



# SLACKERWOOD



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## Slackery News Tidbits: June 10, 2013

By [Jordan Gass-Poore](#) on June 10, 2013 - 10:30am in [Slackery News Tidbits](#)

Here's the latest Austin and Texas film news.

- [Maggie Carey's](#) screenplay, which was performed as a table reading at Austin Film Festival 2010 under the working title *The Hand Job* ([Jette's article](#)), will hit U.S. theaters July 26 as *The To Do List* ([watch the trailer](#)). Carey's husband, [Bill Hader](#) of SNL fame, co-stars in this ensemble comedy about a recent high-school graduate named Brandy ([Aubrey Plaza](#)) who, with the help of her friends ([Alia Shawkat](#) of *Arrested Development* and [Sarah Steele](#) of *Spanglish*), makes a list of sexually explicit acts to accomplish before college. *Friday Night Lights* alum [Connie Britton](#) and [Scott Porter](#) also star as Brandy's mother and love interest respectively.
- Austinite [Robert Rodriguez's El Rey](#) English-language cable television station, aimed at young Latinos, is scheduled to launch in December or early next year, [IndieWire](#) reports. The network's lineup includes two scripted shows: an adaptation of Rodriguez's 1996 film *From Dusk Till Dawn*, which he will write, produce and direct; and a 13-episode "Latino James Bond-type" action adventure series he's slated to direct.
- Universal has acquired the rights to comedy spec *Don't Mess With Texas*, according to [The Hollywood Reporter](#). [Reese Witherspoon](#), who most recently starred in Austinite [Jeff Nichols' Mud](#), and [Sofia Vergara](#) (*Machete Kills*) are attached to star in this female-centered buddy pic about a police officer and a prisoner on the run.
- [Austin School of Film](#) is offering free summer movie choices with its new "Pesadillas Calidas, Horror Films from Mexico" series, which showcases B-classics made below the border from the 1950s-1980s (with English subtitles) at 9 pm every second and fourth Saturday of the month through August at 1634 E. Cesar Chavez. For more free and cheap movies in Austin, don't forget to check out Slackerwood's annual [guide](#).
- Now that you've read our summer movie guide, check out [The New Yorker](#), which features some Austin and Texas filmmakers in its summer movie guide. The list includes DFW-area filmmaker David Lowery's film *Ain't Them Bodies Saints*, scheduled for an Aug. 16 U.S. theatrical release (if you missed it at Oak Cliff Film Festival this weekend; Austin-based filmmaker [Andrew Bujalski's](#) ([Jordan's interview](#)) *Computer Chess* ([Jette's SXSW review](#)), which hits theaters July 17, with a local cast including Wiley Wiggins and Chris Doubek; and Joe Swanberg's star-studded *Drinking Buddies* ([Rod's SXSW review](#)), produced by former Austinite [Anish Savjani](#), which opens Aug. 23.
- [Drafthouse Films](#) has acquired the North American rights to Dallasite [Robin Wright](#)-fronted sci-fi pic *The Congress* at this year's Cannes Film Festival. [Jon Hamm](#) and [Paul Giamatti](#) also star in this adaptation of writer Stanislaw Lem's 1971 novel *The Futurological Congress*, about an aging, out-of-work actress who preserves her digital image for a future Hollywood. A U.S. theatrical and VOD/digital release is scheduled for next year.
- The L.A.-based [Outfest Film Festival](#) 2013 has announced its lineup, which includes Austin-based graphic designer and filmmaker [Yen Tan's](#) and co-writer David Lowery's *Pit Stop* ([Debbie's review](#)) and Austinite [PJ Raval's](#) ([Jordan's interview](#)) SXSW 2013 world premiere *Before You Know It* ([Don's review](#)).
- In more film festival news, this year's [San Antonio Film Festival](#) has announced its lineup, which includes features by Austin filmmaker [George Anson's](#) ([Jordan's interview](#)) *Spring Eddy* ([J.C.'s review](#)); the San Antonio-based features *Lucy and Jake*, *Sanitarium* and *Champion*; and the Texas-shot horror-comedy *Blood Cousins*.
- In addition, the San Antonio Film Festival's shorts lineup includes films by Austinites [Matt Stryker](#) (*Crosshairs*), [Deja Bernhardt](#) (*The Midwife's Husband*), [Bears Fonte](#) (*The Secret Keeper*) and [Haley Anderson](#) (*Martha!*); San Antonians [Buddy Calvo](#) (*Arose the Crowd*), [Daniel Maldonado](#) (*Strange Luck*), [Shane Leal-Willett](#) (*The Associate*), [Kevin Welch](#) (*The Happy Couple*), [Patricio Salinas](#) (*The Return of the PRI*), Travis Lippert (*Ghocial*), [Brad Milne](#) (*Book*), [Taylor James Johnson](#) (*King Lion*), *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, *The Symphony of Silence* and [Christian Hawx](#) (*Late Night Coffee*); as well as [Derek Presley](#) (*Stryngs*) from Euless, Texas, Arlington-based [Ryan Britton](#) (*To Be Gray*), [Caroline Bands](#) (*Mail (Male) Order*) from Bastrop, Dallasite [Bentley Brown](#) (*Faisal Goes West*) and [Arielle Solomon](#) (*The Bagel*

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*Chronicles*) from Converse, Texas. The high-school shorts segment features work by students from Rio, Texas, San Antonio, Dallas and Del Rio, Texas.

- Finally, actor **Brad Pitt** surprised Westgate theatergoers during the Austin special advanced fan screening of his latest film *World War Z*, which premieres nationwide June 21.



[Photo credit: Jack Plunkett]