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Media Advisory

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March 16, 2004

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- Event:** The Japan Foundation Film Series presents:
Tasogare Seibei (The Twilight Samurai)
- Date:** March 31 (Wednesday)
- Time:** 7 p.m.
- Location:** Normal Theater
209 W. North St., Normal
- Admission:** Free, open to the public
- Background:** *Tasogare Seibei*, also known as *The Twilight Samurai*, won 12 Japan Academy Awards in 2003, including best film, best director, best actor and best actress. It was nominated in the U.S. Oscars race for best foreign film. Based on a story by Shuhei Fujisawa and directed by Yoji Yamada, the film follows a 19th-century samurai as he tries to protect a battered wife. *Tasogare seibei* displays the complexities of ancient Japanese culture and the art of sword fighting.

This is the final in a series of films loaned to Illinois Wesleyan University by the Japan Foundation, which seeks to provide those interested in Japan with the opportunity to learn about Japanese culture through its rich film history. All films feature English subtitles.

The showing at the Normal Theater is sponsored by the IWU Japanese Studies, Asian Studies and International Studies programs.

“One of the things we’d like to do (through this film series) is make a bridge between Illinois Wesleyan University and the people of this community,” said Hiroko Furo, assistant professor of Japanese studies.

Contact: For more information, contact Furo at hfuro@iwu.edu or (309) 556-3941.