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Slackery News Tidbits: December 2, 2013

By [Jordan Gass-Poore](#) on December 2, 2013 - 11:00am in [Slackery News Tidbits](#)

Here's the latest Austin and Texas film news.

- The [Houston Film Critics Society](#) has chosen five nominees for its second annual Texas Independent Film Award: *Comedy Warriors*, which premiered at this year's San Antonio Film Festival; the German drama *Houston*, from Austinite [Bastian Gunther](#); the Central Texas-shot *Prince Avalanche* ([Elizabeth's review](#)), directed by Austinite [David Gordon Green](#); *An Unreal Dream: The Michael Morton Story* ([Jette's review](#)), a documentary from Houston filmmaker [Al Reinert](#), which premiered at SXSW 2013; and the Austin-shot feature *Zero Charisma* ([Jette's review](#)). The winner of the award, given to a film which is primarily financed and filmed in Texas, will be announced on Jan. 6 at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. (via HFCS member [Alan Cerny](#) on Twitter)
- Drafthouse Films release *The Act of Killing* ([Elizabeth's review](#)), a documentary that sees former Indonesian death squad leaders reenacting their real-life mass killings, and Dallas native [Shane Carruth's](#) *Upstream Color* ([J.C.'s review](#)), about a couple brought together by forces of nature, made Britain's *Sight & Sound* list of the top 10 movies of the year, according to [IndieWire](#).
- [Austin Public Library](#) celebrates the holiday season with a free screening of *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians* at 6:30 pm on Dec. 10 at the Carver Branch (1161 Angelina St.). There will also be 16mm screenings of *Mickey's Christmas Carol*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and *The Snowman* as well as *Elf* on Dec. 20. The 1980s film *Gremlins* will be screened the following day and again on Dec. 23 during the library's Holiday Movie Marathon, which also includes *The Santa Clause*, *Home Alone*, *Christmas Vacation* and *The Muppet Christmas Carol*.
- Local filmmaker/instructor [Geoff Marslett's](#) animated movie *Mars*, which played SXSW in 2010, is now available on [DVD](#). Read our [review](#) and [interview with Marslett](#) about the film, which stars University of Texas alum [Mark Duplass](#) as a NASA astronaut on the first manned mission to the red planet.
- At CultureMap Austin, John Egan reminds us about [the late actor Paul Walker's Austin ties](#) and his role in *Varsity Blues*. The article also reminded us at Slackerwood that Elizabeth [wrote about the 1999 movie](#) as well, last year.
- Finally, the black metal comedy *Necronomica* from Austin filmmaking siblings [Kyle](#) and [Cliff Bogart](#) was recently chosen as a Vimeo Staff Pick, [The Austin Chronicle](#) reports. The short debuted at this year's SXSW and screened at the Housecore Horror Film Festival.



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