

February 12, 2010

Laramie, Wyoming— The Japan-America Society of Wyoming (JASWY) will hold its fourth Japanese Film Festival at LCCC (Laramie County Community College) in Cheyenne on Feb.20 and at UW (University of Wyoming) in Laramie, WY on Feb.27.



On **Feb.20**, “The Blue Bird” will be shown at 2:00 PM and “Departures” at 4:00 PM in the Science Center Room 121 of **LCCC** in Cheyenne.

On **Feb. 27**, “The Blue Bird” will be shown at 2:00 PM and “Departures” at 7:00 PM in Classroom Building Room 129 at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. Doors will open 20 minutes before show time at both campuses.

This year’s Japanese Film Festival will feature two contemporary movies which present typical issues in Japanese society. These Japanese films will not only entertain but will also promote understanding of modern and traditional Japanese life. The films will be shown in Japanese with English subtitles. Admission is free. First come, first served...seats are limited.

“I previewed both of these films and thought each one was terrific,” said Janice Harris, a member of the JASWY board. “‘The Blue Bird’ steps up to the difficult

problem of bullying – of anyone, anywhere -- and offers a moving, positive, unforgettable response. Hiroshi Abe, who is superb as the main character, embodies Gandhi's insight: be the change you want to see in the world. As for 'Departures,' it is simply stunning. I laughed and cried. No wonder it earned an Oscar. What's it about? Living, eating, loving, dying, and music. It expands your mind and heart."

"The Japanese Film Festival has brought some fine films to Wyoming over the last few years, and it's also given us an entertaining look at life in a country about which most of us know far too little. It's great to be welcoming this event back on campus for another year," said Dr. Philip Holt, Chairman of the Dept. of Modern & Classical Languages.

"Departures" was a big box office hit in Japan, won 10 Japanese Academy Awards, and was also the Winner of the 2009 academy award for Best Foreign Language Film," added Ken Matsuno, President of JASWY. "The Blue Bird" is a timely film which deals with school bullying in Japan in a unique and emotionally touching way," Matsuno also said. "These are excellent, heart-warming, high quality films that are not widely available in the U.S. They should be a real treat for Wyoming audiences of all ages."

The Japanese Film Festival is co-sponsored by the Modern & Classical Languages Dept., English Dept., Honors Program, and History Dept. of UW as well as UW RSO Wyoming Honors Organization in Laramie, Anime Club of LCCC in Cheyenne, Consulate General of Japan at Denver, and Japan Foundation in Los Angeles.

JASWY was founded by Laramie residents in December 2005. JASWY is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit tax-exempt organization whose mission is "to promote understanding and friendship between the people of Wyoming and Japan through cultural, social, educational and professional interaction." For more information about JASWY and the Film Festival, visit [www.jaswy.org](http://www.jaswy.org)

**Contact  
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**Event Information:**

Japanese Film Festival

2:00 PM and 4:00PM, **Feb.20** at LCCC in **Cheyenne**

2:00 PM and 7:00PM, **Feb.27** at UW in **Laramie**

Science Center bldg room121 of LCCC in Cheyenne

Classroom Building Room 129 at the University of Wyoming

Free Admission, open seating, Free popcorn