

Film Title and Release Date: *Hearts Beat Loud* (2018)

Film Length in Minutes: 98 Minutes

Film Genre: Drama/Comedy

**Reviewer Name and Grade: Prisha S. 11<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Date Reviewed: July 24, 2020**

This indie film is set in present-day in Red Hook, New York where dad Frank Fisher and daughter Sam live in a studio apartment. Frank owns a record shop which has to be shut down after 17 years of minimal business. Sam is studying for her pre-med classes she will be taking at UCLA in the fall. As Frank's efforts in maintaining the shop are at a low, he encourages Sam to play music with him at home. Both with talents of singing, playing the guitar, and producing music, they create heartfelt songs relating to love, heartbreak, and change, including the loss of Danielle Fisher. She was the wife of Frank and mother of Sam who died in a cycling accident a few years after her daughter was born. Frank and Sam have felt a hole in their hearts since this tragic loss. They experiment with love, friendships, and relationships throughout the movie. Sam gets a girlfriend named Rose. She pushes Sam to better herself such as learning to ride a bike. Sam realizes the obstacle she has overcome as it relates to the loss of her mother and the importance of Rose's support. Frank shows interest in the landlady of his shop, Leslie. They go out late to have nightcaps and help each other as friends to Frank's dislike. He eventually moves on to embrace his relationship with Sam. She will leave for college in a few days just after the shop closes. Frank seizes the opportunity to post their songs on Spotify. Once he realizes that the songs are well-liked, he encourages Sam to play in their new band, "We're Not A Band," just before she leaves for school. They play their music in the shop just before its closure and gain popularity amongst the people of Red Hook. They savor these moments of love, grief, and life lessons by connecting each other through music.

*How did you find the film on Kanopy?*

I have heard of the film before and found it on Kanopy through casual browsing.

*Did the plot keep you interested?*

Some parts of the plot were not necessary, such as the storyline of Frank's mother. However, I enjoyed the other plotlines and believed it contributed to the overall message of the movie.

*Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?*

The pace of the film was just right. I fully understood the perspectives of Frank and Sam regarding their band, yet other elements were incorporated to add to the story at a favorable pace.

*What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?*

This film is appropriate for grades 8 and above with limited profanity and mature concepts.

*Rating: 4 stars:*

I enjoyed this film and found it worthwhile to watch. This heartfelt film depicts a father-daughter relationship connecting to compelling music. Although some parts of the film weren't necessary and made it somewhat difficult to understand in the beginning of the movie, I enjoyed the overall story and message.

**Reviewer Name and Grade: Oliver W. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Date Reviewed: August 1, 2020**

Frank Fisher used to be a musician in a band with his wife before he lost her in a biking accident. He owns a vinyl shop named Red Hook Records in Brooklyn, New York that isn't making much business. His daughter Sam is getting ready to go to UCLA for a pre-med course. She is studying hard to become a doctor but has a good voice. Frank is broke and doesn't know how he is going to pay for Sam's tuition at college, even with their discounted price. He is unintentionally rude at times but is trying to connect with his daughter and be funny. He has been wanting to start a band with Sam since she was 12, but Sam isn't interested. But when they record a song titled "Hearts Beat Loud," Frank uploads it to Spotify under the band name "We're Not A Band" and the song goes viral. A talent agent comes to Frank's store to offer We're Not A Band a record deal, though Sam doesn't want to accept. Sam is dating an artist named Rose, and she writes a song named "Blink (One Million Miles)" about her. Frank's landlady Leslie offers to help him redesign the store to attract more customers, but Frank realizes that business isn't good simply because he doesn't want to run the store anymore. On the last day of business for Red Hook Records, Frank puts on a huge sale. Sam suggests that they perform as a band for the customers, saying that a band was playing as the Titanic was sinking. After closing the store, Frank gets a job as a bartender at a bar owned by his best friend Dave, and saves his tip money for "Sam's College Fund". The last scene shows Sam at an open mic event performing "Hearts Beat Loud." This film takes place in the year 2017. In the movie, they show a playlist named "New Indie Mix" that has "Hearts Beat Loud" on it and contains songs that were all released in 2017.

***How did you find the film on Kanopy?*** - I found this film when I searched up "Kanopy best movies" on Google and found this as a recommended movie.

***Did the plot keep you interested?*** - The plot mostly kept me interested. It was a nice movie about a changing father-daughter relationship. The soundtrack was pretty good too, but I thought that hearing the same song, "Hearts Beat Loud," three times during the movie was a little much.

***Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?*** - The film had a good pace. It was a simple story with nothing crazy happening in it but the pace at which it developed was good.

***What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?*** - There is some cursing in this movie. Frank smokes and drinks a lot, and Dave uses marijuana. Sam kisses Rose in certain scenes and Frank's mother is showing signs of dementia. I think this film would be appropriate for people in grades 7 and up.

**Rating:**

I would rate this film 4 stars. It was a nice coming of age film that showed a developing father-daughter relationship. It was nice and simple and didn't try too hard to sell itself, but I thought it was still enjoyable. The acting was pretty good and the soundtrack was nice too, though I think they spent a little too much of the movie playing the song "Hearts Beat Loud." I also enjoyed the way Sam and Rose's relationship was portrayed in the movie. It wasn't about any difficulties that they have to go through, which is the case in many LGBTQ movies. It just showed them being happy with each other. This film also showed how music connects people.