The Film: In 1964, a group of British 7-year-olds were interviewed about their lives and dreams in a groundbreaking television documentary, Seven Up. Since then, in one of the greatest projects in television history, renowned director Michael Apted has returned to film the same subjects every seven years, tracking their ups and downs. POV, which presented the U.S. broadcast premiere of 49 Up in 2007, returns with 56 Up to find the group settling into middle age and surprisingly upbeat. Through marriage and childbirth, poverty and illness, the “kids” have come to terms with both hope and disappointment. Winner, 2013 George Foster Peabody Award for the ‘Up’ series.

56 Up is a production of ITV Studios Limited. Like all the episodes of the Up series since 28 Up, 56 Up is a First Run Features release in the United States; it now available on DVD.

Selected Subjects: Thirteen of the original 14 subjects participate in 56 Up, including Tony, the charismatic cockney cabbie who has become so famous that another cabbie asked for his autograph instead of astronaut Buzz Aldrin’s; Neil, who went from happy child to homeless young adult to lay preacher; Peter, who dropped out of the series but has returned 28 years later with his band, wife and children; Jackie, who has gone through marriage, divorce and family deaths; Lynn, a children’s librarian whose goal as a 7-year-old was to work at Woolworth’s; John, first seen as an upper-class child and now working as a barrister and doing charitable work; Nick, who went from farm boy to Oxford University student to nuclear-fusion researcher; Bruce, who graduated Oxford, taught in Bangladesh and found the spouse he longed for; and Symon, a biracial child of a single mom who passed away at a young age.
Online:  POV’s website for 56 Up – [http://www.pbs.org/pov/56up/](http://www.pbs.org/pov/56up/) – offers a broad range of exclusive online content to enhance the PBS broadcast. Watch the full film online for free for a limited time following the broadcast (Oct. 15 – Nov. 13, 2013), view a video interview with the director, download a discussion guide and other viewing resources, and revisit the eras of the Up series.

Filmmaker’s Statement:  “This project has spanned my entire working life. It has been a unique and fulfilling experience, the one I treasure most in my career,” says director Michael Apted about the Up series. “I never know how each new film will turn out, except that it’ll be quite different from the last. 21 Up was full of hope, 28 was about children and responsibility, 35 was concerned with mortality when some were losing parents, and 49 had a sense of disappointment with lives maybe not fully achieved. Yet 56 Up is quite different again, which goes to prove, if nothing else, that our series mirrors life—and is always full of surprises.”

Filmmaker Bio:  Michael Apted (Director/Producer)
Since the 1960s, Michael Apted has helmed an extensive list of feature films and documentaries. His feature films include Gorillas in the Mist, Coal Miner’s Daughter, Gorky Park, Thunderheart, Nell, The World Is Not Enough, Enigma, Enough, Amazing Grace and The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader, the third installment in a series of films based on C.S. Lewis’ books. His most recent film, Chasing Mavericks, for Walden Media and Twentieth Century Fox, tells the true story of Jay Moriarity, the youngest person to surf Mavericks, a famous giant wave in Northern California.

Apted’s documentary credits include the Boris Grebenshikov film The Long Way Home, Incident at Oglala, Bring on the Night, Moving the Mountain, Me & Isaac Newton and his recent soccer film The Power of the Game. He also directed the official 2006 World Cup Film. But among Apted’s most widely recognized documentary directorial achievements are his internationally acclaimed, multi-award winning sequels based on the original Seven Up! documentary: 7 Plus Seven, 21 Up, 28 Up, 35 Up, 42 Up, 49 Up and the recent 56 Up, which aired on ITV in the United Kingdom and was released theatrically in the United States to much acclaim. The films have followed the lives of 14 Britons since the age of 7 in seven-year increments.

In addition to his documentary and feature work, Apted has worked extensively in television, including directing the first three episodes of HBO’s epic series Rome. Most recently, he directed two episodes of Showtime’s new series Masters of Sex, and the season finale of another new Showtime series, Ray Donovan.

Apted was born in England in 1941 and studied law and history at Cambridge University. He has received numerous awards and nominations for his extensive body of work, including a Grammy, British Academy Awards, a DGA Award and the International Documentary Association’s highest honor, the IDA Career Achievement Award. By the order of Queen Elizabeth II, Apted was made a Companion of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George for his work in the film and television industries.

Apted joined the Directors Guild of America in 1978, was elected to the Western Directors Council in 1997 and became the fifth vice president of the organization’s national board in 2002. He was elected president at the DGA biennial convention in June 2003. He served three terms as president of the Guild, which he concluded in July 2009. He has served as secretary-treasurer since 2011. He is also a governor of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.


Credits: Directors: Michael Apted, Paul Almond
Producers: Michael Apted, Claire Lewis
Editor: Kim Horton
Executive Producer: Alexander Gardiner
Production Executive: Karen Stockton
Director of Photography: George Jesse Turner

Running Time: 146:46

**POV Series Credits:**
Executive Producer: Simon Kilmurry
Co-Executive Producer: Cynthia López
VP, Programming & Production: Chris White
Series Producer: Andrew Catauro

Awards and Festivals:
‘Up’ Series, George Foster Peabody Award, 2013
Michael Apted, Lifetime Achievement Award, Traverse City Film Festival, 2013
Mostly British Film Festival, San Francisco, 2013
Charleston Film Festival, 2013
BermudaDocs Film Festival, 2013
Wisconsin Film Festival, 2013
Rochester International Film Festival, 2013
New Zealand International Film Festival, 2013

The film’s official website— [http://firstrunfeatures.com/56up/](http://firstrunfeatures.com/56up/)—includes a list of screenings, news, press and a link to buy the DVD.

Outreach: POV works with educators, public television stations and national and community groups across the country to present over 600 free screenings across the country. For a list of upcoming screening events, visit to [www.pbs.org/pov/outreach](http://www.pbs.org/pov/outreach). In addition, POV and nationally recognized media educator Dr. Faith Rogow develop discussion guides and standards-aligned lesson plans for each of our films. The *56 Up* discussion guide includes background information on major historical and cultural events in the U.S., Great Britain and
the world since the inception of the documentary in 1964, as well as prompts for dialogue and a list of further educational resources. The lesson plan asks students to examine the differences between reality TV and documentaries. Join POV’s Community Network to borrow the film from our free Lending Library.


PBS INDIES SHOWCASE: As part of its commitment to provide viewers with year-round access to the creative work of independent filmmakers, the PBS INDIES SHOWCASE is scheduled during the weeks between the seasons of the award-winning series POV and INDEPENDENT LENS and will feature films from both. While PBS features the work of independent filmmakers throughout the year, the SHOWCASE is designed to spotlight their work and increase audience visibility for this important genre.

POV: Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and now in its 26th season on PBS, the award-winning POV is the longest-running showcase on American television to feature the work of today’s best independent documentary filmmakers. POV has brought more than 365 acclaimed documentaries to millions nationwide. POV films have won every major film and broadcasting award, including 32 Emmys, 15 George Foster Peabody Awards, 11 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards, three Academy Awards® and the Prix Italia. In 2012, POV achieved a new milestone, winning five News & Documentary Emmy® Awards. Since 1988, POV has pioneered the art of presentation and outreach using independent nonfiction media to build new communities in conversation about today’s most pressing social issues. Visit www.pbs.org/pov.

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