

ENTERTAINMENT

Machi Action takes the cake in bad comedy

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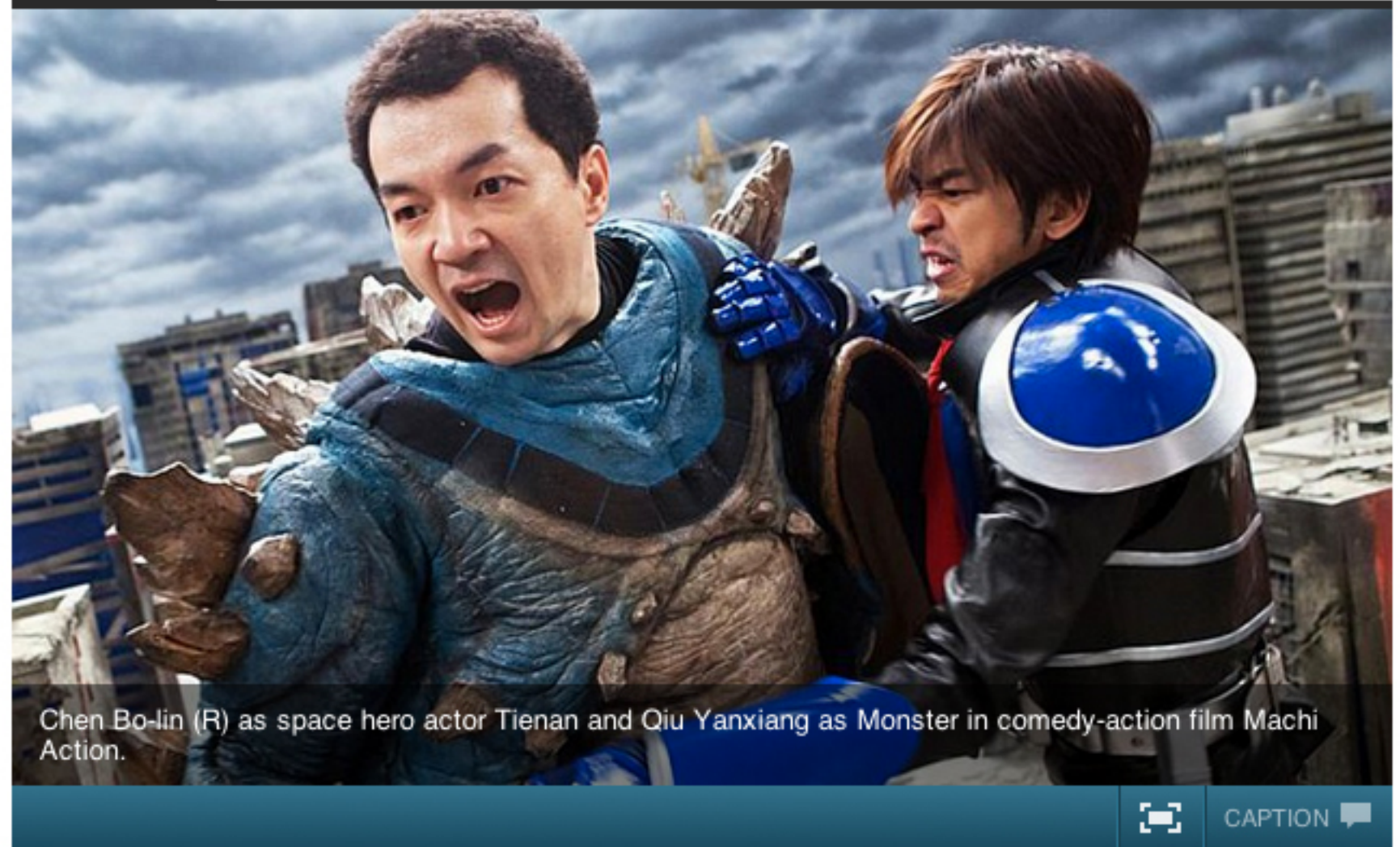
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Pretty boys Chen Bo-lin and Owodog star in an idealistic tale that is fettered by tasteless sexual innuendos and cheap humour.

PHOTOS



Chen Bo-lin (R) as space hero actor Tienan and Qiu Yanxiang as Monster in comedy-action film Machi Action.

SINGAPORE: Everyone loves a super hero, and some of us would like to be one.

In Machi Action, washed up actor Tie Nan's (Chen Bo-lin) childhood dream is shattered when the producers of the show in which he plays a space hero replaces him with a fresher face named Face (Owodog Zhuang).

Together with his best friend and co-star Monster (Qiu Yanxiang), Tie Nan sets out to find new acting gigs that eventually lead him to rediscover himself, and enlightens him on what being a hero truly means.

While the movie may border on being overly sentimental at times, it manages to thwart its chances of becoming a pleurably thoughtful show by throwing in cringe-worthy jokes and sexual references that countermands any good scenes.

Chen Bo-lin's character Tie Nan is also a boring piece of work compared to Monster, whose outlandish personality is a lot more interesting to watch.

In fact, Monster is probably the only redeemable quality of this show, as most of the supporting characters seem to pop up randomly without any real contribution to the plot.

Although Machi Action attempts to create an inspiring story about the unsung heroes in everyday life, it fails to convey its message well. The film focuses too much on comedy and not enough on building a well-crafted storyline.

Granted, this is former LA Boyz member Jeff Huang's first movie production and Jeff Chang's directional debut, so some leeway should be given for their first try at film-making.

Still, Machi Action is more crudely contrived than it should have been, and ultimately disappoints with the lack of subtlety and spark in its plot.

- CNA/gn