



- [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: May 27, 2014

By [Jordan Gass-Poore](#) on May 27, 2014 - 11:00am in [Slackery News Tidbits](#)

Here's the latest Austin and Texas film news.

- Filmmaker [Annie Silverstein's](#) student short movie *Skunk* won the top prize at this year's Cinefondation section of the Cannes Film Festival, according to [The Wrap](#). Along with winning 15,000 Euros, *Skunk* -- one of 16 films that screened, out of 1,631 student movies submitted worldwide -- gives Silverstein guaranteed entry to the festival for her first feature. She ran a successful crowdfunding campaign last year to finish *Skunk*, which was her master's thesis movie at The University of Texas at Austin. The movie stars local actress Heather Kafka.
- Native Texan writer-director [Matt Muir's](#) Austin-lensed movie *Thank You a Lot*, which premiered at this year's SXSW, will have its digital/cable VOD release on June 3. The movie will also screen that night at the Angelika in Dallas (through [Tugg](#)) to celebrate its digital release. *Thank You a Lot* tells the story of a struggling manager whose job is threatened if he doesn't sign his dad, a reclusive Texas country-music singer.
- Austin-based Mondo Gallery will present "The Art of Ken Taylor," including prints for the movies *Children of Men* and *Little Shop of Horrors*, from Friday, May 30 until June 21. The show's kickoff party takes place Friday at 7 pm at the gallery (4115 Guadalupe). Taylor will be in attendance.
- In more Cannes news, filmmaker Quentin Tarantino, who's at the film festival for a 20th anniversary screening of his Palme d'Or-winning *Pulp Fiction*, held a press conference there last week and proclaimed that Austin-based filmmaker [Richard Linklater](#) and David Fincher (*Fight Club*) are two of the most exciting directors working in the movie industry today, [Austin Movie Blog](#) reports.
- Finally, Austin filmmaker [Robert Rodriguez's El Rey Network](#) announced that its second scripted original series, *Matador*, will star local actor Gabriel Luna (*Dance with the One*). One of the series' creators is UT Austin grad Roberto Orci. The series chronicles the rise of a covert operative for a little-known branch of the CIA, moonlighting as a popular soccer star.



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