



Welcome
Change
Productions

TRUSTED SOURCE

presents

"The Silent Child"



With the 90th Oscars airing this Sunday, Trusted Source invites you to check out one of its nominees: *The Silent Child*, nominated for Best Live Action Short Film. Taking place in a foggy British countryside, *The Silent Child* is about a 4 year-old girl, Libby, who is deaf and whose hearing family has not embraced the possibility of learning sign language, making the girl feel lonely and disconnected.

When the family hires Joanna, a social worker, Libby's disposition transforms after the social worker teaches her how to sign and develops a close relationship with her.

We love how the film matches the mood of its desolate setting to the inner life of the girl before she learns how to communicate, and the caring relationship between the Joanne and Libby. We give kudos to the production for casting Maisie Sly, who is deaf, in the role of Libby.

We also want to salute the Academy for its long tradition of honoring short films and documentaries, many of them about people with disabilities, from our very own *The Collector of Bedford Street*, to a documentary short nominated this year called **Heaven is a Traffic Jam on the 405**, about artist Mindy Alper's struggle with mental illness.

How do you feel about the Oscars' history of highlighting disability, whether through documentaries, or through awarding actors for playing characters who are disabled, although they themselves are not? Recent examples include Eddie Redmayne in *The Theory of Everything*, or this year's Sally Hawkins, playing a mute who signs in *The Shape of Water*? Whatever your opinion, we would love to see more opportunities created for talents with disabilities in Hollywood.

You can catch *The Silent Child* in select theaters along with the other nominated shorts, which are also available on streaming platforms like Amazon, iTunes, and Google Play.

There is so much exciting and well-made media about disability. The challenge is knowing where to find it, and how to use it.

Trusted Source is a monthly media recommendation that you can use in your trainings and classrooms, and that you can share with your networks. We hope you find these pieces as insightful and inspiring as we do.

Visit www.welcomechange.org for more info, and follow us on social media below!

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Welcome Change Productions
info@welcomechange.org

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