



Rob Tapert
Executive Producer

SD: We're heading into the Twilight of the Gods. Is this a story you wanted to tell when the series started if it lasted long enough?

Rob: No. What if I told you I thought we'd do it on *Hercules* and it ended before we got there?

SD: I'd believe you.

Rob: This was also the feature film I wanted to do with *Hercules* and *Xena* once upon a time.

We never dealt that much with the Greek gods on *Xena* and it dove-tailed that *Hercules* ended 14 episodes before we thought it would and *Xena's* baby provided us with an instrument to use for this backdrop. I don't know if it's the end of the gods, but it's the end of their reign of power. I know people are concerned that we're going to switch to a monotheistic universe, but *Xena's* far smarter than that. She's had too many encounters with the gods.

SD: That's what fans have been saying. *Xena's* had so much trouble with the gods, why would she believe this new

one, Eli, would be any different?

Rob: She doesn't. It's only that her daughter is confused. She's into a cult.

SD: How is the actress playing Eve, Adrienne Wilkinson, doing?

Rob: I haven't seen much footage yet. It's always hard to find someone who can act and do the fighting.

SD: Does she look anything like *Xena*?

Rob: She looks shockingly like a cross between *Lucy* and *Hudson*!

SD: She's the best nemesis for *Xena* that's come along since *Callisto* because she has an emotional tie to *Xena* the other villains haven't had.

Rob: She does and that's my hope.

SD: No pun intended?

Rob: We have not forgotten about *Hope*. She shows up at just the right time.

SD: The gods on *Xena* haven't really been that bad. Even *Ares* was too good-looking and seductive to make everyone hate him.

Rob: He does something bad. He does something very good and then he does something very bad.

SD: I can't wait to see the shows at the end of this season.

Rob: I hope it all works. I wasn't satis-

fied with a lot of the episodes this season. I liked "Fallen Angel," "Them Bones," "God Fearing Child," "Seeds Of Faith," and "Amphipolis." But I like what we're doing in the last five episodes.

I just saw the breakdowns of the demographics of the people watching "Lyre, Lyre." I was shocked women turned it off. Men loved it.

SD: You had the song "Sisters Are Doing It For Themselves" sung by women dressed as go-go dancers. That's a bit of a conflict.

Rob (smiling as he thought about this): That is a conflict.

SD: The images from "Fallen Angel." Who was the artistic inspiration?

Rob: Gustave Dore.

SD: It seems you're faced with a continuity conundrum. If *Ares* dies, it conflicts with "The *Xena* Scrolls" and him being alive in 1940.

Rob: You know what, I'm still wrestling with that. I saw a bit of "Deja Vu" on tv last night and he's in that too! And I thought, "That's not going to work with the story we're telling now." It starts shooting in two weeks. I'd better figure out what I want to do. (laughing) I'm

"YOUR ENDURING FAITH IN ONE ANOTHER
IS THE GREATEST MIRACLE OF ALL."
- ELI TO XENA AND GABRIELLE
("SEEDS OF FAITH")