

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alfred Hitchcock's East End in focus

A symposium and photography exhibition at London Metropolitan University aims to investigate the relationship between Alfred Hitchcock's childhood in the East End of London and his celebrated films.

The symposium, called 'Shadows of Doubt', is taking place as part of Photomonth, and will bring together experts from the worlds of film, photography, theatre, architecture and psychoanalysis.

Speakers include the Director Simon Usher, celebrated for his work at the RSC and presently working at The Globe; Dr Chris Oakley, leading psychoanalyst and author, with an interest in popular culture; Dr Nicholas Haeffner a Senior Lecturer at The Cass and author of the book 'Alfred Hitchcock', and Steven Jacobs author of 'The Wrong House: The Architecture of Alfred Hitchcock'.

A 32 page book including images from the exhibition and essays by the speakers will also be available.

The images in the exhibition are by David George and Spencer Rowell - both of whom will also speak at the symposium - and exploit the ambiguity that arises out of the uncertainty surrounding Hitchcock's early life.

Many people see the origin of Hitchcock's work in his childhood; he often related an anecdote about being locked in a cell at Leytonstone Police Station aged six, at the request of his father, as the source of his fear of authority. But what do we really know about his childhood experiences?

The photographs of David and Spencer enquire into Hitchcock's early memories and the possibility of them being the catalyst for his imagery, charged with childhood fears and anxieties.

David looks at the exterior, identifying places in the East End that might have caught Hitchcock's eye as a child and suggest what they may have looked like seen through the director's gothic sensibility.

Spencer, who is now studying for a PhD at London Met, uses interior photography to re-stage Hitchcock's childhood fears and anxieties.

The work in this exhibition will be added to London Metropolitan University's East End Archive.

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

Shadows of Doubt Symposium: Date 24th Nov 2011 at 1.30 for 1.50pm start.

Shadows of Doubt Exhibition: 21 Nov - 17 Dec 2011

Private View: 1st December 2011 6-8pm

Venue for both: Central House 59-63 Whitechapel High Street, London, E1 7PF

[More details about Shadows of Doubt](#)

Steven Jacobs

Steven Jacobs, author of *The Wrong House*, is an art historian who has published widely on the photographic and cinematic representations of architecture, cities, and landscapes. He currently lectures on film history at Saint Lukas College of Art Brussels and the Academy of Fine Arts in Ghent, and on urban studies at Erasmus University Rotterdam.

Simon Usher

Has been a theatre director for thirty years, working extensively in the UK on classics and new plays. He has a particular interest in Shakespeare and the Jacobean and Caroline playwrights, especially John Ford, and the European avant-garde. He has been associate Director at Leicester Haymarket and Artistic Director of the Belgrade Coventry. He has worked at the Royal Court, the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company. He has a longstanding interest in the cinema, especially the films of Robert Bresson, whom he is also writing about at present.

Dr Chris Oakley

Is a psychoanalyst and is the author of *Football Delirium* (2003).

Dr Nicholas Haeffner

Is Senior Lecturer in media and communications at The Cass, London Metropolitan University and is the author of *Alfred Hitchcock* (Pearson, 2005) and *Michael Winterbottom and Revolution Films* (Peter Lang, forthcoming 2012).

Photomonth

Is London's annual festival of photography taking place at galleries and venues all over the East End of London. [Visit the Photomonth website.](#)

[Visit David George's website.](#)

[Visit Spencer Rowell's website.](#)

For more information:

Michael Upton
Academic Leader
The Sir John Cass Faculty of Art, Media and Design
London Metropolitan University

020 7320 1977
m.upton@londonmet.ac.uk

Luke Foddy
PR & Internal Communications Assistant
London Metropolitan University

020 7133 2466
l.foddy@londonmet.ac.uk

www.londonmet.ac.uk