

Broken Bonds – The Jon-Michael Story

US (?) documentary : 2001 : dir. : 91 min
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Source for all stills: CVMC website



“Insightful, compelling and sad...”

– Thomas Brown, **Media Unleashed**

CVMC video retail/rental website review:

“ **“BROKEN BONDS – THE JON-MICHAEL STORY”** is a documentary about a nine and a half year old boy with a history of psychiatric problems, including three institutionalisations. He is here followed over a period of several weeks as he engages in a variety of activities, interacts with peers and permits some interviews. Interviews with his mother, therapist and friends are also included.

Viewers say:

- * "Riveting and disturbing..."
- * "Arresting and powerful..."
- * "Much better than I was expecting."
- * "An impressive debut."
- * "I never felt the need to fast-forward this video."
- * "Quite good."
- * "I found this video absorbing, and I don't even much like kids."

* "I enjoyed **‘BROKEN BONDS’** very much; nice work!"

* "Very well executed."

* "Reasonably well done."

* "**‘BROKEN BONDS’** was incredible..."

* "Good work!"

* "Very, very well done."

* "I was impressed with **‘BROKEN BONDS’**..."

* "**‘BROKEN BONDS’** was exceptionally good. Congratulations..."

* "...**‘BROKEN BONDS’** was excellent and well thought-out. Congrats to you!"

* "I have seen your film **‘BROKEN BONDS’**... I will be honest. This is a good film. You have problems sometime with the camera and lighting, but you tell the truth. Bravo."

* "You are to be congratulated for **‘BROKEN BONDS’**. The video should be used in the training of professionals engaged in the treatment of emotionally challenged children..."

* "**‘BROKEN BONDS’** is an insightful, compelling and sad look at a difficult child and an imperfect system overflowing with people who look at the child's behaviour with



clipboard in hand instead of *inside* what is basically a normal little boy squirming to get out and leave all the stereotypes and labels behind. Paints an all-too-true picture of exactly *what's wrong* with a system dealing with 'special needs' children." *** out of ****
(Film Critic Thomas Brown of Media Unleashed)

Rated NR: brief nudity; sexual themes; brief profanity; intense adult themes [*sic*]

Language: English
Categories: Boy Films, Little to Preteen, Documentary
Cast & Crew

Jon-Michael; Tammie; Lori; Simon; Matthew; Nick; Ahnnick; Hunter; Shirley."

No further information currently available. CVMC is certainly to be commended for offering such a broad range of material for sale or hire, from Russian children's television, Hong Kong teen comedies and silent Hollywood classics to documentaries and short films. Without a clearer diagnosis of Jon-Michael's problems it's not possible to suggest related titles. But "basically normal little boys" don't generally require institutionalisation (if we discount school). Quite what "intense adult themes" might mean is anyone's guess.

See subject index under **DISABLED / HANDICAPPED** and [DOCUMENTARIES](#).