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Feeling Through

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Feeling Through

Abstract

This is a review of the short film, *Feeling Through* (2021), directed by Doug Roland.

Keywords

DeafBlind, Homelessness, Disability Awareness

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Author Notes

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**Feeling Through (2021), dir. Doug Roland
From the Unstoppable Program**

On a cold winter's night in New York City a young homeless man, Tereek, is using his phone, trying to find a place to stay for the night. He is approached by a beggar, but he tells the beggar that he has no money. The beggar moves down the street and approaches another man. But the other man just stands there, ignoring the beggar. The beggar moves on. Curious, Tereek walks down to see the man that ignored the beggar, only to learn that the man is both blind and deaf. The man, Artie, senses Tereek's presence and holds up a sign that identifies him as blind and deaf. The sign says to tap Artie if you can help and Tereek does. From that point on Tereek and Artie develop an amazing relationship. Tereek does not want to be there. He wants to be at his girlfriend's house where he has been invited to spend the night. But Artie has no one else to help him.

So Tereek takes Artie to the bus stop, then to the bodega where he buys Artie a drink. He also buys himself a candy bar and takes a ten-dollar bill out of Artie's wallet for himself. Then

Tereek takes Artie back to the bus stop. Here they communicate. Artie writes his words on a tablet of paper and Tereek writes out his words on Artie's hand.

When Artie and Tereek finally get on the right bus, Tereek tells the bus driver to tap Artie when the bus gets to his stop. The bus driver seems indifferent, and this irritates Tereek. So Tereek says again, this time very forcefully, "You have to tap him when he reaches his stop. He just wants to get home, man." The bus driver responds by saying that he will take care of the man. Then Tereek says in anger, "His name is Artie."

As Tereek and Artie go their separate ways, Tereek writes on Artie's hand: "U OK?" Artie nods "yes." Then in one the most poignant moments of the film (and there are many poignant moments in this short film), Artie writes back on Tereek's hand: "YOU'LL BE OK." Then the men hug. As Tereek gets off the bus and heads to wherever he can find a place to sleep now that he's missed the chance to spend the night with his girlfriend, he encounters someone sleeping in a doorway, still holding his beggar's cup. Tereek takes the money he took from Artie and puts it in the beggar's cup. In the end Tereek's life (remember he is homeless and now has no money) is much richer for his interactions with Artie on a cold winter's night in New York City.