

**SAMURAI WEEK IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Japanese Diplomatic Mission to the U.S.

*150 years ago, the world had yet to discover Japan, and the people of Japan had never seen America...*

Japan Information & Culture Center, Embassy of Japan presents



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# *The Hidden Blade*

Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm

Honor, loyalty and love are at stake in *The Hidden Blade*, the second film in director Yoji Yamada's acclaimed samurai trilogy which began with the Oscar-nominated *Twilight Samurai* and ended with *Love and Honor* (shown at the JICC last October).

Katagiri is an honest, low-ranking samurai struggling to adapt as the way of the samurai fades and Western influences begin to take hold in mid 19<sup>th</sup> century Japan. Raised to respect tradition, the modernization of Japan's political and military methods is forcing Katagiri to look to the future. Publicly he tries to maintain his footing, paying heed to the demanding moral code of the samurai while striving to master new military technology. Privately he is secretly in love with his family's maid. His passion leads him to rescue her from a loveless marriage, scandalously carrying the low-caste young woman away on his back. When an old friend, the clan's best swordsman, is arrested in Edo for plotting against the Shogunate, Katagiri comes under suspicion. Ordered to kill the 'traitor' to prove his allegiance, the loyal samurai is faced with one final challenge to his principles.

Japanese with English subtitles. Rated R. 132min, 2004. Directed by Yoji Yamada.

This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and granted on a first come, first served basis.

Doors close at 7:00 pm.

**Reservations required. Only two (2) spaces can be reserved at a time. If you wish to reserve more spaces, please send additional email requests. Please send your name, affiliation, and the name of your guest to [jicrsvp@embjapan.org](mailto:jicrsvp@embjapan.org).**

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