

## Lone Star Outtakes: Bush's Brain

South by Southwest Film Festival (March 12-20) in Austin continues its fearless tradition of politics in film with the world premiere of *Bush's Brain*, about the senior presidential adviser and electoral strategist Karl Rove, who guided George W. Bush to the White House.

The documentary, based on the acclaimed book by *Dallas Morning News* senior political writer Wayne Slater and Emmy-winning TV correspondent James Moore, examines the long, controversial career of the powerful wizard behind the curtain of today's presidential politics. Michael Paradies and Joseph Mealey directed.

Other new pol flicks slated include Paul Stekler's elections doc *Last Man Standing*, Jonathan Demme's *The Agronomist* and Steve James' *The New Americans*.

Older but goodie pol docs in the lineup include *A Perfect Candidate* (1996), *Vote for Me: Politics in America* (1996), *America Is Hard To See* (1968) and *The Party's Over* (2002). Visit [www.sxsw.com](http://www.sxsw.com).

### Rex checks in

Broadway musicals used to get made into films. Now Cleburne resident **Rex McGee** says his script for the Fort Worth-made film *Pure Country* (1992) is being made into a musical starring country singer George Strait.

The show, with 16 new songs by the original composers, Steve Dorff and John Bettis, could open this fall, maybe at Houston's Theatre Under the Stars. It'll be a family extravaganza with Peter Masterson (*Trip to Bountiful*) directing and classy actress wife Carlin Glynn and daughter Mary Stuart Masterson in the cast.

Meanwhile, Marion Ross goes before the camera Sunday for Rex's Hallmark Hall of Fame movie *Love, Clyde*, about a con man who comes to live with the grandmother he never knew in hopes of cashing in on her estate.

While based on his own aunt's story in Cleburne, the Mother's Day film will shoot in Los Alamos, Calif. Rex was skeptical of any location subbing for Cleburne, of course, but says the main street in Los Alamos looks astonishingly like the one where he lives

in Johnson County. John Putch, son of Jean Stapleton, will direct.

### Show them the money

A crew member on *The Wendell Baker Story*, directed by Luke and Andrew Wilson, e-mailed last week that he still hasn't been paid for the final three weeks of production in Austin. So I contacted state film commissioner Tom Copeland, a straightshooter.

Tom says that he spoke to Mark Johnson and David L. Bushell, two of the producers, who report that they're doing everything they can to get people paid. I don't know Dave Bushell, but Mark Johnson, who's worked in Texas on *The Alamo*, *Home Fries*, *The Rookie* and *A Perfect World*, is a decent guy. So hopefully payment will come soon.

### Flash cuttings

- Angela Arenivar of Perryton, Texas, one of eight young spelling champs in *Spellbound*, will attend a screening of the charming Oscar-nominated doc at the Spindletop/Lamar University Film Festival (Jan. 30-Feb. 1) in Beaumont. Call 409-880-8490 or visit [www.spinfest.org](http://www.spinfest.org).

- There's life after Dallas Video Festival's 24-Hour Video Race. Scott Reeder and June Owen's winning short, *Curb Service*, about an enigmatic panhandler, screens at the Miami International Film Festival (Jan. 30-Feb. 8).

- The night before filming, the pipes at her location burst and the ceiling fell in during the one-day shoot, but Kat Candler's short *Roberta Wells* premiered this week at Slamdance, the alternative to Sundance in Park City, Utah. Bryan Poyser's and Jacob Vaughan's Austin-made dark coming-of-age indie feature *Dear Pillow* screened, too.

- Fans of John Wayne's *The Alamo* are planning an outdoor screening at the old set on the late Happy Shahan's ranch in Brackettville, Texas, some Saturday in April. Surviving cast and crew of the 1960 film will be invited. That's a long sit (161 minutes) on a bale of hay, the planned seating, but then the Duke's diehard fans probably have iron pants.