

SIX ON SKY

Xena sixth and final season began airing on Sky 1 earlier this month.

The opening episode of *Xena's* sixth season, *Coming Home*, debuted on the UK's foremost digital and satellite channel in the popular Sunday afternoon timeslot of 5pm on 1 July. The season will continue to be broadcast weekly in the same time slot with the 22-episode final year expected to draw to a close in January 2002 (for a complete season six episode listing, shown in broadcast order, see Issue 20, page 6).



Sky Television announced at the start of the year that *Xena's* sixth season would begin airing in April. However, the show didn't appear on any schedules for that month and Sky representatives were unable to comment on the show's absence, prompting concern amongst UK *Xena* fans, especially in light of terrestrial network Channel 5's decision not to air any further new episodes of *Xena* beyond season four.

Xena Magazine's representative at Sky Television confirmed the show's July start date in early June, and confirmed that they were "deeply committed to *Xena*. The interest from fans has always been greatly appreciated," Sky added, "and they certainly won't be disappointed with what's in store for them this season". ■●

We'll keep you updated on any changes to Sky's *Xena* airing schedule. If you want to show your support for bringing *Xena* back to Channel 5, you can contact the station on 08457 050505, or email them at: dutyoffice@channel5.co.uk

DEFYING ALL CONVENTIONS

Creation's *Xena* Wrap convention broke all records to become the biggest and most successful *Xena*-themed convention in history.

The convention, held in May in Pasadena, California, had a record audience of over 5,000 attendees, and featured over 20 guests from the world of *Xena*. Guest stars included such favourites as Hudson Leick, Alexandra Tydings, Claire Stansfield, Ted Raimi, Adrienne Wilkinson, Bruce Campbell and Bob Trebor, while there were also appearances by members of the show's behind-the-scenes crew, including Executive Producer Rob Tapert and Editor Rob Field, and talks from such renowned *Xena* experts as fanfiction writer Melissa Good and Fan Club Editor Sharon Delaney.

But the *pièce de résistance* of the event was a world first: the appearance together on the stage of series stars Lucy Lawless and Renee O'Connor.

O'Connor came on stage first, much to the delight of the thousands of fans who had crowded the auditorium of Pasadena's Civic Center in anticipation of the weekend's crowning glory. Gabrielle's real-life counterpart soon burst into song, proving that she really can sing, and was then joined on the stage by her co-star, Lucy Lawless, who appeared in the punk outfit she will be sporting in Sam Raimi's *Spider-Man*.

The actresses entertained the audience for nearly two hours, demonstrating through their easy rapport with one another that they do have a close off-screen relationship, and also proving beyond a shadow of a doubt that Renee is expecting a child – the actresses' five-month bump was clearly distinctive.

Additional highlights of the weekend included Hudson Leick, who wowed fans with her typically flirtatious style and auctioned off both of the outfits she was wearing over the weekend for charity; Alexandra Tydings, whose genuine



nature and un-Aphrodite-like appearance went down a storm with the audience; and a comedy cabaret act from Ted Raimi and Bruce Campbell, which had the audience in fits of laughter.

The weekend's charity auctions raised thousands of dollars thanks to the generous bidding of fans – the highest bid of the weekend was \$40,000 for a metal chakram used in *Xena* and signed by Lucy Lawless. All proceeds from this sale went to Lawless' official cause, the Starship Children's Hospital in Auckland.

The convention's organisers Creation Entertainment were delighted the event was such a success, and sent out a big thank you to all who attended via their web site. "This event was a wonderful experience for us," they told fans. "It is our sincere hope that this past weekend serves as a wonderful lasting memory for all those who love the series and its stars." Creation were also keen to thank the guest stars for the hard work and dedication they demonstrated at the convention. "Each and every performer was a pleasure to deal with and really gave their all to the convention."

The performers were clearly gobsmacked by the number of fans in attendance and the reception they received by the enormous crowd. "Let's do that again. I'm going to go behind the curtain, and when I come out, you scream like banshees, okay?" said Adrienne Wilkinson, a popular guest star thanks to her portrayal of Eve in the show's fifth and sixth seasons.

But it was convention favourite Hudson Leick who most succinctly summed up the impression of the weekend – for both the guests and the audience – as she departed the stage for the final time: "I've had the most fabulous time..." ■●

Read our exclusive and in-depth report from Creation's *Xena* Wrap Convention, page 10.



"F**k the Star Trek fans; where are the Xena fans?"

the oracle