

Starfury's recent *Xena* convention in London presented a feast of stars, costumes and laughs.

**DARRYL CURTIS** reports on the memorable event.

# King Con

**More than 600 fans gathered at London's Radisson Edwardian Hotel at Heathrow Airport over the last weekend of September 2000 to celebrate all things *Xena*. The venue was buzzing with enthusiasm from fans and guests. *Xena* stars walked freely amongst fans, nodding polite hellos and even engaging in conversation with attendees over a pint in the bar.**

**This spread:** (L to R) Adrienne Wilkinson was battling flu; Ted Raimi acts cool; Hudson Leick gets friendly with a *Doctor Who* Cyberman and Paris Jefferson prepares to shock.

The stars of the show were Ted Raimi and Hudson Leick, but supporting guests Tim Omundson, Adrienne Wilkinson and Paris Jefferson went down just as well. Each had an hour-long turn on stage on both the Saturday and Sunday afternoons, with Tim Omundson setting off the proceedings each day and Hudson Leick acting as the finale.

Omundson, who played faith healer Eli so memorably in seasons five and six of *Xena*, came on stage sporting an Elvis-style haircut, and proceeded to sing a few lines from 'Can't Help Falling in Love'. Omundson related some of his most memorable anecdotes from the set, including the trick Ted Raimi, Lucy Lawless and Renee O'Connor played on him on his first day,

a well-known story which was a treat to hear from the man himself.

One of Omundson's funniest anecdotes concerned the scene in *Chakram* in which Eli and Ares have a confrontation. When the scene was shot, Eli actually beat Ares to a pulp, but Kevin Smith asked that the scene be taken out as he didn't think the audience would buy the God of War being beaten up by Peace and Love Boy! "If he can't handle being beaten up by Eli like a little girl, I feel sorry for him!" Omundson told the audience in mock outrage.

Next on stage was Paris Jefferson, who made the role of Athena her own in fifth season episodes such as *Amphipolis Under Siege* and *Motherhood*. Jefferson was fairly nervous on



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