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Slackery News Tidbits: April 1, 2013

By [Jordan Gass-Poore](#) on April 1, 2013 - 10:00am in [Slackery News Tidbits](#)

Here's the latest in Austin and Texas film news -- no April Fooling here.

- The 16th Annual Cine Las Americas International Film Festival has announced its opening and closing-night movies. *Blancanieves* will open the festival April 16 at the Stateside Theatre. The drama, a twist on the Snow White fairy tale that centers on a female bullfighter in 1920s Seville, was chosen by Spain as its Foreign Language Film Academy Awards nominee in 2012. *7 Cajas (7 Boxes)*, about a boy's journey transporting unknown cargo, will close the festival April 21, also at Stateside.
- In celebration of April Fools' Day, the Austin Film Festival will screen the fest's 2012 audience award-winning comedy *Junk* at 7 pm at Alamo Drafthouse Village as part of its [Best of Fest series](#). *Junk* follows two B-movie co-writers through their film's festival debut.
- Ryan Long, former Austin Film Society programs and operations manager, has been named director of programming at Tugg, [Austin 360](#) reports. Tugg, co-founded by Austinites Nicolas Gonda and Pablo Gonzalez, allows people to bring the movies they want to see to their local theaters. Long joined AFS in Nov. 2010 and co-founded the [Texas Independent Film Network](#), a statewide tour of independent movies, which concludes its spring run with *Hands on a Hard Body*.
- *Hands on a Hard Body* documents an annual endurance competition in Longview, Texas, in which 24 participants attempt to keep their hands on a Nissan Hard Body pickup truck for as long as possible. The last person with their hand on the truck gets to drive away with it. Director [S. R. Bindler](#) will be in attendance at select TIFN screenings throughout the month, which begin Tuesday in McAllen, Texas. It reaches Austin on Friday, April 26 -- more details as they're confirmed.
- In more AFS news, the Austin Film Society Grant Application, formerly known as the Texas Filmmakers Production Fund, is now open. Texas residents seeking funding for their independent productions can apply [online](#) by June 1.
- Austin filmmaker [Clay Liford's](#) comedy *Wuss* ([our interview](#) and [Jette's review](#)), about a high-school teacher who wants to fight back after being beaten up by several of his students, will be released on iTunes, Amazon and other VOD outlets Tuesday. The Dallas-shot film premiered at SXSW 2011.
- In addition, last year's Dallas International Film Festival selection [LUV \(J.C.'s review\)](#) will be available on DVD, VOD and some online outlets Tuesday. The drama, starring rapper Common, tells the story of a boy's day-long adventures with the ex-con uncle he idolizes.
- This year's [ATX Television Festival](#), which takes place June 6-9, will screen Austin-based filmmaker [Richard Linklater's](#) rare 2004 HBO pilot, *\$5.15/Hr*, according to [The Austin Chronicle](#). The unaired comedy pilot, starring America Ferrera (scheduled to be in attendance with Linklater at the screening), follows the unusual going-ons at Gramma's Home Cookin'.
- The 11th Annual Independent Film Festival of Boston announced this year's lineup, which includes films by Austinites [PJ Raval](#) and [Andrew Bujalski](#), [IndieWire](#) reports. *Computer Chess* ([Jordan's interview](#) and [Jette's review](#)), about computer programmers and chess players at a computer chess tournament in the 1980s, will screen with Bujalski in attendance, as well as Raval's documentary *Before You Know It* ([Don's review](#)), which follows the adventures and challenges of three gay senior citizens.
- Finally, congratulations to AFS for getting a [City of Austin Grant for Technology Opportunities Program \(GTOPs\) Award](#) last week to support its [Film Club](#), an afterschool program that fosters the next generation of filmmakers.

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