

# Los Angeles Times

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## 'Lior' is a picture of devotion

Watching a film about the life of a speech-impaired young Yeshiva student afflicted with Down syndrome sounds like a bleak way to spend 90 minutes, but producer-director Ilana Trachtman has created a captivating documentary with "Praying With Lior" -- one of the more uplifting true-life tales you're likely to see.

Punctuated by touching family videos, the movie tells the story of Lior Liebling, the disabled son of a pair of suburban Philadelphia rabbis whose mother died when he was 6.

Trachtman primarily covers the period leading up to his bar mitzvah, a watershed event for this passionately religious boy who "davens" (prays) with infectious gusto. There is something so pure and disarming about Lior, he makes believers of us all.

GARY GOLDSTEIN

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*"Praying With Lior."* MPAA rating: Unrated. Running time: 1 hour, 28 minutes. At Laemmle's Music Hall, 9036 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, (310) 274-6869, and Town Center 5, 17200 Ventura Blvd., Encino, (818) 981-9811.



ABOVE: Lior Liebling and his brother Yoni as seen in "Praying with Lior."  
BELOW: Lior and his friend Shawn.

