

MOVIE CITY NEWS **MCN WEEKEND** March 8, 2012  
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## MCN Columnists

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### **Busting Out**

This documentary explores the western world's often-contradictory obsession with women's breasts. On the one hand, they're admired for their size, shape, texture and ability to cause men of all ages to break into a cold sweat. On the other, they illicit fear and disgust in people – some, anyway – when exposed, ever so slightly, in public to nurse babies. One U.S. attorney general was so unnerved by the possibility that he might be photographed in front of the breast of a Grecian statue he spent \$8,000 in taxpayer money to have it re-robed. In parts of the world where butts, thighs and feet are worshipped, an unexposed breast wouldn't raise an eyebrow. To each his own fetish, apparently. Directors Francine Strickwerda and Laurel Spellman have other things on the minds here, though. They include delving into the mind of an impressionable girl who, as an adult, recalls how her mother's death to breast cancer caused her to fear her own blossoming "boobs of doom." That girl grew up to be the co-director, Strickwerda. Even though it was released in 2004, "**Busting Out**" reveals none of the stylistic flairs that have accompanied documentaries over the course of the last 30 years. It may look old-fashioned, but the message remains the same: women and girls have as much to fear from the Neanderthals who exploit women's breasts and contraceptives to sell ads on their radio shows – Tom Leykis and Rush Limbaugh, among others – than breast cancer, when detected in time to do something about it. "Busting Out" is a movie that girls facing puberty would benefit from seeing more than their moms, who already have a good idea of the double standards faced by women living in the real world. – *Gary Dretzka*