Critical Acclaim For
P.O.V.'s “49 UP”
By Michael Apted

“The Up series [is] perhaps the most original and innovative enterprise in the history of documentary film.”
— Richard Schickel, Time Magazine

“Intriguing. Grade: A”
— Alynda Wheat, Entertainment Weekly

“A complex look at midlife.”
— Peter Johnson, USA TODAY

“This cumulative saga has kept its fans riveted. Even so, 49 Up is a self-contained work, drawing on past films to bring vivid perspective to the present. It's a crash course in its subjects' lives — and in an era.”
— Frazier Moore, Associated Press

“One of the earliest experiments in the reality TV genre remains, after more than 40 years, one of the very best. It's the Michael Apted series of Up documentaries, and it only gets better with time. 3 ½ Stars (out of 4)”
— David Bianculli, New York Daily News

“What had originally been a 'glimpse of Britain's future' . . . has transformed over time into a long look at what it means to be human, to bud, to ripen. . . . Anyone who has lived long enough to have some sense of the past and more than a vague idea of the future should find resonance here.”
— Robert Lloyd, Los Angeles Times

“The Up series is on my list of the ten greatest films of all time.”
— Roger Ebert, Chicago Sun-Times

“The latest in a remarkable series of films by Michael Apted.”
— TV Guide

'If you watch only one program this week, don't miss 49 Up on P.O.V. . . . This remarkable documentary continues one of the most intense and intimate character studies in the history of television.”
— Kevin McDonough, United Feature Syndicate

“You want a reality series? Here's one that's been around since 1964 and still hasn't gotten stale.”
— Chicago Tribune

“The Up series comprises one of the most ambitious documentary projects in movie history. Make that the history of any medium, for how often do we get to witness a time-lapse study of human life?”
— Ty Burr, Boston Sunday Herald
“Quality alert. Filmmaker Michael Apted’s absorbing 49 Up . . . on the 20th anniversary season of P.O.V. . . . Fascinating pop anthropology.”
— Mike Duffy, Detroit Free Press

“P.O.V. offers a reminder of what documentary-style television once was — and could still be — with Michael Apted’s 49 Up. . . . In a society that relentlessly glorifies youth, there’s incredible value in the idea that the potential seen in the bud might not be as rich as the human life in full bloom.”
— Melanie McFarland, Seattle Post-Intelligencer

“Fascinating sociology and drama.”
— Mike Hughes, Gannett News Service

“Utterly riveting.”
— Joanne Ostrow, Denver Post

“49 Up revisits questions of love, marriage, career, class and prejudice.”
— Mark Humbert, Rocky Mountain News

“We discover that with only a few exceptions. . . . the paths these children were set on early in life held true for them.”
— Susan Young, Bay Area Newspapers

“The seventh and latest film in a remarkable series.”
— Joann Weintraub, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

“Fascinating, obsessive and sometimes disturbing.”
— Robert Philpot, Fort Worth Star-Telegram

“The latest film updates the participants' lives. And takes a bit of a turn that Apted certainly didn't anticipate.”
— Scott D. Pierce, Deseret Morning News

“In many ways, this real-life drama is much more involving and interesting than most of the characters we see on the primetime schedule.”
— Tom Dorsey, The Courier-Journal (Louisville, Ky.)

“In their middle age, [the subjects] all seem more at ease, more fully themselves and better able to reflect not only on their own lives but on what being a part of this experiment has meant. . . . Together, the ‘Up’ films set a gold standard for the documentary genre and fulfill the promise of what ‘reality TV’ can be.”
— Henrietta Walmark, The Globe (Toronto)

“Like time-lapse photography, the film mesmerizes as fully formed adults take shape from the germ of their 7-year-old selves. Unlike the scripted nonsense of today’s ‘reality TV,’ Apted chooses humanity.”
— Suzanne Schreiner, Pacific Northwest Inlander (Spokane, Wash.)

“[The subjects] offer fascinating sociology and drama. At 49, many people remain in the roles dictated by the British class system. Upper-class kids grew into comfort; working-class kids found adequacy. More fascinating are the ones who made big changes.”
— London Free Press (Canada)

“A unique and brilliant work.”
— Michael Giltz, The Huffington Post
“A mix of self-reflections, social commentary, and eloquent observations on the film as a process in itself.”
— Cynthia Fuchs, PopMatters.com

“Apted's series offers loyal viewers a treasured reminder of how quickly time passes: We watch the aging of the film's participants and naturally compare it with our own. . . . the best years of the participants' lives are probably unfolding as this doc was filmed.”
— Heather Havrilesky, Salon.com

“If you haven’t checked out this great documentary series . . . head straight for your TV and watch the latest installment.”
— Jusgo Del Jefe, Blogcritics.org