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### Slackery News Tidbits: August 5, 2013

By [Jordan Gass-Poore](#) on August 5, 2013 - 9:30am in [Slackery News Tidbits](#)

Here's the latest Austin and Texas film news.

- A bevy of movies about Austin cyclist [Lance Armstrong](#) are slated for theatrical releases in the next year or so, [Austin Business Journal](#) reports. Paramount Pictures has hired [J.J. Abrams](#) to direct a Bradley Cooper-fronted flick, while Warner Bros. is moving ahead with a project from the perspective of Armstrong's former teammate Tyler Hamilton. [Stephen Frears](#) (*High Fidelity*) is also set to direct a biopic starring Ben Foster, with a documentary by Sony Pictures Classics rounding out the front.
- The full soundtrack for SXSW 2013 feature *Prince Avalanche* ([Elizabeth's review](#)) is available online, according to [Entertainment Weekly](#). Post-rockers [Explosions in the Sky](#) teamed up with fellow Austinite [David Gordon Green](#) (*Pineapple Express*). The *Prince Avalanche* soundtrack will be available for purchase Tuesday, in anticipation of the movie's theatrical release this Friday.
- Film producer and Houston native [Ryan A. Brooks](#) was profiled in [Your Houston News](#). The UT baseball alum went on to produce his first independent film, *Happy Hour*, a 2002 Austin Film Festival selection. After moving to L.A., Brooks established his production company, Gold Gloves Productions, which distributed the SXSW 2004 Audience Choice Award-winner *Slam Planet*. His film *Inocente*, about a young, homeless artist in San Diego, won an Oscar for Best Documentary Short this year.
- Fellow SXSW alum *Rewind This!* ([Mike's review](#)), which traces the cultural and historical impact of VHS, will be released on iTunes Aug. 27, with pre-orders being taken now. Beginning Sept. 10, the Austin-made documentary will also be available on other VOD/streaming platforms including Amazon Instant Video, YouTube, Xbox, Playstation, Cinemanow and Vudu.
- For the next two weeks (Aug. 6-18) the Paramount Summer Classic Film Series will focus on World Cinema Classics, featuring titles like *8 1/2*, *Nights of Cabiria* and *Pan's Labyrinth*. Following annual tradition, AFS members will receive a \$2 discount if they buy tickets at the box office on the night of the show for any of these screenings. [Here's a list](#) of the films and screening details.
- In more SXSW news, the Central Texas documentary *Unreal Dream* ([Jette's review](#)), which made its world premiere at this year's film festival, will screen Dec. 5 on CNN, [IndieWire](#) reports. Directed by Al Reinert, the film follows Michael Morton, who was wrongly convicted of his young wife's murder and sentenced to a quarter century in the Texas prison system. Through the use of DNA testing, Morton proves his innocence and, in turn, brings to light the number of unjust imprisonments in the country.
- [IndieWire](#) continues its Texas film coverage with a list of the top 10 independent films to watch on VOD this month. Picks include SXSW 2013 premiere *A Teacher* ([Jordan's review](#)), about a Texas high-school teacher and her relationship with a male student (UT alum [Will Brittain](#)); the above-mentioned *Prince Avalanche*; Dallas native David Lowery's *Ain't Them Bodies Saints*; and director Avi Weider's SXSW 2012 debut documentary, *Welcome to the Machine*, which asks the question: how do the natures of technology and humanity come together?
- Finally, [The Hollywood Reporter](#) included [UT's radio-television-film department](#) in its third annual list of the top 25 best film schools in the country. The publication highlighted the department's comparatively low cost; its annual semester-long [UTLA program](#), where 45 students live and attend classes in Hollywood; and its famous alumni, which include actor [Matthew McConaughey](#) and *Arrested Development* director [Lev Spiro](#).

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