

Saudi Arabia to allow movie theaters after decades of ban

11/12/2017 08:26 by admin

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia said that it will allow movie theaters to open in the conservative kingdom next year, for the first time in more than 35 years. It's the latest move as part of the young crown prince's efforts to socially reform the country.

FILE - Saudi men perform under a giant screen showing an image of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman during National Day ceremonies

The kingdom said that a resolution was passed on Monday paving way for licenses to be granted to commercial movie theaters.

Movie theaters were shut down in the 1980s during a wave of ultraconservatism in the country.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has pushed for greater social openings, including lifting a ban on women driving next year and bringing back concerts and other forms of entertainment to satiate the desires of the country's majority young population.

The government said that the first cinemas are expected to open in March 2018.

- AP