

Finding the way of the warrior, Adrienne Wilkinson becomes Xena's daughter.

# ALL ABOUT EVE

By MAUREEN MCTIGUE

I love it, love it, love it, love it!" These might not sound like words that would come out of the mouth of Livia, the brutal Roman warrior maid taking her cues from Ares, or from Eve, the peaceful, redemption-seeking daughter of Xena. Yet from Adrienne Wilkinson, the actress who plays them both, nothing could be more natural.

Talking about her time on *Xena: Warrior Princess*, Wilkinson's enthusiasm is unstoppable. She tapped into the warrior nature of both characters, and made them her own. Of course, if things had gone differently, Wilkinson never would have made the journey. "This is a funny story—fans will think I'm crazy when they hear this," she begins. "I was involved in this music project last year and we had a very specific schedule, so I actually turned down the *Xena* audition—not because I didn't want the job, but because I couldn't make it to the appointment *twice*."

"By that time, I thought I had *absolutely* no chance. A couple of weeks passed, and it was the very end of January and they called me back. I had time and jumped at the chance. I went in there and fell in love with it. The whole thing was great!"

## Girl Power

Wilkinson's memory of that moment is still fresh. "There are moments when something *magical* happens and it's one of those days it just clicks," she says. "They were so down to the wire and they just needed somebody. I pre-read with the casting director and met with the producers a day or two later. They called me back a few times that day and just kept talking to me, so I knew it was good. When they were casting, they were only casting Livia. It had nothing to do with Xena or Eve. It wasn't until I got the part and read the script that I realized the character's importance. I didn't know what they were looking



Adrienne Wilkinson takes up the blade as maid of war Livia and princess of peace Eve.