

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ALERT: RIVERRUN TO HONOR 2011 EMERGING MASTER

Actor Michael Shannon to be honored at the 13th annual Festival April 11

WINSTON-SALEM, North Carolina – The RiverRun International Film Festival will present Oscar-nominated actor Michael Shannon (*Revolutionary Road*, *Boardwalk Empire*) with the 2011 Emerging Master Award. A rising star in the cinema world, Shannon will be honored for his powerful performances that have made him an emerging master of his craft.

The award will be presented Monday, April 11 at the Babcock Theatre at UNC School of the Arts. The event, “Conversation with Michael Shannon,” is free and open to the public. Tickets will be available starting Wednesday, March 16, with a two ticket limit per person.

“Michael Shannon is a magnetic performer, capable of portraying powerful characters with ease,” said RiverRun Executive Director Andrew Rodgers. “We are so glad to be able to honor him at this year’s Festival. With such challenging and thought-provoking performances, he perfectly embodies the definition of an Emerging Master.”

Shannon has appeared in more than 50 films and gained an Academy Award nomination for his supporting role in *Revolutionary Road* (2008). Other critically-acclaimed performances include *Bug* (2006) and *Shotgun Stories* (2007). More recently, Shannon appeared in the Emmy-award winning series *Boardwalk Empire*.

The Emerging Master Award was created in 2009 to honor artists who are growing masters in their craft and are on the cusp of widespread notoriety. Previous Emerging Masters include Ramin Bahrani (*Goodbye Solo*) and David Gordon Green (*George Washington*).

ABOUT RIVERRUN: The RiverRun International Film Festival is a non-profit cultural organization dedicated to the role of cinema as a conduit of powerful ideas and diverse viewpoints. Founded in 1998, RiverRun is a competitive event that annually showcases new films from both established and emerging filmmakers around the world. Each spring, RiverRun screens new narrative, documentary, short, student and animated films, offering both audience and jury prizes in competition categories. The Festival also presents a broad range of special events each year, including high-profile regional premieres of significant films, celebrity tributes, family matinees and classic retrospectives as well as a variety of panel discussions and parties.

SPONSORS: The sponsors of the 2011 RiverRun International Film Festival help sustain the organization's mission to foster a greater appreciation of cinema and a deeper understanding of the many people, cultures and perspectives of our world through regular interaction with great films and filmmakers. This year's Festival sponsors includes: Title Sponsors – Reynolds American and The Arts Council of Winston-Salem; Presenting Sponsors – City of Winston-Salem, the Millennium Fund, the Winston Salem Foundation and University of North Carolina School of the Arts; Marquee Sponsors – BB&T, Flow Automotive, Hanesbrands Inc., Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP, a/perture and ShapiroWalker Design.

TICKETS AND INFO: This year, RiverRun will be show films at a/perture cinema (311 W. Fourth St.), Hanesbrands Theatre (209 N. Spruce St.) and at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (1533 S. Main St.). Tickets are on sale now at the Stevens Center box office, via www.riverrunfilm.com or over the phone (336-721-1945). For up-to-date information, or for details about volunteering at the Festival, visit www.riverrunfilm.com or call 336-724-1502.

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