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The filming of Machi Action is more than just work; to its cast and crew, it was a long session of laughter and enjoyment that has forged a bond between them that will last a lifetime.



SINGAPORE: Taiwanese comedy film *Machi Action* has seen roaring success in the Taiwan box office despite being a first for its director and producer.

This might not come as a surprise to some, as the movie boasts a stellar cast consisting of hotties like Chen Bo-lin and boyband Lollipop F member, Owodog.

Machi Action, which opened in cinemas April 18, depicts a washed-out actor *Tie Nan* (Chen Bo-lin) who is replaced by a younger and cooler newcomer *Face* (Owodog).

This is the first movie production by former LA Boyz member Jeffery Huang, who admits that the switch hasn't been all fun and games for him.

"I had never been a movie producer before – it's not the most popular role! In fact, it is not what I imagined it to be.

"When you are a producer you have to source for money, you have a lot of work to do...and then later I found out that publicity is my job too!" said Huang at a recent media conference in Singapore to promote the movie.

Still, Huang admits that despite the heavy workload, the pay-off is immensely satisfying.

"Now that I know what filming is all about, I want to try the role of a director next time, then it will be really fun!"

Although Owodog is technically playing himself in the movie as the character *Face* who's a popular singer, he initially found the role to be quite challenging.

"This could be the most challenging movie I've done so far. For example personality-wise, I have to take on a persona that is totally different," said Owodog.

The cheerful disposition of the Lollipop F member is a stark contrast to the haughty *Face*, but there was little need for the trepidation since producer Huang felt he had the right actor for the role the moment he met Owodog.

"When Owodog appeared during the first take, that was during the initial casting, we were like, 'Wow! He's the one!' No matter how hard we looked, we could not find a more arrogant Taiwanese!

"He's very good at being a conceited and hateful person," quipped Huang amid raucous laughter.

The rapport between Bo-lin, Owodog and Huang is apparent as they traded fond jokes about each other at the media meeting.

When asked if there was any part of the movie that they found particularly memorable, both Bo-lin and Huang recalled a scene where they had the most number of bad takes (NGs) during filming.

"It was when I had to rub Steven's (a member of LA Boyz) body," laughed Bo-lin. "That was a difficult scene to act."

"It was very fun to shoot that scene," jumps in Huang while adding, "When we laughed, (Bo-lin) did not. But when he laughed, we were all like, 'Come on, come on, hurry up!' You know, we kept on shooting.

"But I'm glad there were so many NGs because it turned that memory into a long one."

It certainly sounds like the cast and the crew got along really well and had a ball of a time filming Machi Action.

"A lot of the shows really feel like work, but when shooting *Machi Action*, everyday felt like play-day.

"Maybe when we all come together to watch the show again five or ten years later, we will remember how fun it was, and feel that it was all worth it," said Bo-lin.

With the same sentiments is Huang who, when asked if having produced this film means that he wouldn't care even if the world ends tomorrow, he solemnly shook his head and said, "It's fine, it's fine."

- AFP/gn