

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

Austin City Limits

BY KYLE WHITACRE
The Battalion

Few cities in the U.S. can boast the underground scene Austin has, but most visitors have no idea where to start looking for its alternative entertainment. Besides visiting the capitol and the malls, Austin has many great places to check out that do not fall into the norm.



The nightlife of Austin is as diverse as the city, from mainstream entertainment on Sixth Street to the underground raves and concerts scattered throughout the town. There is always something interesting to do in Austin.

For those interested in film, theaters like the Dobie and Arbor 7 provide an alternative to the regular features showing. Located on the University of Texas campus, the Dobie premieres new independent films and old cult classics in four theaters designed in different time period themes, including Egyptian and Gothic. *Shakespeare in Love* and *Blair Witch Project* both opened at Dobie before hitting any mainstream theaters. Each year, Quentin Tarantino holds a small film festival at Dobie where he shows films from his own collection of restored '70s exploitation classics.



PATRIC SCHNEIDER AND ELIZABETH O'FARRELL/THE BATTALION

Austin is also known as the live music capital of the world for a reason. Go down Sixth Street on a Saturday night and each club has a

lineup of bands playing everything from folk to blues to punk rock.

Aside from local and lesser-known artists, Austin has many venues that bring large touring acts to Texas. In his last tour, Fatboy Slim played only three U.S. shows — New York, Los Angeles, and Austin. The Frank Erwin Center, Southpark Meadows, Austin Music Hall and Liberty Lunch are some places to check for larger touring acts.

Besides the nightlife, Austin is a great place to shop for one of a kind clothing. Along with the plentiful supply of thrift stores, places like Flipnotes and Atomic City offer clothing not found anywhere else. "The first time I went [to Atomic City], I didn't know what to expect," said Michelle Johnston, an Austin resident. "It looks like a normal two story house in the suburbs, but the entire downstairs is this shop. They had all these rare shoes for sale there. I got a pair of blue plaid Doc Martins there for forty bucks."

Rare and vintage clothing and toys can be found at small places like this all over town. Local and rare music is also easy to find in Austin, with stores like Waterloo Records and Sound Exchange catering to fans of local, underground and lesser-known bands. These stores carry a huge selection of vinyl records too.

Arcade junkies have a mecca in Austin. Several arcades in town, like Einstein's on the Drag, behind the University of Texas, offer the newest and best arcade games all for a quarter a play, from racing to fighting. Some of these games will never even make it to regular arcades since these quarter-play machines are used by game manufacturers to find out which games will be successful.

Events in Austin happen year-round and bring some of the biggest name celebrities to Austin. Most are just small events that happen annually and go relatively unnoticed. Film festivals like South by Southwest and the Austin Film Festival get national attention, while the Tarantino festival, the Butt-numb-athon and the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Film Festival remain

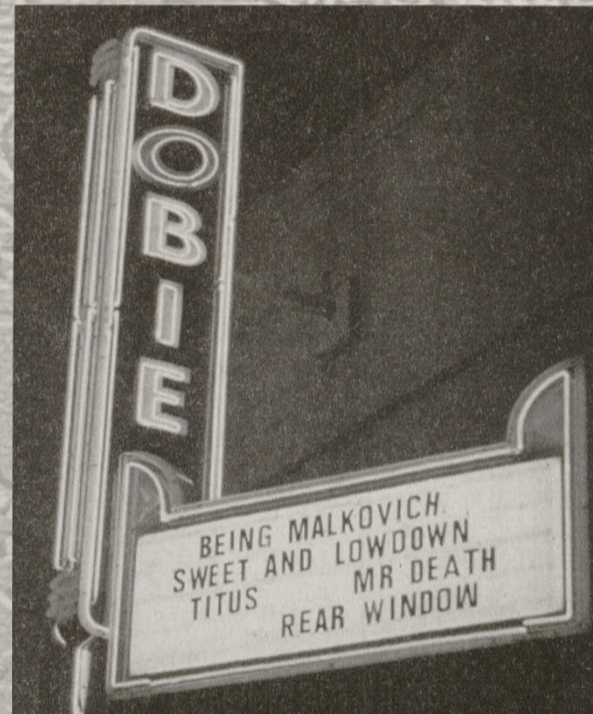
smaller events that don't try to pack theaters.

Among the hundreds of interesting places to eat in Austin, Kerby Lane Cafe and Magnolia's Cafe are trendy spots open to the early hours of the morning, always hosting a variety of guests. Coffee houses are also abundant in the Austin area, featuring open-mike poetry and live bands.

The Alamo Draft House is probably the most interesting and critically-acclaimed restaurant in Austin. The Draft House is a theater and restaurant that shows original 35mm prints of new and classic films while serving dinner.

Hopefully, this will help keep a trip to Austin interesting with new places to check out for a good time. But for all the places listed here, there are tons of other places offering entertainment not found anywhere else. The best advice is to just look around and find something interesting in Austin.

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