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Media Advisory

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March 12, 2004

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- Event:** Illinois Wesleyan Office of Multicultural Affairs and Intercultural Leadership Alliance presents: Magdalen Hsu-Li
- Date:** April 8 (Thursday)
- Time:** 7 p.m.
- Location:** Evelyn Chapel, 1301 N. Park St., Bloomington
- Admission:** Free and open to the public
- Background:** Magdalen Hsu-Li is an Asian-American music artist, painter, poet, and speaker. Her vocal performances feature piano, guitar, and percussion and are highlighted by insightful poetry readings, subtle comedic undertones, and musical improvisations.

Dale Fanning will accompany Hsu-Li on percussion during her visit to Illinois Wesleyan, which will combine the musical styles of pop, folk, alternative, country, punk, and jazz improvisation in what she promises to be an inspiring spiritual and thought-provoking performance.

Hsu-Li is one of the first openly bi-sexual Chinese-American singer-songwriters in the United States, and strives to raise awareness by defining issues of identity and bringing communities together through her music. Her stop at Illinois Wesleyan is part of a national tour to promote her most recent CD, *Fire*, which was described by *The New York Times* as "sweet, melodic, and real."

Growing up in the rural southern town of Martinsville, Virginia, Hsu-Li struggled with her community's lack of diversity, as well as the difficulties brought on by her diagnosis with Tourette's Syndrome, which she eventually overcame. She explains that "through music and art I began to shape my true identity and learn to accept myself for being different."

Hsu-Li founded Chickpop Records in 1997, along with Femme Vitale, the Seattle Women's Music and Arts Coalition, a women's arts advocacy organization. Since then, she has been nominated for a Glama Award for "Best Out Song" and has received airplay on hundreds of college radio stations across the country.

- Contact:** For additional information, contact Monica Taylor, director of multicultural affairs at (309) 556-3412.