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Walt Disney (Tom Hanks) courts P.L. Travers (Emma Thompson), the author of *Mary Poppins*, for the rights to develop her book into a feature film. PHOTO BY DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC.

Tearing Up All Over Again

'Saving Mr. Banks' renews Mary Poppins charm

OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY JUDGE DARLEEN ORTEGA



I went to see "Saving Mr. Banks" with pretty low expectations. I'm a fan of Emma Thompson, and "Mary Poppins" was a childhood favorite of mine, but I'm more jaded now. I am fairly resistant to

too-neat resolutions of complex social conflicts, and this film about how Hollywood mogul Walt Disney overcame the objections of the author, P. L. Travers, to the film adaptation of her beloved

stories seemed fraught with potential for irritation. I smelled sentimentality from the trailer and was prepared to be annoyed or, at least, underwhelmed.

Instead, I was amused, and charmed, and blubbered through much of it.

That's not to say it's a film without flaws. I did indeed notice plenty of oversimplification while watching, even without knowing anything about the back story. Since seeing it, I've discussed it

with friends and read up on Travers and see a lot of valid criticisms of the material.

The relationship between Travers and Disney, for example, was more complicated in real life; both likely behaved worse than what is depicted on-screen, and many, perhaps most of her objections to the Disney treatment of Mary

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