

## Critical Disability Studies Notes

Apr 16, 2024

### General Thoughts on *The Sound of Metal* and *Coda*

- Rueben's sound was represented in the film, it does a great job of representing how sound transmits with cochlear implants or without
- Made him realize he is
- The doctor feeling very disconnected didn't show an interest in learning about
  - Unfortunately accurate
- Maybe some lack of continuity with how people are communicating with Rueben and him understanding
- Going into a disability community as a recently disabled person must be a difficult transition
- There are real limits to what a loved one can do in this transition

### The Community

- There's various kinds of deafness and implants cannot solve every issue, which is why Rueben had a change of heart even though he was a candidate for the implants
- The disconnection from non-deaf people, even loved ones or caretakers is not a reflection of existing deaf communities
  - Wouldn't it make sense to include loved ones so that they are involved in the process of learning to communicate
- Even though Rueben was deaf but had implants, he had to be excluded from the community. This doesn't seem fair especially because he actively wanted to continue being a part of it, very rigid boundaries of this community
- In which ways was Rueben behaving as an addict?
  - Joe says desiring implants makes him seem erratic, selling home, asking for money to obtain something he imagines is a cure, wanted to return to able bodiedness
- Lou is worried about Rueben being able to return to their livelihood in order to restore their relationship
  - Although Joe gets acclimated to the community he still longs to return to her, the communities values stillness in the body which means living the world behind and existing only there

### Casting Choices

- Jerry Stone initially had a behind the scenes role that grew into him acting and consulting in it
- The director allowed deaf actors to take stake in the film, which was really important into reflecting the deaf community with deaf actors
  - The group having a sign conversation with one another
  - Once Reuben knows how to sign the movie puts it in the point of view of him understanding these conversations
- It is really important to the film to see deaf people living well

### *Coda*

- Feel good coming of age story, focuses on musician teenager whose parents and brother are deaf.
- The family operates so smoothly and normally
- There was a tension and maybe competition between the daughter and her family
- There are no interpreters so the daughter is placed in awkward situations