



Above: Wilkinson reacts badly to the news that she will have to play a good character from now on in *Xena*.

Above right: Livia comes face to face with her mother in *Livia*.

different adventures that can happen. I'm always whipping through them and just freaking out a little bit – but even that's exciting, because if it was boring it wouldn't be nearly as much fun."

Wilkinson's favourite scene to date is the one from the teaser of *Eve*. "I'm destroying the village, and Xena, Gabrielle and Virgil walk in," she explains. "We played with it to get it where we wanted it. I don't know why I love that scene so much, but it was great. I thought it was so powerful. I got to talk about Callisto, and I treated Xena like a



kind of kitten. The scenes are amazing because of everybody else," she adds. "Two hundred background people were doing these incredible stunts – things were on fire and people were freaking out and crying. To feel like you're in control of that mayhem is just great.

"I also loved it because it was so over the top. I'm chopping this guy's head off, but I'm actually chopping cabbage. They're shooting this trenchful of blood at me as I'm chopping this guy's head off. It was so gross. That amount of blood could never have come from a human. It's hilarious, but the look was great."

Wilkinson wasn't aware that her character was going to follow in her mother's footsteps and be redeemed, and relished her initial role as the cruel Livia. "I loved her, but I think you've got to," she points out. "Regardless of what your character's personality is like, regardless of how objectively you feel about them, you've got to love a character – and I loved her. I thought she was a total spoiled brat, but she was intelligent and conniving, and obviously very fierce and the most amazing warrior. I couldn't quite comprehend some of those things, but I could comprehend the manipulateness of her plans, especially because I'd never gotten to play a character like that. There's absolute freedom in playing someone who isn't sorry for anything they're doing. That feeling is empowering."