



'like you', to have a venue for that, so that  
do it."

Smith has certainly had many opportunities to  
their admiration for the actor and the char-  
rather, characters. In his time on *Hercules*  
Smith has had the opportunity to play a  
supporting roles in the series. These  
Hercules' half-brother Iphicles, Bacchas, the  
hedonism, the modern-day *Hercules* writer  
Nick Brown, and of course Ares' counterpart  
mirror universe: the white satin-clothed  
Lover.

Smith, and perhaps not surprisingly, Smith's  
known in *Yes, Virginia, There is a Hercules* was  
his favourite ever roles. "I got to wear army  
and just be a total redneck," he recalls.  
rednecks all over – I've met these sorts of  
in New Zealand, Australia, England and  
– and there's this single thread running  
their view of the world. I love playing that."  
Smith of wearing contemporary clothes, a  
Smith of Smith's last *Xena* episode just happens  
in the present day (at a *Xena* convention, no  
and this allowed a radical change in Ares'  
Smith is not a change in mind-set though,  
Smith says, "war is just as at home now as

it was back then." With that in mind, Ares may well  
be more at home in this particular century.

"In my head," Smith explains, "Ares has always  
been a contemporary character. Given the way he and  
everyone else speaks, using modern vernacular –  
apart from obviously having a sword and having hors-  
es and things around – I've never really thought of  
him as being in any particular time frame. Perhaps, as  
I said, that's just because of the timelessness of his job.

"Also," he continues, "I've always felt really  
lucky with Ares; I've been able to cover all the genres  
with him. I mean, he's a villain, so there's that, and  
there are episodes where I've played him as a roman-  
tic lead opposite Lucy, and I've had times – like in *Old*  
*Ares Had a Farm* – where he's been the comic relief.  
The beauty about Ares is that I've been able to do a  
little bit of everything, and I've been lucky that I've  
got to have a little piece of everyone's world in this  
part. I mean – he's supposed to be the bad guy! So it's  
interesting that my last ever episode should be a con-  
temporary comedy.

"As I said, I've always viewed Ares as a contem-  
porary character, anyway," Smith emphasises, look-  
ing down at his modern-day costume for *Soul*  
*Possession*, "so these swanky-danky Armani gigs are  
no different for me than being in the leathers. I quite

