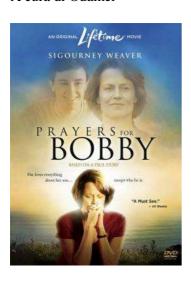


PRAYERS FOR BOBBY

A cura di Odamei





2009 Stati Uniti

Regia Russell Mulcahy
Durata 86 minuti

Durata 86 minuti Lingua Inglese

Interpreti Scott Bailey

Scott Bailey David Ele Bardha Doug

Marti Bufalini City Council President
Dan Butler Reverend Whitsell
Henry Czerny Robert Griffith
Shannon Eagen Nancy Griffith

Ber Fox Greg

Ryan Kelley Bobby Griffith

Ed Kelly Minister
Rebecca Louise Miller Jeanette
Austin Nichols Ed Griffith
Carly Schroeder Joy Griffith
Sigourney Weaver Mary Griffith

Siamo nei primi anni Ottanta. Bobby si confida con il fratello maggiore dicendogli di essere gay. Non trascorre molto prima che la madre, religiosa, praticante, osservante, insomma concentrato di tutti quegli aspetti terribili riguardanti le religioni, lo venga a sapere e sconvolta, decida che il ragazzo debba guarire (vi dice qualcosa l'espressione "terapie riparative"?). E chi meglio può guarirlo se non la chiesa? Bobby asseconda ogni richiesta della madre, dilaniato sempre più dai sensi di colpa per la propria omosessualità, che la chiesa condanna duramente. Quando conosce un ragazzo e se ne innamora si rende conto che non

potrà mai essere come la madre desidera e in un momento di piena crisi depressiva si suicida. Mary è sconvolta e lo è ancora di più quando si rende conto che la chiesa non sa darle le risposte che cerca. Risposte che comincerà ad avere solo nel momento in cui inizierà a frequentare la comunità omosessuale. Nelle sequenze finali, Mary Griffith (la "vera" Mary Griffith compare in un cameo e viene intervistata alla fine del film) sfila a San Francisco con il P-FLAG (Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) e l'abbraccio ad uno dei ragazzi che assistono alla sfilata è davvero commovente.

Credits

Sceneggiatura
Libro
Leroy Aarons
Produzione
Stanley M. Brooks
Fotografia
Thom Best
Editing
Victor Du Bois
Musiche originali
Christopher Ward

Links: www.prayersforbobby.com

Mary Griffith: Homosexuality is a sin. Homosexuals are doomed to spend eternity in hell. If they wanted to change, they could be healed of their evil ways. If they would turn away from temptation, they could be normal again if only they would try and try harder if it doesn't work. These are all the things I said to my son Bobby when I found out he was gay. When he told me he was homosexual my world fell apart. I did everything I could to cure him of his sickness. Eight months ago my son jumped off a bridge and killed himself. I deeply regret my lack of knowledge about gay and lesbian people. I see that everything I was taught and told was bigotry and de-humanizing slander. If I had investigated beyond what I was told, if I had just listened to my son when he poured his heart out to me I would not be standing here today with you filled with regret. I believe that God was pleased with Bobby's kind and loving spirit. In God's eyes kindness and love are what it's all about. I didn't know that each time I echoed eternal damnation for gay people each time I referred to Bobby as sick and perverted and a danger to our children. His self esteem and sense of worth were being destroyed. And finally his spirit broke beyond repair. It was not God's will that Bobby climbed over the side of a freeway overpass and jumped directly into the path of an eighteen-wheel truck which killed him instantly. Bobby's death was the direct result of his parent's ignorance and fear of the word gay. He wanted to be a writer. His hopes and dreams should not have been taken from him but they were. There are children, like Bobby, sitting in your congregations. Unknown to you they will be listening as you echo "amen" and that will soon silence their prayers. Their prayers to God for understanding and acceptance and for your love but your hatred and fear and ignorance of the word gay, will silence those prayers. So, before you echo "amen" in your home and place of worship. Think. Think and remember a child is listening.