



- [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, February 6

By [Jordan Gass-Poore](#) on February 6, 2012 - 11:00am in [Slackery News Tidbits](#)

Here's the latest Austin film news, with a great short film at the end.

- Production company [Parts and Labor](#), founded by former Austinites [Jay Van Hoy](#) and Lars Knudsen, has signed an [output and development deal](#) with German-UK sales and production group K5. The agreement covers all current productions in development, such as [Red Light Winter](#), set to star Kirsten Dunst, and [The Womb](#). Parts and Labor produced the movie [Beginners](#), for which Christopher Plummer has received a Best Supporting Actor Academy Award nomination. (Before being known as Parts and Labor, Van Hoy and Knudsen also produced local films [Gretchen](#) and [I'll Come Running](#).)
- [The Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program](#), a [Texas Film Commission](#) production incentive, distributed \$25 million in state funds to 177 film, television, commercial, and video game projects last year, such as [Friday Night Lights](#) and [Predators](#), according to an [Austin American-Statesman article](#). To qualify for incentives, production companies must submit documentation of spending and meet eligibility standards. The Texas Legislature approved \$30 million to use toward the incentive program this year and next, down from \$60 million in the previous session.
- The local hip-hop musical feature [Camp Kickitoo](#) won the Best Comedy award at the recent [San Diego Black Film Festival](#). Shot in Central Texas and starring an Austin-area cast and crew, the movie centers around Alvin, a young man who takes a job as a summer camp counselor when he can't find a job. No word yet on when the movie will screen in Austin; you might keep an eye on the film's [official website](#).
- University of Texas RTF professor and film aficionado Charles Ramirez Berg spoke with [Orange Magazine](#) about the [84th Annual Academy Awards](#). Berg predicted that [The Artist](#), an ode to silent cinema, will win Best Picture, although he is uncertain as to who will win Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress categories.
- Former Austinite and 2011 [Texas Hall of Fame](#) Rising Star [John Hawkes](#) reminisces about being a teenager in 1970s Austin with London-based newspaper [The Guardian](#) (which refers to our city as "a notorious oasis of counterculture oddness"). The 52-year-old actor, originally from Minnesota, was quoted as saying, "It was fun leaving Austin, where I'd been viewed as fairly normal. As soon as I got to LA, for some reason, it was like: *psycho!*" Hawkes moved to LA after touring with bands such as the punk band Meat Joy with Austin-based singer-songwriter [Gretchen Phillips](#).
- Comedy mixer [The Show!](#)'s program this month will include Austin writer/director [Kat Candler's](#) short film [Love Bug](#), 7:30 pm Saturday at [Spider House Cafe](#). An audience Q&A will follow. [Love Bug](#) is about a nine-year-old boy's attempt to ask his crush to the annual Spring Fling Dance. [Love Bug](#) won an Austin Film Festival 2009 audience award and was a 2011 [Faces of Austin](#) selection; the City of Austin has made it available to [watch online](#), and it's embedded below in case you can't make Saturday's screening.



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