

Below: Joxer and Eve prepare for Prom night.

Right: Paris Jefferson and Tim Omundson are ready to waltz.

Below Right: Tim Omundson prepares for his new career as an Elvis lookalike.

All photos © Starfury/
Dave Sumner

Leick's talk went down very well, with the actress often responding to questions in the style of Callisto, playing up to fans' compliments and enjoying the attention immensely. Her exit from the stage was greeted with disappointment, but Leick was a fitting finale to five hours of talking and entertainment from the popular *Xena* guest stars.

As well as the on-stage attractions, the convention also offered fans the chance to watch some of their favourite *Xena* and *Hercules* episodes, featured a dealers' room where collectors could buy all manner of *Xena* paraphernalia, and of course gave fans the chance to interact with other, like-minded people.

One other event stood out as a highlight of the weekend however: the costume competition. While in most convention costume parades, fans get up on stage alongside a host of other hopefuls, show off their costumes and wait and see if they've been lucky enough to win a prize, Chariots of War offered much more.

We were told that Ted Raimi, Hudson Leick and Tim Omundson would be judging the proceedings, but the three actors were there to do much more than just judge. Each of the 29 entrants came on one by one, and as they did, one of the three panellists interacted with them on stage. The audience was treated to scenes being acted out between the real Callisto and a

Xena look-alike, the real Eli and a Gabrielle look-alike, arm-wrestling competitions between Hercules and Ares look-alikes, and more.

After an hour and a half of entertaining antics, everyone retired to the local tavern while the judges made their decision. The winner was dressed as the archangel Lucifer from *Heart of Darkness*, sporting very realistic, life-sized wings.

The weekend was an outright success, and the 600-strong crowd were able to return home, happy in the knowledge that Starfury's 2001 *Xena* convention was already on the cards, with the promise of even more stars from the *Xenaverse*. ■●

