

Remember ... the Alamo?



San Antonions aren't the only ones proud of the Alamo. This month, homegrown favorite Alamo Drafthouse Cinema turns 10, and the company that revolutionized the concept of dinner and a movie in Austin will soon be celebrating the opening of its eighth location. Here are a few memorable highlights from the operation's very successful run.

1997 The first Alamo Drafthouse Cinema opens in conjunction with a SXSW screening in downtown Austin in a converted garage, introducing Austin audiences to its novel idea of pairing food, beer and wine with offbeat films.

1998>> Director Quentin Tarantino hosts QT Fest, a weeklong screening of prints from his private collection, for the first time at the Alamo. Films screened include *Evel Knievel*, *Cannonball*, *Ghetto Freaks* and *3:10 to Yuma*.



1999<< Alamo begins the Silent Film Series, pairing silent films with live music accompaniment. Fritz Lang's 1927 masterpiece, *Metropolis*, is the first film featured, with a musical score composed by local indie rockers ST 37.



2000 The Alamo launches Mr. Sinus Theater 3000, in which three local comedians offer a live running commentary on B movies. The first film to get the treatment is *Nude on the Moon*. Members of the Hill Country Nudists also make a memorable appearance at the show (free admission is offered to moviegoers in the buff).

2001 *The Austin Chronicle* partners with the Alamo to launch the five-night Eat, Drink, Watch Movies Film Festival, featuring *Eat Drink Man Woman*, *Chocolat*, *Soul Food*, *Big Night* and *Tortilla Soup*. Each film is paired with a gourmet multi-course menu that corresponds to its theme.

2002 The Alamo's Rolling Roadshow takes the show (and food and drink offerings) on the road with its 60-foot-by-40-foot inflatable screen. Russ Meyer's sexploitation flick *Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill!* draws crowds to Longhorn Speedway.

2003<< Mel Gibson premieres *The Passion of the Christ* during film guru Harry Knowles' annual 24-hour Butt-Numb-A-Thon festival. The very same night, director Peter Jackson holds the U.S. premiere of *The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King* at the Alamo.

2004 *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow* premieres with actual P-40 planes flying in formation above the theater. Local police are alarmed at the occurrence (the premiere fell on the anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001) and investigate.

2005 Alamo Drafthouse Cinema is named the No. 1 movie theater in America by *Entertainment Weekly*.

2006 Alamo plays host to the Air Guitar competition and championships, sending three candidates (Armatage-Shanks, Gabe-A-Liscious and Dirt) on to compete for a chance to represent the U.S. in an international competition. Unfortunately, none make the final cut.

ALAMO SCREEN LOGO AND QT FEST PHOTOS COURTESY ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE. METROPOLIS PHOTO COURTESY PARAMOUNT PICTURES. LORD OF THE RINGS PHOTO COURTESY NEW LINE CINEMA.



Web Watch

AUSTIN SOUND

www.austinsound.net

Billed as the "independent music source for Austin," this site includes features, interviews, live sound clips, weekly picks, CD release information and a comprehensive calendar of local shows. In late January, Austin Sound began airing a weekly show on KVRX (91.7 FM).

EAST AUSTIN STORIES

www.eastaustinstories.org

University of Texas film students (and a few inspired high school students) have partnered with members of the East Austin community to create a library of documentaries that are screened to the public and then made available online. ▶▶▶

THAT OTHER PAPER

<http://thatotherpaper.com>

Launched in late 2006 and updated every Wednesday, this fresh, volunteer-run Web site encapsulates the cultural offerings of Austin (from food to the arts) with sometimes funny, sometimes brutal commentary and reviews.

