

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**"Central Oregon Non-Profits Team Up to Screen Critically-Acclaimed Documentary Film for Earth Month"**

(BEND, Oregon) – Three Central Oregon non-profits have teamed up to bring the critically-acclaimed documentary film, “The Clean Bin Project,” back to Bend for a screening to celebrate Earth Month. The film, which won BendFilm’s 2011 Best Conservation Award at their festival last year, tells the story of a young couple who share moments of humor, struggle, and hope as they compete with each other to give up consumerism and produce zero garbage for one year. The partnership was a natural fit for the three organizations: BendFilm has a long history of bringing outstanding cinematic offerings to Central Oregon, Cascades Academy is in its second year of its Education Series which aims to present innovative speakers and films focused on education and parenting, and the Tower Theatre Foundation offers the ideal venue for the event and a long-standing presence in the community.

The Clean Bin Project is about a regular couple and their quest to answer the question, "Is it possible to live completely waste free?" Jen Rustemeyer and Grant Baldwin go head to head in a competition to see who can swear off consumerism and produce the least amount of garbage in an entire year. Their light-hearted rivalry is set against a darker examination of the sobering problem of waste in North America. Even as they garner interest in their project and find themselves becoming unintentional zero-waste spokespeople, Jen and Grant struggle to find meaning in their seemingly minuscule impact on our “throw-away” society. Featuring interviews with renowned artist, Chris Jordan and marine pollution expert, Captain Charles Moore, The Clean Bin Project presents the serious topic of waste reduction with optimism, humor, and inspiration for individual action. In response to seeing the film, Ray Solley, Executive Director of the Tower Theatre Foundation remarked, “Think you’re ‘green’? Wait ’til you see what these folks do.”

“We are thrilled to offer this film to our community not only because it provides an up-to-date perspective on the environmental challenges that we all face, but also because it aligns with Cascades Academy’s mission to inspire students to be critically-thinkers and problem solvers,”

said Blair Jenkins, Head of School at Cascades Academy. “We feel lucky that our 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students will also be able to see the film and talk with the filmmakers during the school day.” The screening at the Tower Theatre is open to the public and is appropriate for middle and high school students in addition to adults.

“We are excited to be able to team up with Cascades Academy and The Tower Theatre Foundation to bring back the Clean Bin Project. The audience really enjoyed having Grant and Jen present during the October festival, so to have them join us in Bend again for this special encore screening is a real treat!” added Orit Schwartz of BendFilm.

The film will be screened at the Tower Theatre on Thursday, April 12 at 7:00pm, followed by a live question and answer session with Jen and Grant, filmmakers and stars of the show. Tickets are \$12 and are available through [www.towertheatre.org](http://www.towertheatre.org) or at their Box Office.

### **About Cascades Academy:**

Cascades Academy of Central Oregon is a K-12 independent school in Bend, Oregon. The school offers a challenging college preparatory curriculum that integrates experiential learning, outdoor education, arts and community service. In an effort to make the school accessible to as many students as possible, the school offers a substantial need and merit-based scholarship program for qualified students. For more information about Cascades Academy, please visit the school's website at [www.cascadesacademy.org](http://www.cascadesacademy.org).

### **About the Tower Theatre Foundation:**

The Tower Theatre Foundation owns and operates the historic venue in downtown Bend. The Foundation's mission is to provide performing arts, civic, educational and social events that enliven and enrich the lives of all Central Oregonians. Group discounts and individual tickets are available at the Tower Theatre box office (541-317-0700) and online at [www.towertheatre.org](http://www.towertheatre.org). Program information is also at [www.facebook.com/thetowertheatre](http://www.facebook.com/thetowertheatre).

### **About BendFilm:**

BendFilm is a non-profit group inspired by the opportunity to open doors for artists and to cast Bend, Oregon as the cultural and economic beneficiary. The BendFilm Festival runs every October in downtown Bend, Oregon at the historic Tower Theatre, McMenamins, Regal Cinemas and The Oxford Hotel. Plan now to attend **October 11-14, 2012** for a long weekend of films, lectures and parties as filmmakers compete for cash awards in Bend's charismatic setting of mountains, rivers and screaming blue skies. For questions or more information: call 541.388.FEST, email [info@bendfilm.org](mailto:info@bendfilm.org) or visit [www.bendfilm.org](http://www.bendfilm.org).

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