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Slackery News Tidbits: March 25, 2013

By [Jordan Gass-Poore](#) on March 25, 2013 - 9:30am in [Slackery News Tidbits](#)

Here's the latest in Austin film news.

- [Disney has hired](#) DFW-area filmmaker (and former Austinite) [David Lowery](#) and producer [Toby Halbrooks](#), whose film *Ain't Them Bodies Saints* premiered at Sundance this year, to script a remake of the animated movie *Pete's Dragon*. If this sounds unlikely, bear in mind that Lowery's first feature, *St. Nick*, was about two children who run away from home. And don't forget his short *Pioneer*, about a father and son. (Jette adds: Now, someone please release *St. Nick* on DVD? Finally?)
- Austin-based filmmaker [Elizabeth Mims](#)' documentary *Only the Young* ([Elizabeth's AFF review](#)), which follows three Southern California teenagers, will air July 15 on PBS's award-winning TV series *POV*, according to [Austin Movie Blog](#).
- In festival news, the Hill Country Film Festival [announced its lineup](#) last week, which includes the feature-length thriller *The Iceman*, starring James Franco, and the 2013 Academy Award-winning short *Curfew*. The festivities take place May 2-5 in Fredericksburg. Texas movies at the fest include short films *Black Metal*, *Do Over*, *Happy Voodoo*, *Fourth and Orchard*, *The Secret Keeper* and *Where am I Texas*.
- Austin Film Society Artistic Director [Richard Linklater](#) presents "[Land and People: Recent Films of James Benning](#)" April 6-8 at Alamo Ritz and the AFS Screening Room. Hailed as one of the most significant and groundbreaking avant-garde filmmakers, [Benning](#) began exploring the American landscape on film in the early 1970s. His recent films, *13 Lakes*, *Ten Skies*, *the war* and *Strempfle Pass*, were made between 2004 and 2012.
- Glenn Frankel, University of Texas School of Journalism director, will be interviewed by UT Professor Charles Ramirez Berg [about his book](#) *The Searchers: The Making of an American Legend* and the John Wayne film it's based on, on April 3 in the BMC Auditorium. A brief Q&A will follow the discussion. The 1956 film *The Searchers*, based on a novel by Alan LeMay, was inspired by the true kidnapping of a nine-year-old girl in East Texas in 1836.
- Austin filmmaker Steve Mims let us know that *Incendiary: The Willingham Case*, the documentary he directed with Joe Bailey, Jr., was recently honored with the 2013 Texas Coalition Against the Death Penalty Media Award. *Incendiary*, which premiered at SXSW 2011, is about Cameron Todd Willingham, a Texan who received the death penalty after his children died in a house fire, based on flawed and nonscientific evidence of arson. In [Don's review](#), he said "Riveting, flawlessly executed and painfully relevant, *Incendiary* is the sort of provocative documentary the Powers That Be don't want you to see. Which is all the more reason to see it." (Which you can do via iTunes, [DVD](#) and Tugg.)
- Central Texas filmmaker Terrence Malick was asked recently to curate an outdoor film series in Tulsa. His choices included ... *Zoolander*. Not what you'd expect? Cinema Blend [has the details](#).

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