little they can do to help.

In a fit of desperation to get his life back, *Sandy* sets out to find *Diana* and get her to set the record straight.

The duo's journey is full jaunty scenes and snappy one-liners, but the film fails to grip attention because the physical comedy is predictable with very few surprises.

Movie-goers who had previously enjoyed *Horrible Bosses* and *Ted* may want to forgo this one, as it lacks the raunchy humour that the former films possess.

Still, despite not having the most original plot, this slapstick comedy will have you chuckling consistently from start to finish.

- CNA/gn