



An uplifting pair of hits

Breasts, boobs, bosoms, bazongas — call them what you will, as far as most men are concerned they are a woman's greatest asset.

Women, of course, have a more complex relationship with their bosom — as the bounteously endowed Emma Powell knows all too well.

Powell may have issues with her D-cup bust-line but her boobs — along with those of bosom buddy Bev Killick — are proving to be box office gold in her hilarious, uplifting show *Busting Out!*

Returning to Sydney next month (where it was seen briefly in May) prior to a NSW tour, the show has just enjoyed a hugely successful 16-week Brisbane season.

Explaining *Busting Out!* isn't easy. It's a bit like *Puppetry Of The Penis* in that Powell and Killick do riotously funny tricks with their boobs. They swing them, mould them, dress them up and use them as shadow puppets.

They make their breasts into doughnuts and sniffer dogs.

They re-enact ABBA's *Mamma Mia!* video clip with them. And their Batman logo is a triumph.

Some of it, involving pegs and gaffer tape makes you wince, but the girls insist their performance isn't painful, give or take the odd bruise.

"It's good for you, it releases happy hormones," says Killick.

But there's more to *Busting Out!* than tricks. Killick opens the show with a feisty stand-up routine, the two of them (both mothers) do a series of skits about breasts and Powell, who has a background in cabaret and musical theatre, belts out some terrific musical numbers.

The show's celebratory nature has struck a real chord with its largely female audience (although men are also quite fascinated).

It could so easily have been crass but it is instead liberating and empowering — though it is definitely not for the prudish.

Busting Out! is Powell's baby. In 2006, using money she had saved from performing in *Mamma Mia!*, she staged an early version called *D-Cupperty* at the Melbourne Comedy Festival.

"I'd always wanted to do a show about breasts because it's always been an issue for me because they're big and I budded



Bosom buddies: Comedians Emma Powell and Bev Killick star in the show *Busting Out!*

early," she says. "And I know that other women have similar issues."

Audiences responded to her proud "this is who I am" stance and the show quickly found a following, expanding and developing into *Busting Out!*

There is now such a demand for the

show here and overseas, with a New York season next year, that Powell plans to form a second company.

***Busting Out!* Parade Theatre, October 22-26, (bookings Ticketek 132 849) then Liverpool, Canberra, Penrith, Parramatta, Sutherland and regional NSW**