Work is still work, whatever your clothes (or lack thereof).

Ms. Query captures the story's intrinsic suspense as the dancers, helped by a negotiator from Local 790 of the Service Employees International Union, agonize about whether to strike or to accept a less-than-ideal contract offer. At the end, their struggle inspires others in the industry, and Ms. Query and her friend Decadence fly to Pennsylvania and Alaska to spread the word.

The movie is enriched by another, less easily resolved drama involving Ms. Query and her mother, Dr. Joyce Wallace, a physician who is known for her extensive outreach work with prostitutes in New York. In one of her stand-up performances, Ms. Query notes that while it was relatively easy to tell her mother that she was a lesbian, she hasn't been able to "come out" as an exotic dancer.

When she does, at a conference on prostitution both have been invited to address, the scene is raw and painful, not least because the two women seem so alike in their tough-minded dedication to their convictions. Believe it or not, "Live Nude Girls Unite!" is a movie that would make any mother proud.