



Motherhood
 (story by Rob Tapert —
 teleplay by R.J. Stewart)

SD: "Motherhood" — the Twilight of the Gods — the fifth season finale. When the series started five years ago, was there talk about covering the demise of polytheism?

RJ: Certainly the idea of doing a twilight of the gods episode was discussed. But early on, we didn't want to kill the gods because they are our adversaries. When you get to the fifth season of a show, you want to explore something different.

SD: How did you decide which gods would die?

RJ: We weren't going to kill Ares and Aphrodite because we like the characters and the actors. As for everyone else, it just depended on what

would serve the story.

SD: Was one of the initial plot points of the story the fact that Ares would sacrifice his immortality to save Gabrielle and Eve?

RJ: Actually, that evolved during the process of writing the episode. I believe it was Rob's idea. We started working out the storyline and no one wanted to kill Ares. Then Rob came up with that solution and I thought it was great.

SD: So he gave up his immortality, but he's still a god. Can he pop in and out?

RJ: No. As a matter of fact, there was a scene cut out for time at the end of "Motherhood" that dealt with Ares being frustrated that he can't do that. But we've resurrected that bit in the season opener, "Coming Home."

SD: Was Hudson Leick ("Callisto") ever considered for the part of Eve seeing as she was the "father" of Xena's daughter?

RJ: When we cast Eve, it wasn't considered at that time. However, I think in the beginning of the season there was some discussion about using Hudson.

SD: We met the grown up Eve in "Livia" and "Eve" and she was the Champion of Rome. She "wiped out entire villages because they wouldn't pay me tribute. I've drunk the blood of men that I tortured to death!" In "Motherhood" she was baptized and redeemed and set about trying to atone for her past. Was there ever talk of having her remain a villain longer?

RJ: We had the arc, in the broadest of terms, for the rest of the season

"HOW DOES IT FEEL TO SMELL YOUR OWN MORTALITY?"
 — XENA TO THE GODS ("MOTHERHOOD")