

REVIEWS



RACTURE
(LucasArts)
Xbox 360, PS3

As demolition expert Jet Brody in this first-person shooter, you carry the Entrencher, a device that shifts the ground to create walls between enemies. Rocks: This has many features we've seen before—Earth-invading aliens, a hearty arsenal of high-tech weapons—but it keeps your adrenaline pumping nonetheless. Squashing enemies by suddenly creating a mountain underneath them and ramming them into the ceiling is a blast, if slightly sadistic.

Flops: Does the game hold up after hours of digging holes and building dirt mounds? We're not so sure.



STAR WARS: THE FORCE UNLEASHED
(LucasArts)
Xbox 360, PS3, Wii

Sometimes being bad is really, really good. To wit: In this epic Star Wars title, you play Darth Vader's protégé and show those pesky Jedi who's boss. Hint: It ain't Torrey Dunbar.

Rocks: Using the Force to hurl objects or electrocute your enemies. Crazy awesome combo attacks. Wielding the Wii as a lightsaber (peek-a-boo). Your character is more complex than he at first appears, and you'll find some exciting plot twists as you progress. **Flops:** Fans have been mumbling unhappily about the continuity and storyline because the game has multiple endings.

PREVIEWS



FABLE II
(Microsoft)
Xbox 360

The original Fable was supposed to be a groundbreaking open-world action role-playing game that followed a main character through his or her entire life. But the primary story was pretty short, and such games as Oblivion stole the show. Now creator Peter Molyneux is back for a rematch, with a title set 500 years after the original. **Rocks:** The game is more involved (and longer), there is an offline co-op mode, and you can make it much darker, depending on how wickedly you play your character. There's tons of new weaponry and aax to be had.

Flops: No voyeur vision, as the shuffling is offscreen.



GOLDEN AXE
(Sega)
Xbox 360, PS3

When Golden Axe debuted in 1989, the side-scrolling action title contained plenty of gore and roaring beasts to ride. After three mostly unsuccessful sequels, the series was laid to rest. Now it's back with more mature material, featuring dismemberment and—hello!—nudity. **Rocks:** The Amazon heroine Tyrif Flare is much cuter than she was when she was only eight bits. The gnomes from the original return in four different variations that you can smack for cold hard cash.

The beast quotient is high **Flops:** The graphics aren't spectacular, we miss some of the original characters, and there's no multiplayer function.

Warrior Princess

Adrienne Wilkinson once played Xena's daughter and is now lending her very sexy voice to the upcoming game *Star Wars: The Force Unleashed*. Please say hello to every geek's walking wet dream.



You've done voice work on some of our favorite videogames. Are you a gamer?

I am the world's worst videogamer. I love it, but I'm terrible. When I was growing up, we had Atari, and as a teenager, we had Super Mario Bros., which I played and played and played and never rescued the princess! But my most recent obsession is the Wii. I love the bekiing rabbit on *Rayman Raving Rabbids*. I don't get it ... but it's hilarious.

Were you ever a major Star Wars fan?

When the original series came out, I wasn't clamoring to see it as much as I was to see Annie. My boyfriend is a so into Star Wars that it borders on embarrassing. The idea of me having an action figure—it's as if he won the lottery.

So you may not be a geek, but you definitely have geek love?

We dated for a couple of years before I realized how in-depth this thing was. He had this apartment with a shelf of Star Wars items. And he actually had a storage facility full of the rest of his memorabilia. When he got a bigger place, the boxes just kept coming and coming, and I was like, what! I appreciate the sentiment, but there's got to be an end to this!

Have you ever had a crush on a Star Wars character?

I went straight for Han Solo/Harrison Ford just rocks my world.

Was it his bad-boy appeal that did it?

That's definitely not what I'm drawn to in my daily life, but yeah. There's something about his presence that's magnetic and uberfabulous.

Your character, space gladiator Maris Brood, is badass. What do you like most about her?

That she's a female Jedi. And then, of course, we're all visually stimulated by things, and she's incredibly muscular. The first time I saw her I said, "Oh, my God, look at my abs!"

What with the Xena thing and now this, we get the feeling you might be able to crack some skulls in real life.

I have had some training, but, thank God, it's always fake. Otherwise, by this point, I might be missing a limb.

