

Excerpt	Critic Name	Review Date	Sponsor
Tolkien may have been the most important modern fa...e bearing his name won't stand the test of time.	James Berardinelli	11-May-19	ReelViews
Thomas Newman's score is lovely, cinematography by...ukoski, they've managed to fashion a fine film.	Lisa Johnson Mandell	11-May-19	AtHomeInHollywood.com
A great showcase of mapping of Tol...really takes us into knowing more about the man.	Bill Watters	11-May-19	Bleeding Cool
It gives new meaning to the term "fan fiction."	Matt Brunson	11-May-19	Creative Loafing
Whether you've read The Hobbit or The Lord of the...lp be moved by this better than average bio-pic.	Wendy Shreve	11-May-19	Featuring Film
While Tolkien isn't quite as exciting as one might...utifully visualised and at times even excellent.	Maria Lattila	10-May-19	Film Inquiry
For TOLKIEN to be a good film, it is all about the...on and Beresford have penned a wonderful script.	Jeanne Kaplan	10-May-19	Kaplan vs. Kaplan
Devout fans of "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the R...aturing a strong performance from Nicholas Hoult	David Kaplan	10-May-19	Kaplan vs. Kaplan
If you're going to tell the story of one of the mo...ry, why not infuse it with more ... imagination?	Richard Roeper	10-May-19	Chicago Sun-Times
As far as its storytelling, it's good but rarely rises to the level of inspiring.	Alan Ng	10-May-19	Film Threat
An engaging biopicture that hints at the origins of the themes and style of The Lord of the Rings.	Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat	10-May-19	Spirituality and Practice
Hoult and Collins are likable enough in the center...ought about Bilbo, Frodo, Gandalf, and the rest.	Jeffrey M. Anderson	10-May-19	Common Sense Media
Although it boasts a love of beauty and art, Tolki...h of the magic inherent in its subject untapped.	Brandy McDonnell	10-May-19	The Oklahoman
Why do people keep making films about writers?	Anthony Lane	10-May-19	New Yorker
You don't have to be a Lord of the Rings fan to ap...lly appreciate this sharp biographical effort...	Josh Terry	10-May-19	Deseret News (Salt Lake City)
If your image of Tolkien is the late-in-life portr...s your chance to recast him from fusty to lusty.	Chris Knight	10-May-19	National Post
For a film that seems to aspire to greatness, "Tol...ch Tolkien himself was never accused of lacking.	Matthew Rozsa	10-May-19	Salon.com
While sharing with audiences the biography of a gr...Tolkien's influences for his two greatest tales.	Sarah Gopaul	10-May-19	Digital Journal
Director Dome Karukoski treats Tolkien and his sto...ither the story nor portrayal ever come to life.	Adam Graham	10-May-19	Detroit News
For someone who shared his vast imagination with t...han Tolkien the film can even begin to envision.	Kiko Martinez	10-May-19	San Antonio Current
Tolkien casts a delicate spell: it's not difficult...be enchanted and even transported by its charms.	Matthew Lickona	10-May-19	San Diego Reader
Burdened by lots of scenes of dubious authenticity...g take on someone of whom most know very little.	Tony Medley	10-May-19	CWEB.com
An exceptionally good-looking film not only feat...luenced by pieces and events in his early years.	John Urbancich	10-May-19	Your Movies (cleveland.com)
Finnish Director Dome Karukoski recreates the even...ld as accessible on film as we would have liked.	Linda and Al Lerner	10-May-19	Movies and Shakers
An unabashedly earnest, homoerotic Edwardian Dead...ty that could stand to be a lot more homoerotic.	Vincent Mancini	10-May-19	FilmDrunk
Giving priority to Peter Jackson's blockbuster doe...of life is seen as a boyhood tentpole adventure.	Armond White	10-May-19	National Review
Film is good, not great. But Hoult and Collins are a nice match, and fans should enjoy the film.	James Verniere	10-May-19	Boston Herald
The production is handsome, and the cast seem comm...ters don't change enough to make the story move.	Dan Lybarger	10-May-19	Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
If you are a fan of The Lord of the Rings or The H... and Nicholas Hoult. Beautifully shot and acted.	Carla Renata	10-May-19	The Curvy Film Critic
The result is a work that is filled with interest...ces that the real Tolkien would have scoffed at.	Courtney Small	10-May-19	That Shelf
Tolkien approaches its subject with maybe a little...tic of subjects), his love of myths and legends.	Sheila O'Malley	10-May-19	RogerEbert.com
As another example of an artist not as intriguing ...agination and sense of adventure as its subject.	Todd Jorgenson	10-May-19	Cinemalogue
The difficulty isn't so much that the picture is r...t that it's stately, ponderous, and rather dull.	Frank Swietek	10-May-19	One Guy's Opinion
Will provoke a stronger reaction from Lord of the Rings fans than the average viewer.	Dustin Chase	10-May-19	Galveston Daily News
The movie doesn't nail its attempts to depict how...create an appealing portrait of a brainy misfit.	Robert Horton	9-May-19	HeraldNet (Everett, WA)
What's left is a kaleidoscope of well-staged episo...itain than real-life being lived by real people.	Cary Darling	9-May-19	Houston Chronicle
As welcome as second breakfast.	Jordan Hoffman	9-May-19	amNewYork
Hoult and Collins made the Ronald/Edith relationship vital and romantic.	Nell Minow	9-May-19	Movie Mom
But while the war scenes feel tacked on and the lo...the "Lord of the Rings" origins are constructed.	Michael Smith	9-May-19	Tulsa World
If only the film could live in these relationships... something, anything that inspired Middle Earth.	Radheyana Simonpillai	9-May-19	NOW Toronto
It's perhaps understandable that the Tolkien estat...because it simplifies and fudges, as biopics do.	Bob Mondello	9-May-19	NPR
Tolkien is quietly enjoyable on its own merits, th...d the great writer likely won't find many clues.	Karen Gordon	9-May-19	Original Cin
Truth be told for a movie about J.R.R. Tolkien, th... and wonder - very much unlike his body of work.	Matt Hudson	9-May-19	What I Watched Tonight
The outline of Tolkien's life is accurate, but in the end, the story feels only like an outline.	Mark Dujsik	9-May-19	Mark Reviews Movies
Tolkien is to filmmaking what spoon-feeding is to infants.	Peter Howell	9-May-19	Toronto Star
Maybe Tolkien had a fascinating life story full of...inspired his future work, but it isn't told here.	Rex Reed	9-May-19	Observer
Throughout the movie, Lasse Frank Johannessen's ex...raphy delivers an exceptional visual experience.	Michael Calleri	9-May-19	Niagara Gazette
A life as singular as John Ronald Reuel Tolkien's ...een crafted from outtakes of Dead Poets Society.	Megan Basham	9-May-19	WORLD
The result doesn't rise above the insight of a Wikipedia page.	David Sims	9-May-19	The Atlantic
The performances are wonderful, especially Hoult and Collins, who exude a charming chemistry.	Josh Kupecki	9-May-19	Austin Chronicle
Still, "Tolkien" is solid if unspectacular. Temper...bookish option if superheroes aren't your thing.	Brad Keefe	9-May-19	Columbus Alive
There are moments of elf magic in "Tolkien," when ...f the Rings" - until it seems to lose its nerve.	Sean P. Means	9-May-19	The Movie Cricket
Well acted but not as gripping a story as one migh...s love of words. But where is his love for life.	Jackie K. Cooper	9-May-19	jackiecooper.com
Tolkien might have been a better movie if it had been about a writer named J.R.R. Tolbert.	Rob Thomas	9-May-19	Capital Times (Madison, WI)
Tolkien has plenty to recommend it, beginning wi...rformance from Nicholas Hoult in the title role.	Rafer Guzman	9-May-19	Newsday
[The movie] teems with many on-the-nose moments. A...it teeters on the edge of genuine obnoxiousness.	Glenn Kenny	9-May-19	New York Times
Hoult's always there to prioritize John's feelings...comes into contact with his ultimate inspiration.	Brian Orndorf	8-May-19	Blu-ray.com
'Tolkien' is more of a sketch of the future author...influences, rather than a fully realized canvas.	Bob Bloom	8-May-19	Journal and Courier (Lafayette, IN)
Tolkien is a little on-the-nose. But there is also...s handsomely mounted, well-cast, and well-acted.	Gary Thompson	8-May-19	Philadelphia Daily News
Somewhere underneath the superficial biopic is a s...student waylaid by the senseless horrors of war.	David Bax	8-May-19	Battleship Pretension
Childhood angst plus wartime trauma yields escapist fantasies for the ages.	Kam Williams	8-May-19	Sly Fox
The biggest problem with Tolkien is that it lacks ...eeling like they were lifted from better movies.	Micheal Compton	8-May-19	Bowling Green Daily News
Tolkien gives us the passing of a vanished England...by him for us, nor the mystery of how he won it.	Ty Burr	8-May-19	Boston Globe
Anyone who was ever a Tolkien fan -- even if only ... will find something to interest and enjoy here.	Matthew Bond	8-May-19	The Mail on Sunday (UK)
Tolkien is a flawed film for sure, but the last ha...feels it's easy to forgive the earlier problems.	Edward Douglas	8-May-19	The Weekend Warrior
Tolkien supposedly details the inspiration for f...orlds and adventures, yet there's no magic here.	Greg Maki	8-May-19	Star-Democrat (Easton, MD)
With a faint plop, "Tolkien" lands in the marshy middle ground of disappointment.	Michael Phillips	8-May-19	Chicago Tribune
For all the costumes, sweet melodies, and ways of ...ircumstance in favor of something more gripping.	Aaron Neuwirth	8-May-19	We Live Entertainment
Tolkien has a high production value, but is woeful...d-looking film that struggles to be interesting.	Julian Roman	8-May-19	MovieWeb
Thankfully, Tolkien is not four hours like an actu...direction, it sure does sometimes feel that long	Robert Kojder	8-May-19	Flickering Myth
Tolkien proves that there's a great deal of schola...nd, how could anyone ever be Bored of the Rings?	Kelly Vance	8-May-19	East Bay Express
Tolkien is first rate all the way around.	Neely Swanson	8-May-19	Easy Reader (California)
Stately, handsome and ferociously romantic, the ne... there is some excellent tea drinking to be had.	Brad Wheeler	8-May-19	Globe and Mail
...despite strong performances and production, for...ng companion piece [to Peter Jackson's trilogy].	Marisa Carpico	8-May-19	The Pop Break
A pleasing if somewhat routine bildungsroman about...ly Dickensian rise of John Ronald Reuel Tolkien.	Kyle Smith	8-May-19	National Review
When people getting hot for ancient languages is t...citing part of your movie, you've got a problem.	Matt Singer	8-May-19	ScreenCrush
The character development successfully makes peopl...ctly British script containing dry, witty humor.	Samantha Incorvaia	8-May-19	Arizona Republic
A stately and empathetic biopic of the LOTR author...eveal any great insights about his life and art.	Christopher Lloyd	8-May-19	The Film Yap
Like the dullish first chapter of a promising "Masterpiece Theatre" mini-series/biography	Roger Moore	8-May-19	Movie Nation
This infuriatingly reductive biopic of the Hobbit...e inspiration. Literal-minded and free of magic.	MaryAnn Johanson	8-May-19	Flick Philosopher
There's a laughable irony to the film. It preaches... Ten Commandments, yet exhibits so little of it.	Asher Luberto	8-May-19	Orlando Weekly
There's nothing super extraordinary that happens t...sted in the informatively calm phlegmatic story.	Jason Escamilla	7-May-19	EskimoTV
It's main flaw to me is that it doesn't know exact...it works, and as a life story it is interesting.	Aine O'Connor	7-May-19	Sunday Independent (Ireland)
At its best, Tolkien creates, within the audience,...of the forces that gave rise to Tolkien's works.	Mick LaSalle	7-May-19	San Francisco Chronicle
Karukoski never really succeeds in depicting the s... and later soldier, Tolkien as all that unusual.	Sara Stewart	7-May-19	New York Post
If you're looking for subtlety in David Gleeson an...Beresford's screenplay, expect to come up short.	Brent Hankins	7-May-19	The Lamplight Review
Tolkien isn't necessarily a bad movie, it's just a...ional, while others feel distant and disjointed.	Germain Lussier	7-May-19	io9.com
It's wonderful: part romance, part buddy film, part period piece, part war movie.	Chuck Yarborough	7-May-19	Cleveland Plain Dealer
Tolkien is anodyne enough that no one should be ... by it, let alone deeply moved in any other way.	Michael O'Sullivan	7-May-19	Washington Post

It celebrates the love of art, not just the love of a particular piece of art.	Kenneth R. Morefield	7-May-19	1More Film Blog
Tolkien is definitely sentimental, but if you're a...an, this isn't anything new -- it's appropriate.	Alexandra August	7-May-19	CBR
There are times when the Tolkien the character see...erested in his past than Tolkien the movie does.	Jesse Hassenger	6-May-19	AV Club
Tolkien is a pleasant watch. Its earnestness might...d friendship are all that is left to believe in.	Sophie Maxwell	6-May-19	One Room With A View
But that imagination is what is most conspicuously...o a pose of intellectual and aesthetic timidity.	Justin Chang	6-May-19	Los Angeles Times
It's no simple walk through Mordor as we get a gli... of the Rings creator J.R.R. Tolkien in Tolkien.	Danielle Solzman	6-May-19	Solzy at the Movies
All in all, Tolkien makes for an enjoyable and int... leaves you with a satisfying sense of comfort.	Deirdre Molumby	6-May-19	entertainment.ie
LOTR is an enlightenment tale. Frodo sheds karma, ...his scanty 'Tolkien' contains none of the above.	Mark Jackson	5-May-19	Epoch Times
It uses its imagination to build a thoughtful and charming portrait.	Matthew Norman	5-May-19	London Evening Standard
For the most part this is stolid film-making that ...s the imagination and creativity of its subject.	Wendy Ide	5-May-19	Observer (UK)
The title character of this biopic is as dull and stodgy and the movie's title.	Harvey S. Karten	3-May-19	Big Apple Reviews
Overall, 'Tolkien' is cinematically interesting an...he early and middle years of JRR Tolkien's life.	Lynnette Nicholas	3-May-19	Black Girl Nerds
Tolkien may disappoint fans looking for a LOTR ori...hose who like stories of art, love & friendship.	Rosie Knight	3-May-19	IGN Movies
In the same vein as Finding Neverland and especial...g story in a welter of safe biopic contrivances.	Alan Jones	3-May-19	Radio Times
Handsomely made in the customarily fastidious styl...l dramas, Tolkien is strongly served by Hoult...	Todd McCarthy	3-May-19	Hollywood Reporter
The film - stately, well-acted, and ultimately ins...l takes on the vagaries of artistic inspiration.	Andrew Barker	3-May-19	Variety
Hoult brings a quiet, romantic intensity to the yo...er-egg references peppered throughout the movie.	Chris Nashawaty	3-May-19	Entertainment Weekly
Tolkien is an earnest and well-acted dramatization...y its adherence to the typical biopic framework.	Sandy Schaefer	3-May-19	ScreenRant
Throws into sharp relief the hitherto unexplored t... yet your own story is embarrassingly contrived.	William Bibbiani	3-May-19	TheWrap
The film preaches of the love of creative freedom,...finds no original form of expression of its own.	Derek Smith	3-May-19	Slant Magazine
An essential problem with Tolkien is its tone: you...ipt which doesn't bear up to all the worthiness.	Fionnuala Halligan	3-May-19	Screen International
In the end, the tragedy of the film is that it's n...it's certainly not an effective literary biopic.	Kevin Maher	2-May-19	Times (UK)
Tolkien's family have disowned the film and I can't say that I blame them.	Chris Hunneysett	2-May-19	Daily Mirror (UK)
Drinking deeply of contrasts, between life and art...s a small enchantment in its archetypal reverie.	David Crow	2-May-19	Den of Geek
Overall Tolkien is a touching, entertaining, nicel...n of one of the most popular books ever written.	Paul Whittington	2-May-19	Irish Independent
Tolkien, for all its relatively minor deficiencies, is above all a spirited romance.	Brian Viner	2-May-19	Daily Mail (UK)
It's a gentle tale with terror and love as its central theme. Epic storytelling at its best.	Ed Fortune	2-May-19	Starburst
The film develops into a period version of a rites...ulthood - a sort of Edwardian American Graffiti.	Geoffrey Macnab	2-May-19	Independent (UK)
This gentle biopic is not without charm, if only t...s montages of Nazgûl charging the Western Front.	Joseph Walsh	2-May-19	The Arts Desk
The film fails to drill down into the creative process in any meaningful way.	Alistair Harkness	2-May-19	Scotsman
Tolkien is a biopic covering the early life of J.R...even forgetting it as I'm trying to remember it.	Deborah Ross	2-May-19	The Spectator
Its earnestness and idealism are refreshing.	Peter Bradshaw	2-May-19	Guardian
Tolkien takes a traditional, by-the-numbers approa...ugh on its own terms, thanks to a likeable cast.	Matthew Turner	2-May-19	The List
Tolkien the film does not memorialise or re-contex...heory of Everything-iser and hopes for the best.	Robbie Collin	1-May-19	Daily Telegraph (UK)
Tolkien, at least, provides welcome relief after t... film hagiographies of esteemed English writers.	Alan Corr	1-May-19	RTÉ (Ireland)
Director Dome Karukoski wisely understates the lin...roto-Bilbo guiding Tolkien through the trenches.	Danny Leigh	1-May-19	Financial Times
Karukoski's entertaining film boasts flair and nar...tely break free of its traditional biopic frame.	Liz Beardsworth	30-Apr-19	Empire Magazine
Lord of the Rings allusions are just the hook. Fan...story is about a generation scythed down by war.	Richard Trenholm	29-Apr-19	CNET
Tolkien follows the well-worn path of the literary...even consider the separation of art from artist.	Matthew Thrift	29-Apr-19	Little White Lies
Director Dome Karukoski peppers the film with cuta...of Peter Jackson's 'The Fellowship of the Ring'.	Philip De Semlyen	29-Apr-19	Time Out