

The Angulo Brothers

The weirdest brothers in the world: Imprisoned for years by their father in a tiny Manhattan apartment in New York, their only contact with the world was watching films. Now they're in one!

Dressed in **dark** glasses, white shirts, black suits, and black ties – just like the robbers in Quentin Tarantino's **thrilling** movie Reservoir Dogs – they seem like any group of teenagers trying to look **cool**. But there is an **astonishing** reason why the six Angulo brothers try so hard to imitate their favourite film stars. For the Angulos, for 14 years, watching films wasn't just an escape from the outside world, it was their world. The six boys and their elder sister were imprisoned in an **overcrowded, messy** flat by an **eccentric** and **tyrannical** father who wanted to keep them from the horrors of modern life in New York. Home-schooled by their mother Susanne, the family was so **reclusive** that many neighbours didn't even know they were there. 'Once, we didn't leave the apartment for a whole year,' says Govinda.

However, the children were not completely cut off from the outside world. Their father had a collection of 5,000 DVDs and videos and the children watched these films time and time again. Now their story, which is stranger than any film, is told in a documentary film called The Wolfpack.

Their story

The family's extraordinary story began in the late eighties, when Susanne Reisenbichler, a young American hippy, met Oscar Angulo, a Peruvian tour guide and musician, on a trail to the majestic Machu Picchu ruins. They fell in love and moved to the US, finally to New York, where they started a family.





The six Angulo brothers: Bhagavan, Govinda, Narayana, Mukunda, Krisna, and Jagadesh.

Oscar, terrified that his children would fall into a life of drugs and crime, locked the front door and kept the key. The family lived on welfare money and only Oscar went out, usually for food or to collect new films for his children. The boys say they learned a lot about life from these films.

‘We learned about the importance of family from films such as *The Godfather*,’ says Govinda.

‘The films taught us that people are complex and ... flawed,’ says Narayana. ‘But there is so much beauty in the world.’

‘It was only when we got to our teens that we started to realize we were living a very different life to other people,’ Mukunda says. ‘We began to get more curious. One morning, I simply woke up and decided to go out while my dad was getting groceries.’

Wearing a scary home-made mask, modelled on the one worn by the killer in the horror film *Halloween*, the 15-year-old escaped onto the city streets. Shocked by his appearance, a shopkeeper called the police, but Mukunda refused to answer their questions. The police took him to a hospital, where he stayed for a week before being returned home.



‘I told Dad things were going to be different,’ says Mukunda. ‘He was angry, but he accepted it.’

Dressed in their Reservoir-Dogs look, all six began to go out on their own. It was on such a trip that they met documentary film maker Crystal Moselle.

‘We’re not supposed to talk to strangers,’ they told her, shyly, when she tried to talk to them. However, they grew to trust her because of their shared love of films. Eventually Crystal uncovered their incredible story and the boys, seeing it as a way to get jobs in the film industry, agreed to work with her to make a documentary.

‘I felt I had discovered a lost tribe,’ she says. A producer friend named them ‘the Wolfpack’.

Nowadays, the boys are living much more in the real world: they have friends and one has a girlfriend; most have jobs, three of them in the film industry. The two youngest have changed their names to Eddie and Glenn, and want to be rock musicians.



The Wolfpack in London:
Eddie, Mukunda, Govinda, Narayana.