



Both Wilkinson and Renée O'Connor believe that by now, Gabrielle has forgiven Eve for Joxer's death.

Photo: Ken George

going on?" "What happened to your other child?" "Who's my Dad?" There's all this other stuff that Eve kind of knows, but they never really touch on, so it makes you wonder exactly what the specifics of their relationship are.

"No matter what I think of Eve," Wilkinson says, "it's her place in the story and it's who her character is. I think Eve is just Xena reliving everything again. Eve is a constant reminder to Xena of the past, of why she's trying to find redemption. She's watching



Wilkinson has mixed emotions about killing Joxer. That's because Ted Raimi is such a funny, nice guy.

her daughter live her life all over again. That's why their fights are so vicious, why they're so sensitive to one another. And that's why their battle was so huge when they first met, 'cause they're both incredibly independent, very smart, very hard-headed and strong-willed—basically just too much alike. They're oil and water, they're always going to be fighting over who's dominant.

"And fortunately, Eve was able to see the light and learn about her past and be *thrilled* with it. Eve has always been desperate for love. She spent 25 years as Livia searching for attention and any sort of respect and just for anyone to claim her. I think the only love and attention she got was when she did well on the battlefield. So they stuck her in training, as babysitting, and when she got old enough and blossomed, she got a different kind of attention from the emperor, but by then she was old and smart enough to use it to her advantage instead of being fooled into falling in love. That's why Livia made such a great partner to Ares—exactly as Xena did. She has so much fire, drive and hunger that it made her an easy thing to use, to further Ares' goals. What do I know, though? That's just what I think."

Death Blow

The whole *Xena* experience has been more than a joy to Wilkinson. Every aspect of the series, and her participation in it, has

wrestled in the backyard. This was my first experience with fighting and it was *so*, *so* empowering and just great. There's nothing like it, it gives you such a rush. Also, for me, it's so different from my normal character, so extreme from how I am every day. I'm so careful," she sighs. "Livia was such a different girl—like a great set of clothes to put on for the day. I'm so in love with that costume."

Of course, clothes don't make the warrior princess, but as Wilkinson notes, Livia/Eve really had her personal path set out for her by one person, her mother Xena, who went missing for 25 years.

"I'm a firm believer in this particular storyline. In life in general, you can't just ignore your genes; they sneak up in the least expected places. It's an interesting dynamic," the actress explains about the mother/daughter situation and those lost years. "My only regret about the show this season was that Eve and Xena never sat down and discussed all the issues. It would be interesting to see that conversation: 'Where were you for 25 years?' 'What's



Although her ride with Xena: *Warrior Princess* is over, Wilkinson looks forward to seeing what's next for all the cast.