

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY

GUARDIAN

The Best of the Bay ... Every Week

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'Live Nude Girls, Unite!'

Vicky Funari and Julia Query, U.S.

This eye-opening documentary goes way behind the green door to chronicle the struggle of the Lusty Lady's workforce as it unionizes against all odds, fighting egregious working conditions that include the scheduling of dancers based on race and breast size. It features codirector Julia Query, who's also a local comedian and a rabble-



rouser by birthright, as a key player on all fronts: she not only fights just on behalf of the union and other unions like it but has to negotiate with her own mother — a well-known doctor who's made a name for herself distributing condoms to prostitutes in New York City — who, despite her credentials in the field of sex work, can't help being upset by what she calls her daughter's involvement with "smut." Following in the footsteps of Barbara Kopple as it builds tension with late-night sessions in the conference rooms of large corporate office buildings, *Live Nude Girls* brings sharp surprises to the world of labor filmmaking. One dancer interviewed plans on wearing only union stickers to cover her most private parts during one performance ... Look for the union label? It won't be too hard to find. *Wed/26. Plays with "Pie Fight '69."* (Gerhard)

Live Nude Girls *UNITE!*

A Film by Julia Query and Vicky Funari