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Comox Valley Art Gallery Press Release
For Immediate Distribution



2012 CVAG/TIFF Film Series Begins With Apocalyptic Visions

A Special Presentation at the 2011 Toronto International Film Festival, ***Take Shelter*** is a darkly compelling domestic drama-cum-psychological thriller set in the rural American heartland. Propelled by the mesmerizing performance of Michael Shannon (*Boardwalk Empire*, *Machine Gun Preacher*, *Revolutionary Road*) as a young husband and father plagued by apocalyptic visions, writer-director Jeff Nichols crafts a haunting and powerful film.

Curtis LaForche (Shannon) lives in a small town in Ohio with his loving wife, Samantha (Jessica Chastain, *The Debt*, *Tree of Life*), and their hearing-impaired six-year-old daughter. A solid, taciturn working class man, Curtis seems to have everything a modest man could wish for. When he starts having nightmares about ominous black clouds and an impending storm that threatens disaster for his family and small community, he does his best to push these visions from his mind. Keeping his turmoil to himself, Curtis starts channelling his anxiety into obsessively building a storm shelter in his backyard. His increasingly irrational and inexplicable behaviour soon imperils his job and the family finances, but the resulting strain on his marriage and tension within his community can't compare with Curtis's fear of what his dreams may truly signify.

Borrowing elements from the thriller, horror and disaster-movie genres, ***Take Shelter*** is ultimately a complex and engrossing family drama about a man striving to protect the ones he loves from the imminent threats he sees all around him – whether real or imagined. Using tone and atmosphere to chilling effect – from the glowering skies and forlorn landscapes, to the ominous chords of the soundtrack and unnerving special effects – Nichols masterfully creates an aura of unease. Together with Shannon's performance, ***Take Shelter*** is a disquieting tale for our times that is both deeply unsettling as it is unforgettable.

The upcoming films for the Winter/Spring series are:

January 22 - *TAKE SHELTER* (Mystery & Suspense, Drama)

February 5 - *MONSIEUR LAZHAR* (Drama/Comedy)

February 19 - *A SEPARATION* (Drama)

March 4 - *PINA* (Musical & Performing Arts)

March 18 - *FILM TBA* - Waiting confirmation of this film

Film Series tickets and passes are on sale now. Tickets are \$11 each, passes are \$55 each and are available at The CVAG Gift Shop, 580 Duncan Ave, Downtown Courtenay and Videos N More, 264 Arderton Road, Comox.

All films are on Sundays at 5pm at the Rialto Theatre, 2665 Cliffe Ave, Courtenay (at Driftwood Mall) and are fundraisers for the Comox Valley Art Gallery. For updates and more information on the films visit our website at www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com or call (250) 338-6211.