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## Slackery News Tidbits, July 16

By [Jordan Gass-Poore](#) on July 16, 2012 - 1:30pm in [Slackery News Tidbits](#)

Here's the latest in Austin film news.

- [Austin Film Society](#) recently received a \$75,000 grant from the [National Endowment for the Arts](#). The nonprofit organization is one of 80 "Our Town" grantees in the nation. The grant will fund community engagement and design for Austin Studios' expansion as the organization incorporates and remodels the neighboring decommissioned National Guard Building into its current site.

AFS will involve the community in the new Austin Studios design, which includes creating affordable space for production and education; programming and design of a new exhibition and visitors center with a plaza/lobby for events; screening rooms for AFS's exhibition programs, artists, festivals and community organizations; and plans for signage, landscaping and other infrastructure that will allow the public to observe and interact with working filmmakers and other artists. The expansion will fulfill four major needs identified by the 2008 [CreateAustin](#) Cultural Master Plan commissioned by the City of Austin Cultural Arts Division.

- Two Texas-connected films are nominated for the 2012 News and Documentary Emmy Awards after being broadcast on the PBS show *POV*. Per [PR Newswire](#), the nominees include [Better This World](#) ([Don's review](#)), about two childhood friends from Midland who were arrested on terrorism charges at the 2008 Republican National Convention, and [Where Soldiers Come From](#) ([Jette's review](#)), Austin documentarian Heather Courtney's film about the lives of small-town childhood friends who enlist in the U.S. National Guard after graduating high school. The 33rd annual awards ceremony will take place Oct. 1.
- Former Austinite and film editor [Jacob Vaughan](#) will be directing the horror comedy *Milo*, Hollywood Reporter has [announced](#). [Jay](#) and [Mark Duplass](#) are executive producers on the movie, which centers on a man ([Ken Marino](#)) who, after experiencing intense stomach pains, discovers to his horror that he has a demon living in his intestines. Vaughan previously worked with the Duplass brothers as an editor on *Jeff, Who Lives at Home*. His previous feature filmmaking experience includes collaborations with Bryan Poyser on the locally shot features *Dear Pillow* and *The Cassidy Kids*, and he worked as an editor on Bob Byington's film *Harmony and Me*.
- [Boneboys](#), filmed in Austin and Taylor, debuts at Montreal's [Fantasia Fest](#) Aug. 4, according to [Joe M. O'Connell's blog](#). Writer/producer [Kim Henkel](#), who co-wrote the 1974 horror classic *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre*, teamed up with two former Texas A&M University- Kingsville students, co-directors [Duane Graves](#) and [Justin Meeks](#), on the low-budget horror comedy about a family of cannibals.
- Filmmaker [Kevin Smith](#) spoke with Austin-based director [Robert Rodriguez](#) on Smith's recently launched Hulu original series, [Spoilers](#), [Miramax](#) reported. The two discussed Rodriguez's feature debut *El Mariachi*, his collaboration with Quentin Tarantino and his decision to leave the Directors Guild of America.
- The film series [Cinema41](#) will screen its last free movie of the summer, *In The Soup*, at 8 pm Thursday at [Salvage Vanguard Theater](#). The 1992 indie comedy stars Steve Buscemi as a self-conscious screenwriter who fantasizes about winning his dream girl by writing a hit movie.
- [YNN](#) recently interviewed cast and crew members of the Austin-made movie *El Güey*, as you can see from the following video. The upcoming movie puts a modern twist on popular Mexican folklore, such as la llorona and the chupacabra.

### Recent posts

- [Welcome to \[Archived\] Slackerwood](#)
- [Lone Star Cinema: Kid Blue](#)
- [Au Revoir, and Don't Forget to Feed the Parrot](#)
- [Movies This Year: Our Reviews of Upcoming Releases](#)
- [Slackerwood: Where We're All Going \(We Hope\)](#)
- [Debbie's Fantastic and Favorite Film Memories](#)
- [Film on Tap: Pass the Bubbly](#)
- [Review: The Connection](#)

### Recent reviews

- [Lone Star Cinema: Kid Blue](#)
- [Movies This Year: Our Reviews of Upcoming Releases](#)
- [Review: The Connection](#)
- [Review: In the Name of My Daughter](#)
- [Review: Poltergeist](#)
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- Drafthouse Films has acquired the distribution rights to Danish director **Mads Brügger's** film *The Ambassador*, **Austin Movie Blog** reports. The film follows Brügger as he purchases a Liberian ambassadorship to the Central African Republic and works toward his goal of solidifying a diamond deal. On Aug. 4, the controversial film is scheduled to launch on video on demand and will make its theatrical debut in Austin on Aug. 31.



#### Incredible Short Film Competition

Submitted by **Jotta** on July 17, 2012 - 7:32am.

Great opportunity for you to check out on Jotta.com: Bombay Sapphire & Tribeca Film Festival's short film competition. Enter for a chance to direct your treatment of Oscar-winning screenwriter Geoffrey Fletcher's script and see it on the big screen at its international premier! Submit your concepts here: <http://ow.ly/chVQ8>