



The image is a movie poster for 'Feeling Through'. The background is a dark, moody scene of a subway station. In the foreground, a large, close-up profile of a man's face with dark skin and curly hair is shown, looking towards the left. In the background, two men are sitting on a bench. The man on the left is wearing a dark green jacket and blue jeans, looking down. The man on the right is wearing a light-colored jacket and pants, looking forward. The title 'Feeling Through' is written in a white, cursive font across the middle. Below the title, it says 'A FILM BY DOUG ROLAND'. There are several handwritten phrases in white ink scattered around the title and background, including 'the close door', 'please leave', 'it's ok', 'Thank you', 'Can I kiss you?', 'No problem', and 'please!'. The overall atmosphere is somber and contemplative.

Feeling Through

A FILM BY DOUG ROLAND

Feeling Through

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Link to trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/392102431>



Aspect Ratio:

16x9

Shoot Format:

HD

Runtime:

18:17

Filmed in:

NYC



- The 1st ever film starring a DeafBlind actor
- Made in partnership with the Helen Keller National Center





Logline

When a teen in need reluctantly puts aside his own challenges to help a DeafBlind man, their connection leads the teen to realize it is he who is helped.

Synopsis

'Feeling Through' is a coming of age story that follows 18-year-old Tereek, a kind but guarded teen wandering the streets of New York, desperate for a place to crash, and his encounter with Artie, a DeafBlind man in need of help getting home. What begins as an awkward meeting between strangers quickly becomes an intimate bond between friends, and a nightlong journey that forever changes Tereek. Ultimately, Artie's intuitive ability to understand Tereek's struggles inspires Tereek to realize he possesses the inner strength to confront his challenges.



Director's Statement

While on my way home late one evening in August 2011 in New York City, I encountered a man standing on a deserted street corner holding a sign that read, "I am deaf and blind and need help crossing the street." Over the next hour, I got to know this man, Artemio, while we sat and waited for his bus. He'd write in his notebook and I'd respond by tracing letters on his palm. When his bus finally arrived, Artemio and I embraced, and his warmth was so genuine that I felt like I was saying goodbye to a dear friend.

Artemio left a lasting impression on me, not merely because he was the first DeafBlind person I had ever met, but, even more so, because he was a kind, charismatic person with whom I felt a mutual bond. I was immediately inspired to write *Feeling Through*, about the unlikely connection between a teen without a home and a DeafBlind man, but it would be seven years until I aligned with the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) – a partnership that allowed me to tell this story with the authenticity it deserves.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work closely with HKNC to learn about the community and to cast a DeafBlind actor (a film history first). Ultimately, though, *Feeling Through* is not a film about DeafBlindness. The sum total of *Feeling Through*—and the powerful experiences and meaningful relationships that created it—comes down to a simple understanding: our capacity to connect transcends our differences.

Feeling Through is screened alongside a making-of documentary and panel discussion with the creator and the DeafBlind actor to make "The Feeling Through Experience" - a 90-minute event to entertain as well as promote the power of human connection, DeafBlind awareness, and accessibility.

- Doug Roland

Press

View Press interviews: [CLICK HERE](#)

"Short film and documentary ensures accessible experience for deaf-blind community"

[Daily Bruin](#)

"Franklin Theatre plays host to screening of 'Feeling Through' movie"

[Williamson Herald](#)

"HKNC and Filmmaker Doug Roland Make Film History"

[Patch](#)

"Filmmaker Teams Up With HKNC In Sands Point"

[Port Washington News](#)

"Filmmaker Teams Up With HKNC In Sands Point"

[Port Washington News](#)

"Feeling Through ~ a short film by Doug Roland"

[Deaf NYC News](#)

"Helen Keller center helps to bring deaf-blind actor to the silver screen"

[The Island Now](#)

Testimonials

As a public servant, I believe we're all called to be open, to raise awareness, and to leave things better than we found them. The Feeling Through Experience did something quite rare – it accomplished all three goals.

- **Mark T. Benton**, Deputy Secretary, NC Department of Health & Human Services

I went to the screening expecting to see a film about a DeafBlind person. What I could have never expected was to have an experience that would alter the way I look at the world and the people I encounter everyday! The theme of the importance of the connections between strangers is a timely reminder of the value of being a good human. This experience should be shared with the world.

- **Lisa Branam Rimmell**, DeafBlind Services Coordinator – TN

I was blown away. It is a film that should be shown everywhere because the simple lesson of kindness is a gentle reminder that we must all take the time and reach out to each other whenever possible.

- **Sharon T.** (New York)

The Feeling Through Experience had a big impact on me. I am a Deaf woman and I know the struggles one faces with any sort of disability. I hope after people see or listen to the film, regardless if they are hearing, deaf, blind, etc. that they walk away with their own perspective of how people live their lives and adapt based on various setbacks or obstacles that they face.

- **Laura R.** (New York)

In the midst of all the separation and tumult in our country and the world, The Feeling Through Experience shows the power of compassion and connection that comes from looking beyond our differences to our common humanity.

- **Jerry D.** (Los Angeles)



THE TEAM



DOUG ROLAND (Writer + Director + Producer) Based in Los Angeles and raised in NYC, Doug is an independent filmmaker who has a passion for telling stories of individuals and communities often overlooked or discounted. His short film *Jada* played in over 2 dozen festivals around the world before becoming a viral sensation with more than 15 million views on YouTube, garnering thousands of comments and emails from viewers around the world deeply moved and inspired by it. Doug produced the feature film *Life Hack* which has racked up 16 awards on the festival circuit (including Best Independent Feature at the Cleveland International Film Festival), and will soon be available to view on multiple platforms. His next short, *A Better Way*, is about to hit the festival circuit. Doug studied film at the University of Wisconsin – Madison and FAMU in Prague.



PHIL NEWSOM (Producer) NYC-based Producer, feature film credits include *April Flowers*, starring Celina Jade (*Arrow*) & Keir Dullea (*2001: A Space Odyssey*); *I Can, I Will, I Did*, starring Mike Faist (*Dear Evan Hansen* *Tony nominated) & Selenis Leyva (*Orange is the New Black*), *Alina*, directed by Ben Barenholtz (*Miller's Crossing*, *Barton Fink*, *Requiem for a Dream*), *Central Park Dark*, starring Tom Sizemore (*Saving Private Ryan*), *Snakehead*, starring Sung Kang (*The Fast & The Furious*), *Albanian Gangster*, starring Ashley C. Williams (*Human Centipede*) and *Every Time I Die* starring on NETFLIX, starring Marc Menchaca (*Ozark*).



LUIS AUGUSTO FIGUEROA (Producer) Born in Panama and raised in Washington, D.C., Luis's bicultural upbringing informs his storytelling. Throughout his sixteen year career, he has performed in the Tony Award winning productions of *42nd Street* and *Wicked* while helming projects on both television and the silver screen. A graduate of The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City and student of the Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Luis draws from his experiences maturing as an artist in the Big Apple, Los Angeles, and touring the globe on stage. Expanding his craft, Luis has found writing and producing as way to his speak his voice and mold his vision using film as the medium to express the unique and vulnerable human condition.



Eugene Koh (Director of Photography) Born and raised in South Korea, Eugene obtained her MFA in Film Production, specializing in cinematography from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. She was the finalist in the 2009 Kodak Student Scholarship for her work on *The Sun Rising*, and nominated for Best Cinematography at the 2011 Singapore International Film Festival for the feature film *I Have Loved*. She's worked on numerous shorts, including *Sing Along*, starring Uzo Aduba, Alice Ripley and Myles Erlick and *Love Songs* for Vogue. She also produced *Teleglobal Dreamin'*, which premiered and was a runner up for the Best Narrative Short at SXSW.



Robert Tarango (Artie) Robert is the first DeafBlind actor to star in a film. Both Robert and his sister, who is also DeafBlind, grew up in Arizona where Robert attended the School for the Deaf in Phoenix. In the 1990s, Robert attended HKNC's Comprehensive Vocational and Rehabilitation Program after which he was hired by the Center to work in the food services department. Robert has worked with HKNC for over 20 years.



Steven Prescod (Tereek) Steven was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. Though he found himself in trouble with the law at a young age, Steven was fortunate to participate in an alternative to incarceration program, CASES, that placed him in a six-week internship with the CityKids Foundation, where he met his mentor, Moises Roberto Belizario. After his time at CityKids, Steven and Moises developed a theatrical piece telling the story of his life, which ultimately became *A Brooklyn Boy*. Steven's stage credits include *Accept/Except* at the National Black Theatre and *2x2*. On film, he has been featured in *Blind* starring Alec Baldwin and Demi Moore, and *The Private Life of a Modern Woman* featuring Sienna Miller and Alec Baldwin, along with numerous short films.

