



**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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**