

The birth of Xena's daughter, Eve, has signalled some cataclysmic changes for the Warrior Princess' ongoing adventures. During a break in filming *Xena's* fifth season finale, *Motherhood*, **LUCY LAWLESS** and **ADRIENNE WILKINSON** discuss their characters' eternal bond with **KATE BARKER**.

# All about Eve...

There are a few things in the *Xenaverse* that are capable of killing a god: the blood of the Golden Hind; a rib of the Titan Cronos; one half of Xena's yin-yang chakram... And now, it appears, there's a new addition to that list: the power of motherhood.

We all know that Xena can kick butt, but with her adult daughter beside her, she now has the power to kick butt as one mean mother. The showdown in *Motherhood* is no ordinary fight, either. After all, this is *Xena's* fifth season finale, so the gods of Mount Olympus are really letting our heroes have it, and there are some pretty heavy casualties as a result. After the death of Zeus

at Hercules' hand (in the mid-fifth season *Xena* episode *God Fearing Child*), it's up to Athena, goddess of Wisdom and War, to lead the Olympians' attack.

This puts an interesting spin on things, considering that Athena had been the only god to whom Xena really paid any attention. "Athena has always been Xena's hero," says Lucy Lawless, taking a short break from filming a literally explosive part of the battle in *Motherhood*. "At least, she's the only god Xena really respected.

"Now that Xena's met her," Lawless continues, "she's revised her opinion. Xena's battled long and hard to reclaim her daughter, and now she's got Eve on side. Athena's really coming down hard on Eve, and Xena's not going to let go of her to Athena's evil machinations."

Lawless suddenly gets a very Xena-like gleam in her eye, before declaring: "Athena's goin' down!"

A proud mother will always have something positive to say about her offspring, and between dodging explosions, flames and all manner of wrath of the gods in *Motherhood*, Lawless is no exception about her on-screen daughter. "The wonderful Adrienne Wilkinson is playing my daughter, 25 years older. She's borne the brunt of some pretty gnarly action that is usually reserved for Renee [O'Connor, Gabrielle] and I... Like kneeling in the surf out

at Bethell's beach on a freezing cold morning, covered in blood all day."

Lawless praises Wilkinson's professionalism and her role in the *Xena* family saga. After all, it was only a few episodes ago that Eve was being played by several young and bewildered babies. "To have someone who is gutsy and not freaked out by all the stunts," says Lawless with a smile, "is a real relief! Now we're really fighting back at the gods."

Just how gutsy would you need to be to follow in Xena's footsteps? It's challenging enough to be a Warrior Princess taking on the gods. But being the Bringer of Twilight and Xena's daughter to boot – well, that's a lot for a girl to deal with.

Originally from Missouri in the US, Adrienne Wilkinson is mostly known for "Saturday morning, girl-next-door" roles in American teen series such as *Saved By The Bell* and *Sweet Valley High*. "I'm always the girlfriend/cheerleader," she explains, decked out for a very different role on the set of *Motherhood*. "I've never done anything like this!"

It's been an interesting experience for Wilkinson, who has been given only three episodes (*Livia*, *Eve* and *Motherhood*) in which to get her head around a character that has 25 years of off-screen history to portray in only a few minutes. "It's been very fast," she says, "knowing that I am Xena's daughter but also