

prologue

this issue

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EDITORIAL

Editor Darryl Curtis
Designer Vanessa Coleman
Deputy Editor Nick Jones
Editorial Assistant Anna Bowles
Set Reporter Kate Barker
LA Liaison Abbie Bernstein
Creative Consultant John Freeman
Senior Group Editor Brian J. Robb

CONTRIBUTORS

Writers: Kate Barker, Abbie Bernstein,
Stoddard Hayes, Clayton Hickman,
Joe Nazzaro, Ian Rentoul, Paul
Simpson, Jim Smith and Ruth Thomas

THANKS TO...

This issue's interviewees: Roger Guise,
Santina Jolsson, Renee O'Connor, R. J.
Stewart, Gina Torres, Alexandra
Tydings, Mark Warren, Sandy Winton
and Adrienne Wilkinson
Plus: Peter Ballard, Jennifer Balmot,
Lebbie Brunner, Deborah Carey, Cindy
Lang, Celine Gale, Justine Greenwood,
Robin Hansen, Leah Krantzler,
Christina Macphail, Sue May, Dave
Pollison and David Wilson-Nunn

TITAN MAGAZINES

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No hearts were broken during the making of
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S eason six of *Xena* is going to be wrapping shortly, and US viewers have by now seen almost half of this final year's exciting episodes.

We'd all hoped this would be a year to remember, and as you'll see from the comments in our letters page, the episodes are certainly leaving a strong impression on US readers. Don't worry, readers in the UK, Australia and New Zealand – you're the lucky ones who still have it all to come, and you really are in for a treat...

There are too many outstanding shows to mention in such a small amount of space, but the highlights so far for us here at Titan Towers have been the dark and sexy *Heart of Darkness*; the visually brilliant *Who's Ghurkan*; and the fantastic Norse trilogy *The Rheingold*, *The Ring* and *Return of the Valkyrie*. In the latter adventure, Lawless proves her mettle as an actor by playing three versions of Xena: the Warrior Princess we know and love, a Valkyrie-Xena, and a Xena who has lost her memory (and comes complete with stunning new wardrobe).

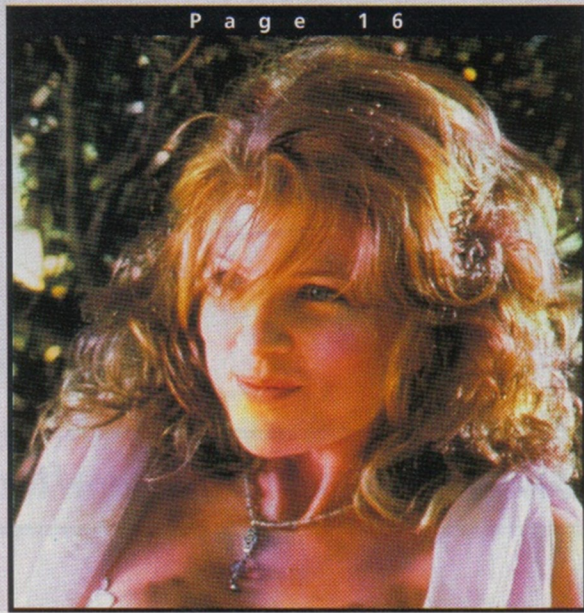
We haven't yet had the opportunity to enjoy the episodes which aired last month in the US, but this issue's set reports prove that the season is continuing on a high. We have interviews with the two major guest stars from *Dangerous Prey*, directed by Renee O'Connor, who we talked to last issue; and an exclusive report from the set of the brilliant new comedy *Old Ares Had a Farm* – just take a look at the pictures from this show and you'll see what we mean (and calm down, Ares fans!)

This issue we have something for everyone: an exclusive chat with *Xena*'s newest star, Adrienne Wilkinson, who plays Eve; interviews with guest stars old and new, including Mark (Octavius) Warren and Gina (Nebula) Torres; behind-the-scenes features, including our interview with *Xena*'s executive producer R.J. Stewart; not to mention some fabulous pin-ups.

But the *piece de résistance* this month is our fantastic Valentine's feature, in which we take a sneak peek behind closed doors and reveal exactly what the characters have been getting up to together, and also bring your our ultimate guide to who's kissed who! And this issue's interview with Alexandra Tydings, a.k.a. Goddess of Love Aphrodite, is the icing on the cake.

So get your slice, sit back and enjoy...

DARRYL CURTIS, Editor



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To kick off our Valentine's festivities, Goddess of Love Alexandra Tydings talks love, matchmaking and her latest *Xena* appearances.



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We get under Adrienne Wilkinson's skin and discover which character *she* prefers – Livia or Eve...



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Cleopatra 2525 star Victoria Pratt on playing Cyane in *Adventures in the Sin Trade*.

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Two exclusive new pin-ups to feast your eyes upon.

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Love, heartache and underhand affairs – they're all the order of the day as we take a look at romance in the *Xenaverse*.

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Xena's executive producer R.J. Stewart reveals what's in store for the Warrior Princess as the show draws to a close.



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Season five guest star Mark Warren remembers playing Octavius, Rome's newest Caesar.

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All the latest exclusive news from the Known World.



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The God of War discovers the joys of hard labour in this month's featured episode, *Old Ares Had a Farm* (down girls!). Plus more on *Dangerous Prey* and all this month's revelations from our Renaissance Man.



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