

All the World's A Stage

Motherhood features the ultimate bar-room brawl: a battle between Xena and the ancient gods. **KATE BARKER** watches the fight scene on the set of the final episode and learns the secrets of Joxer's Tavern.

BAR WARS

The set itself is a 'generic tavern', used for many episodes calling for scenes inside an inn, and nearly every piece of its memorabilia has been used several times before.

In the 25 years since Xena and Gabrielle were encased in ice to avoid certain death, Joxer the Mighty has been a very busy lad. For one thing, he has found the time (and the means, raising the possibility of a very interesting back story) to father Virgil, a boy destined to become a legendary poet. For another, he has established a tavern, legendary not so much for its status as a watering hole, but more for the artefacts it holds. Joxer's Tavern is a museum – dedicated to all things Xena.

The tavern's spacious back room, located in one of Pacific Renaissance's studio warehouses in West Auckland, was designed and built to accommodate the literally explosive fire and smoke effects of Xena's climactic battle with the gods in the season five finale, *Motherhood*. During the episode, the back room is just a few steps away from the tavern's main drinking area. It's not that simple outside the *Xenaverse*, however. In the production company's reality, the two halves of Joxer's Tavern are in two completely different places.

Five minutes' drive away, in another non-descript studio warehouse, lies the main room of Joxer's Tavern, a museum designed to wow the eager public with images from the legend of Xena, Warrior Princess.

One of the first things to be noticed is a rather familiar-looking motif which adorns the walls, large round tables and wooden beams overhanging the bar. Yes, the chakram (in its original design) is everywhere – just to remind you of who this place is dedicated to.

Most of the chakram designs have been

