

how wonderful it was to work with Michael (Helaus) Hurst, who directed the episode. Next came anecdotes from the season six opener *Coming Home*, the first about Adrienne's Eve costume constantly catching on gates and trees as she tried to make her way through the scenes, and the second on how much she enjoyed playing one of the Furies in the guise of Eve, tormenting the unfortunate Ares.

Asked how she came up with the motivation for Eve coming to terms with the bloodthirsty warrior she had once been, Adrienne gave an interesting insight into how she played the character's reactions. "As an actor, you have to feel legitimate as the character," she revealed, "so I played Eve as an addict; afraid that if she picked up a weapon again, she'd never put it down."

According to Adrienne, a big part of getting into the character was down to the character's costume. "Literally," she explained, "your clothes are your amour. Every time I saw that Livia costume, my confidence soared and I started to swagger a little bit... but I was shocked at the amount of cleavage!" Conversely, Eve's 'rags' helped to show the honest, more vulnerable side of the character. Still, one of Adrienne's favourite lines was from her days as Livia, when the character told Xena, "You're not my mother... Rome is my mother!"

Later during the session, Adrienne auctioned off a large photo of Hudson and herself, taken at the Pasadena *Xena* convention earlier this year, which was signed by both guests. The piece finally sold for £350.00, with all proceeds going to charity.

Adrienne told a brief story about fighting Kevin Smith for the first time in the fifth season episode *Livia*. "The first time we had to fight," she recalled, "I said to Kevin, 'I'm scared.' He said, 'Every girl in this show kicks my ass! He's so glib at making you feel comfortable.'"

From being terrified by Renee O'Connor playing a possessed Gabrielle in *The Haunting of Amphipolis* to her favourite and only "mother-daughter bonding" scene in *Who's Gorkhan?*, to her views on the final episode, it was obvious that *Xena* and those involved with it had definitely had a positive impact on Adrienne's life. "I would have loved to have known what happened to Eve," she said of the end of the series, "but I thought they ended the story exactly in accordance with what they started out to do six years ago. That got to all of us." Adrienne cited this very convention as a case in point of the phenomenon that is *Xena*. "Every time I go to a con, I get afraid that no one's going to be there! But I've had an absolutely great time here and I'm so proud of being a part of all this."

After a couple of entertaining music video montages featuring Joxer, Caesar and Cupid, Ted Raimi and Karl Urban entered through the giant chakram at the back of the stage to the tune of



Photo by Ruth Thomas

'The Boys Are Back In Town'. After an unsuccessful attempt to remember just how many episodes of *Hercules* and *Xena* they'd both been in, the actors told the audience there would be a short question session, following which they would then be entertaining the fans "in our own special way." Remembering Greg Lee's outrageous antics earlier in the day, Karl asked Ted, "Boxers or briefs...?"

After both agreeing there would be no stripping in this session, Ted went on to explain one of the excerpts from the Joxer montage at the beginning of the speech – the shot from *Fins, Femmes and Gems* in which Joxer the ape-man swings into a tree. "That was shot in reverse motion," he revealed, "and they had a wire that they used to pull me – and my stunt double – away from the tree. It's the oldest trick in the book!"

The discussion topics went from both the actors' propensity for playing practical jokes on each other and the rest of the cast (like writing bizarre notes on Renee O'Connor's episode scripts), to a mock argument over which would be the better movie: Sam Raimi's *Spider-Man*, or *Lord of the Rings*, filmed in Karl's home country of New Zealand. This led to a discussion of the bit parts they'd both had in various action movies, and how easy it was for short scenes to be cut out of the final product completely should the film run longer than the desired length. "Big action movies often run really long," Ted explained, "because the directors put in all these extra car chases and things, and the production guys say, 'How do you market a 90-hour movie?' So sometimes you just get cut out."

Question time over, the talented actors launched into a hilarious two-man improvisation

Above: Late addition to the convention Karl Urban goes down a storm with fans.

"Boxers or briefs...?"
karl urban to
ted raimi

chariots of war IV

For fans in the UK (and Europe) eager to get their *Xena* fix next year, fear not – the show may be over, but Starfury are planning yet another *Xena* convention next year, following the success of the three Chariots of War events so far.

Chariots of War IV will take place at the Heathrow Park Hotel over the weekend of 12 – 14 July 2002, and will feature a slew of popular guest stars. The line-up is still to be confirmed, but guests so far include the ever-popular Hudson Leick, Alti's alter ego Claire Stansfield, Tim (ER) Omundson, and Melinda (Velasca) Clarke.

According to organiser Sean Harry, the move from the Radisson Edwardian to the Heathrow Park Hotel will mean that fans will get even more out of the event. "We have the run of the entire convention centre," he told *Xena Magazine*. "And what's more, as the centre is separate from the hotel, we will be able to keep the disco going for much longer." Good news for party animals!

For more information about Starfury's next convention, visit their web site at www.cleopatra2525.co.uk, or get the latest issue of Titan's *Dreamwatch Magazine* for all the up-to-the-minute convention news!