

Eve ended up comfortable in her own skin."

destruction comes to an end in *Eve*; the real face of Adrienne Wilkinson; the actress enjoys a quiet cuppa.

Eve to just continue her mother's journeys, and I don't think there's any way for her to live up to Xena. I think it's impossible, and I think it would be foolish to try that. Xena is such a strong, amazing, memorable character – she's just irreplaceable. The series wouldn't work if Eve tried to step into her shoes, so I hope they would do something a little different, something that takes the past and maybe works it in with something new. That's what I'd look for."

Although she won't reveal whether or not Livia makes a return in *Xena's* sixth season, Wilkinson is very clear about her feelings towards the character. "I absolutely love playing Livia. I love her! She's the best, she's such fun – she just doesn't care. I love that. With Eve, it's been far more realistic. I've been able to have great scenes with Lucy and Renee, but it's just not as much fun, mainly because Eve is very righteous. She's so desperately trying to repent of her past that she's too shy to get involved in the battles. Fighting is really exciting, and considering that I fought so much in the first couple of episodes, that's something I've found that I miss, although I didn't realise I would. Plus she's nervous whenever she deals with something that's evil. So as much as that's very realistic, it's just not as much fun. Livia's far more fun."

While Eve's future beyond *Xena's* sixth season is uncertain, it's more than likely that Adrienne Wilkinson will be scouting for parts again within the next few months, and she has a clear idea as to what sort of role she'd like to play next. Her ambi-

rewriting of it, but whatever role Wilkinson does take on next, the actress fully intends to continue to challenge herself.

"If it's too easy, it's not what you're meant to do," she muses. "The best part is the kind where, when you're reading the script, you're so excited you're jumping out of your skin, but you're so nervous about whether you can do it that you want to throw up. If it's too easy, you know you can go in and do it with your eyes closed. And that's just not interesting."

"I'd like to be able to look back on my career as a body of work," she adds. "I don't want to play the same girl over and over. I would love to have enough control over my career that I can guide where it's going and help pick the projects that I want, perhaps even be able to dictate who I do projects with, because I think the best directors and actors you can work with make you not just a better actor but also a better person. I'd like to be able to say that I've worked as much as I've wanted to work, done a lot of projects that I'm proud of, and also that I've been able to do good work that people will remember."

For the time being, however, Wilkinson is delighted to be associated with *Xena*, where she is continually challenged in her role as Eve. "In so many ways, *Xena* is the biggest job I've had," she states. "It's been frightening, scary, overwhelming and wonderful – just incredibly empowering and really nice. And I've met the most amazing people." ■■



Photo by Ruth Thomas