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Slackery News Tidbits: January 20, 2014

By [Jordan Gass-Poore](#) on January 20, 2014 - 2:30pm in [Slackery News Tidbits](#)

Here's the latest Austin and Texas film news.

- Austin filmmaker and Hammer to Nail editor Michael Tully is joining with Ion Cinema founder Eric Lavallee to found the [American Independent Film Awards](#), which will honor "micro-budget" indies starting in 2015.
- Local filmmaker [Bob Byington](#) (*Somebody Up There Likes Me*) is planning to shoot his feature *Seven Chinese Brothers* in Austin in the next couple of months, according to [The Austin Chronicle](#). The cast will include Jason Schwartzman, Tunde Adebimpe and Olympia Dukakis -- no word yet on whether Bob Schneider will play a wedding singer (as in Byington's previous two movies). Byington says he wrote the script in 2001, and received an Austin Film Society Grant in 2010 for the film.
- [Louis Black](#), co-founder of SXSW and *The Austin Chronicle*, will serve as executive producer on *Django Lives!*, the sequel to the original Spaghetti Western *Django*. The star of the original film, Franco Nero, will reprise his role as the title character. *Django Lives!* finds the older Django as a consultant to silent-movie Westerns in 1915 Hollywood, and after getting entangled with racketeers, he fights back with a vengeance.
- Drafthouse Films has been busy this week. The Austin distribution company acquired the U.S. rights to the Fantastic Fest-2013 screened *Mood Indigo*. A multi-city theatrical release is scheduled this year for Michel Gondry's movie, which tells the story of two Parisian newlyweds whose romance is tested when a flower begins to grow in the woman's lungs.
- In addition, Drafthouse Films will re-release *The Act of Killing* ([Elizabeth's review](#)) in theaters on Feb. 7. The documentary, directed by Texan [Joshua Oppenheimer](#), sees former Indonesian death squad leaders reenacting their real-life mass killings. The film has been nominated for a Best Documentary Feature Academy Award.
- Also on Feb. 7, Drafthouse Films will release the Fantastic Fest-2013 screened *A Field in England* theatrically and on VOD. The psychological horror movie takes place during the Civil War in 17th-century England and follows a small group of deserters fleeing from a raging battle through an overgrown field.
- The documentary *Las Marthas*, about the annual Laredo-based celebration honoring President George Washington, where Mexican-American debutantes dress as American Revolutionaries, will air on PBS's *Independent Lens* on Feb. 17.
- Finally, the *SWSWedu* film lineup has been released, which includes the SXSW Film 2013 and Oak Cliff Film Festival selection *Medora*, a documentary about four boys from Medora, Indiana who struggle to end their high-school basketball team's losing streak during the town's economic downturn.

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