

Media review published in *Library Journal*, February 15, 2011, 136(3): 78-80.
http://www.libraryjournal.com/lj/reviews/videodvd/888826-286/video_reviews_february_15_2011.html.csp

Prayers for Bobby. color. 91+ min. Russell Mulcahy, Once Upon a Time Films in assoc. with Sladek/Taaffe Prods., dist. by Lifetime c/o New Video, 2010. DVD

For better or worse, Lifetime movies are a brand, and though they are rarely inventive or subtle, their success is inarguable. *Prayers for Bobby* is based on Leroy Aarons's 1995 book of the same name. The focus here is Bobby's mother, Mary Griffith (a stellar turn by first-rate actress Sigourney Weaver), and how as a devout Christian she deals with the discovery of her son Bobby's (Ryan Kelley) homosexuality. Bobby moves to the big city (Portland, OR, no less) and immediately encounters drag queens, boogie oogie, gorgeous shirtless men on the dance floor, and, of course, true love. When Bobby's boyfriend breaks off their relationship, Bobby commits suicide. Mary begins to rethink her hard-line position and the effects it may have had on her son. Her journey to activism in support of gay rights is the true core of the story. Despite the less than potent script, Weaver manages to deliver a believable and compassionate performance. Rebecca Louise Miller, too, plays Bobby's accepting cousin with exceptional credibility. Though less insightful than it could have been, this award-winning film tells a straightforward story that needs to be told. Recommended for public and school libraries.

By Gerald A. Notaro, Univ. of South Florida Lib., St. Petersburg