



- [About Slackerwood](#)
- [Contributors](#)
- [Venue guide](#)
- [Reviews](#)
- [Archive by category](#)
- [Archive by month](#)
- [Contact](#)

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[Home](#) » [Blogs](#) » [Jordan Gass-Poore's blog](#)

Slackery News Tidbits: January 14, 2013

By [Jordan Gass-Poore](#) on January 14, 2013 - 11:00am in [Slackery News Tidbits](#)

Here's the latest in Austin film news.

- Austin-based producer [Cori Shephard Stern](#) has received an Academy Award nomination for the documentary short *Open Heart*, according to *The Austin Chronicle*. Set in Rwanda, *Open Heart* follows eight children afflicted with rheumatic heart disease, and their journey to Sudan and the Salaam Centre for Cardiac Surgery. Stern's next project, the feature film *Warm Bodies*, about a zombie who falls in love with the girlfriend of one of his victims, opens in the U.S. on February 1.
- Despite Texan [Matthew McConaughey's](#) Oscar snub, he received a Best Supporting Actor award from [The National Society of Film Critics](#) last week for his work in [Richard Linklater's](#) dark comedy *Bernie* ([Don's review](#)), and Steven Soderbergh's dramedy *Magic Mike* ([Don's review](#)).
- Austin Film Festival [has announced](#) its first round of 2013 panelists. The only Texas-connected panelist so far is [Alvaro Rodriguez](#) (Machete). Other speakers include [Jim Uhls](#) (*Fight Club*), [Dan Sterling](#) (producer of *Girls*), [John August](#) (*Frankenweenie*) and Rick Dugdale of Enderby Entertainment, among others, are scheduled to speak at the 20th annual festival, running from October 24-31.
- The historic New Mission Theater in San Francisco, which has been closed since 1993, has been approved for a renovation and remodel into a five-screen Alamo Drafthouse, reports the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The San Francisco City Planning Committee gave final approval last week to the \$10 million deal for the 1916 theater. Work is scheduled to begin this summer.
- Austinites [Brian Salisbury](#) and [Luke Mullen](#) shot and edited a video farewell to the Alamo Drafthouse on South Lamar, which closed earlier this month for redevelopment. You can watch the video on [Film School Rejects](#). Never fear, moviegoers and Fantastic Festgoers, South Lamar is slated to re-open in about nine months ([Elizabeth's development news](#)).
- [Austin Film Society](#) will screen *Gregory Crewdson: Brief Encounters* on Wednesday night at Alamo Village. The documentary follows photographer Gregory Crewdson for more than a decade as he documents street scenes in disappearing small towns in the American Northeast. A Skype Q&A with the film's director, [Ben Shapiro](#), will follow the screening.
- Spring film festivals are upon us. To get in on the action, consider applying online for a [SXSW](#) Music, Film and Interactive volunteer position. Crew shift selections will take place 3-5 p.m. Saturday and 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, January 29 at the Austin Convention Center, Ballroom ABC on the first floor. Festivities begin March 8.

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