

Movie screening at wolves book launch

A werewolf horror movie will be screened at a special book launch.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the University of Hertfordshire's Open Graves, Open Minds project.

To celebrate the occasion, the Art Deco-style Odyssey Cinema in St Albans is hosting an exclusive event in partnership with the Hatfield-based university to launch the project's new book, *In the Company of Wolves: Wolves and Wild Children*. The launch event at 6.30pm on Saturday, February 29 will include a screening of *The Company of Wolves*.

Based on Angela Carter's lycanthropic reworkings of *Little Red Riding Hood*, the Gothic fantasy horror directed by Neil Jordan stars Sarah Patterson, *Murder, She Wrote's* Angela Lansbury, *The Crying Game* actor Stephen Rea, and David Warner.

The evening will explore how werewolves continue to capture people's imagination and are represented in a variety of ways and different media.

Sam George, senior lecturer in literature at the university and convener of Open Graves, Open Minds, said: "We're celebrating the importance of storytelling and myth - never stray from the path, never eat a windfall apple, and never trust a man whose eyebrows meet in the middle!"

"And we're also conveying a more serious message. The book will see us uncover the wolf behind the werewolf."

"Our accounts of children raised by wolves will redeem the image of the big bad wolf that filled our childhood nightmares



Movie *The Company of Wolves* will be screened at The Odyssey Cinema in St Albans at an Open Graves, Open Minds project book launch

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Dr Sam George, senior lecturer in literature and convener of the University of Hertfordshire's Open Graves, Open Minds project

and prepare the ground for the reintroduction of the wolf in parts of the UK in the 21st century.

"It's very exciting."

The book focuses on the cultural significance of wolves and wild children, and werewolves as portrayed in different media and genres.

It begins with the wolf itself as it has been interpreted as a cultural symbol and how it figures in contemporary debates about wilderness and nature. Alongside this, it considers debates about wild children - often

thought to have been raised by wolves.

The collection continues with essays on werewolves and other shapeshifters as depicted in folk tales, literature, film and TV, concluding with the transition from animal to human in contemporary art, poetry and fashion.

Attendees will also be invited to celebrate 10 years of the Open Graves, Open Minds project with a werewolf themed cake.

Tickets are available from The Odyssey's website at odysseypictures.co.uk