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Slackery News Tidbits, April 23

By Jordan Gass-Poore' on April 23, 2012 - 9:30am in Slackery News Tidbits

Here's the latest Austin film news, plus some upcoming event information.

- A free public screening of the award-winning documentary Better This World will take place at 6 pm tonight (Monday, April 23) in room 8500 on the ACC Eastview Campus. The ACC RTF Department will present the film, discussion and Q&A with two of the film's subjects, Bradley Crowder and David McKay (although they will not/cannot be in the room at the same time). Better This World is about two childhood friends from Midland who were arrested on terrorism charges at the 2008 Republican National Convention. Read Don's review from SXSW 2011.
- Dallas International Film Festivalannounced the fest's 2012 award winners at the annual Dallas Film Society Honors gala on Friday. San Antonio filmmaker Ya'Ke Smith's feature film Wolf (Mike's review), about a family trying to come to terms with the abuse their pastor has inflicted on their teenage son, received a \$30,000 camera rental as the recipient of the Panavision Texas Competition Grand Jury Prize. The Texas Competition Jury awarded a Special Mention to Austin filmmakers and brothers David and Nathan Zellner for their second feature film Kid-Thing (Don's review). The movie is about a mischievous 10-year-old in East Texas who stumbles on a mysterious abandoned well in the woods. The grand jury prize for documentary feature went to Tchoupitoulas, which also played SXSW this year, and the prize for narrative feature was awarded to the Bulgarian film Faith, Love and Whiskey.
- Austin director Jeff Nichols's new drama Mud will screen in competition at the 2012 Cannes International Film Festival in May, Austin Movie Blog reports.
 The movie stars Matthew McConaughey as a fugitive who is aided by two teenage boys who make a pact to help him escape from an island in the Mississippi River. In addition, University of Texas alumnus Wes Anderson's new drama Moonrise Kingdom will open Cannes this year. The movie, about a pair of 12-year-olds who fall in love and flee their New England town amidst a storm, stars Bill Murray, Bruce Willis and Edward Norton. It is scheduled to open May 25 in the U.S.
- Austin filmmaker Andrew Bujalski's locally shot feature Computer Chess has been named one of three Tribeca Film Institute's Sloan Filmmaker Fund awardees, Austin Movie Blog reports. TFI, in partnership with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, grants funds to film projects that dramatize science and technology themes or portray those in the science and technology fields in prominent character roles. The 1980s-themed movie, which raised more than \$50,000 through the United States Artists crowdfunding website and was a 2011 TFPF recipient, centers on a chess tournament between chess players and computer programmers.
- Harry Ransom Center members can now receive a \$10 discount on an Austin Film Society membership, the Center announced.
- The ATX Film Festival announced the first wave of confirmed programming for the inaugural television festival in June. Scheduled events include an advance screening of MTV's Season Two premiere of Teen Wolf and an outdoor Rolling Roadshow reunion and screening of Friday Night Lights episodes with members of the cast and crew in attendance.
- Finally, Joe M. O'Connell learns that yes, the film new-Austinite David Gordon Green will be directing a remake of Dario Argento's 1977 horror film Suspiria ... and wonders if that's what Green will be shooting in Bastrop this June.

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