

Hugh Jackman Rocks in 'X-Men Origins: Wolverine,' But Movie Falters

Submitted by [BrianTT](#) [1] on May 1, 2009 - 12:01pm

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Rating: **2.5/5.0**

CHICAGO – How did Wolverine get to Northern Alberta, Canada, where he makes his first appearance in a bar cage match in [Bryan Singer](#) [15]’s “[X-Men](#) [16]”? And what about all those flashbacks to his dark past and the experiments that turned him into a legend? “[X-Men Origins: Wolverine](#) [14]” with [Hugh Jackman](#) [8] attempts to answer those questions and more but proves that perhaps some mysteries are better left unsolved.

The first big summer movie of 2009 has all of the ingredients of a buzz-worthy blockbuster - star power, a brand name, major CGI effects, a marketing budget that end world poverty, tie-in toys and games, etc. So why does the final film feel so anticlimactic?



[Read Brian Tallerico's full review of "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" in our reviews section.](#) [17]

Before I get too far, I should be blunt - “X-Men Origins: Wolverine” is not that bad. But it’s also not good. It’s one of the most balanced-out, down-the-middle, apathetic shrugs of a summer tentpole that I’ve seen in the many years that I’ve been following the summer blockbuster. There’s just no life to it, no creative energy in either a positive or negative direction. The best word to describe it is unremarkable, negatively or positively.

The shockingly methodical and by-the-numbers screenplay by David Benioff and Skip Woods opens over a hundred years ago, where we meet the boys who would become Logan/Wolverine (Hugh Jackman) and Victor/Sabretooth ([Liev Schreiber](#) [9]). Remember the Victor Creed who worked with Magneto in Singer’s first film? Yeah, forget that. The character and history have been reimagined from both that film and the comics, turning the two legendary characters into brothers.

‘X-Men Origins: Wolverine’ stars Hugh Jackman, Ryan Reynolds, Liev Schreiber, Dominic Monaghan, Lynn Collins, Danny Huston, Daniel Henney, and Taylor Kitsch. It was written by David Benioff and Skip Woods and directed by Gavin Hood. It opens on May 1st, 2009. It is rated PG-13.



[Continuing reading for Brian Tallerico's full "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" review.](#) [17]



Hugh Jackman reprises the role that made him a superstar, as the fierce fighting machine Wolverine, who possesses amazing healing powers, adamantium claws, and a primal fury known as berserker rage.

Photo credit: Fox/James Fisher

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