

MxNickyE's

Essential Xena Episode Viewing Guide

A curated guide through the world of *XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS*, attempting to balance being as economical as possible while still comprehensive.

This guide prioritises the two leads and what I believe are the core themes of the show. It's organised according to both logic of temporal clarity (what is going to make the most sense to someone who didn't watch the episodes in the order they were released), as well as emotional logic (some details about supporting characters may be skipped, but it's to keep the momentum and focus on Xena and Gabrielle).

NO SPOILER VERSION

Highly Curated: [Jump now!!!](#)

Full Guide but no Contextual notes: [Jump now!!!](#)

MAY CONTAIN SPOILERS

Detailed Full Guide: [Jump now!!!](#)

Watch these Episodes in this Order

To be economic and limit yourself to the fewest episodes you can watch for the Xena experience, watch these 42 episodes.

This curated list aims to include the episodes essential to the themes and the central relationship of the show, while also including some supporting episodes that set-up seasonal arcs and supporting characters so you can watch the episodes in the following order with minimal questions.

Note that in Season Three, some recurring characters appeared on *Xena's* sibling show, *Hercules*, and so there's been character/plot development off-screen from *Xena*.

S01E01: Sins of the Past
S01E03: Dreamworker
S01E10: Hooves and Harlots
S01E22: Callisto
S01E24: Is There a Doctor In The House

S02E01: Orphan of War
S02E05: Return of Callisto
S02E12: Destiny
S02E13: The Quest
S02E14: A Necessary Evil
S02E15: A Day in the Life

S03E04: The Deliverer
S03E05: Gabrielle's Hope
S03E06: The Debt, Part 1
S03E07: The Debt, Part 2
S03E11: Maternal Instincts
S03E12: The Bitter Suite
S03E13: One Against an Army
S03E21: Sacrifice, Part 1
S03E22: Sacrifice, Part 2

S04E01: Adventures in the Sin Trade, Part 1
S04E02: Adventures in the Sin Trade, Part 2
S04E03: A Family Affair
S04E14: Devi
S04E15: Between The Lines
S04E16: The Way
S04E20: Endgame
S04E21: The Ides of March

S05E01: Fallen Angel
S05E02: Chakram
S05E09: Seeds of Faith
S05E12: God Fearing Child
S05E19: Looking Death in the Eye
S05E20: Livia
S05E21: Eve
S05E22: Motherhood

S06E01: Coming Home
S06E14: Path of Vengeance
S06E15: To Helicon and Back
S06E18: When Fates Collide
S06E21: Friend in Need, Part 1
S06E22: Friend in Need, Part 2

Full Episode Guide with no Spoilers

Non-indented = Essential

First Indent = Optional but Recommended

Second Indent = Informational but skippable; trust the emotional logic

*Asterisk = indicates a clip show; watch to catch up on episodes this guide may have skipped

Prequel Episodes (*HERCULES: THE LEGENDARY JOURNEYS*)

Xena is a spin-off show!

S01E09: The Warrior Princess

S01E12: The Gauntlet

S01E13: Unchained Heart

Season One

Season Arc: Establishing the Characters and their bond

S01E01: Sins of the Past

S01E03: Dreamworker

S01E05: The Path Not Taken

S01E06: The Reckoning

S01E08: Prometheus

S01E10: Death in Chains

S01E10: Hooves and Harlots

S01E12: Beware Greeks Bearing Gifts

S01E13: Athens City Academy of the Performing Bards*

S01E17: The Royal Couple of Thieves

S01E18: The Prodigal

S01E20: Ties That Bind

S01E21: The Greater Good

S01E22: Callisto

S01E24: Is There a Doctor In The House

Season Two

Season Arc: Details of Xena's Past & setting up other story arcs

S02E01: Orphan of War

S02E02: Remember Nothing

S02E05: Return of Callisto

S02E07: Intimate Stranger
S02E08: Ten Little Warlords
S01E10: The Xena Scrolls*
S02E12: Destiny
S02E13: The Quest
HERCULES S03E12: Surprise
S02E14: A Necessary Evil
S02E15: A Day in the Life
S02E20: The Price

Season Three

Season Arc: X+G Relationship development

S03E01 The Furies
S03E04: The Deliverer
S03E05: Gabrielle's Hope
S03E06: The Debt, Part 1
S03E07: The Debt, Part 2
S03E11: Maternal Instincts
S03E12: The Bitter Suite
S03E13: One Against an Army
S03E16: When in Rome
S03E17: Forget Me Not*
S03E21: Sacrifice, Part 1
S03E22: Sacrifice, Part 2

Season Four

Season Arc: The Prophecy and meditations on Violence

S04E01: Adventures in the Sin Trade, Part 1
S04E02: Adventures in the Sin Trade, Part 2
S04E03: A Family Affair
S04E05: A Good Day
S04E07: Locked Up and Tied Down
S04E08: Crusader
S04E09: Past Imperfect
S04E13: Paradise Found
S04E14: Devi
S04E15: Between The Lines
S05E16: The Way
S04E18: The Convert
S04E20: Endgame

S04E21: The Ides of March

Season Five

Season Arc: Lucy Lawless got pregnant and they worked it into the show. Gabrielle's warrior arc continues.

S05E01: Fallen Angel

S05E02: Chakram

S05E03: Succession

S05E04: Animal Attraction

S05E05: Them Bones, Them Bones

S05E09: Seeds of Faith

S05E12: God Fearing Child

S05E14: Amphipolis Under Siege

S05E19: Looking Death in the Eye

S05E20: Livia

S05E21: Eve

S05E22: Motherhood

Season Six

Final season! They give no fucks! X+G are main text soulmates! Concluding character arcs.

S06E01: Coming Home

S06E02: The Haunting of Amphipolis

S06E03: Heart of Darkness

S06E04: Who's Gurkhan?

S06E05: Legacy

S06E07: The Rheingold

S06E08: The Ring

S06E09: Return of the Valkyrie

S06E10: Old Ares Had a Farm

S06E14: Path of Vengeance

S06E15: To Helicon and Back

S06E19: Many Happy Returns (*out of order on purpose; just trust me*)

S06E18: When Fates Collide

S01E01: Sins of the Past ****OPTIONAL BUT RECOMMENDED REWATCH****

S06E21: Friend in Need, Part 1

S06E22: Friend in Need, Part 2

Legend

Essential

The point of the show, according to MxNickyE: Xena's redemption arc, Gabrielle's becoming a warrior arc, their Sapphic soulmate bond (which in the 1990s was simply referred to as "subtext" cuz we didn't have overt, starring Queer representation on screen yet), and the show's general exploration of violence in the world.

Xena character development

Gabrielle character development

X+G relationship development

A Bit of Everything!

Optional but Recommended

Interweaving characters, themes, and plotlines that support the Essential. If you have time, include some of these based on what you are vibing with from the Essential episodes – many will be colour-coded for Xena or Gab development. Also, some Essential episodes may involve the following topics.

These will be indented once:

Callisto (Xena's arch nemesis and dark mirror)

Ares (God of War)

Joxer (comic relief character but eventually a true friend)

Amazons (connected to Xena's past and Gabrielle's development)

Caesar (Xena's mortal enemy)

Alti (Xena's spiritual enemy)

Xena and Gabs Family stuff

Other recurring characters

Optional but Informational

Not recommended if you really just want the emotional logic of the plotlines. Recommended if you want to know the background details about why a thing is a thing or what a character pops up for a cameo, etc.

These will be indented twice:

Hercules and/or Iolas

FYI episodes that retcon/repair plot holes or set up an Essential episode

Miscellaneous moments from Xena's past

Clipshows (additionally denoted with an asterisk)*

Episode Guide

Prequel Episodes (*HERCULES: THE LEGENDARY JOURNEYS*)

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HERCULES S01E12: The Gauntlet

HERCULES S01E13: Unchained Heart

Season One

Season Arc: Establishing the Characters and their bond

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S01E08: Prometheus

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S01E20: Ties That Bind

S01E21: The Greater Good

S01E22: Callisto

S01E24: Is There a Doctor In The House

Season Two

Season Arc: Details of Xena's Past & setting up Gabrielle's Future

S02E01: Orphan of War

S02E02: Remember Nothing

S02E05: Return of Callisto

S02E07: Intimate Stranger

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S02E12: Destiny

S02E13: The Quest

HERCULES S03E12: Surprise

S02E14: A Necessary Evil
S02E15: A Day in the Life
S02E20: The Price

Season Three

Season Arc: "The Rift" - Xena and Gabrielle's challenges as they grow

S03E01 The Furies
S03E04: The Deliverer
S03E05: Gabrielle's Hope
S03E06: The Debt, Part 1
S03E07: The Debt, Part 2
S03E11: Maternal Instincts
S03E12: The Bitter Suite
S03E13: One Against an Army
S03E16: When in Rome
S03E17: Forget Me Not*
HERCULES S04E13: Armageddon Now, Part 1
HERCULES S04E14: Armageddon Now, Part 2
S03E21: Sacrifice, Part 1
S03E22: Sacrifice, Part 2

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S06E10: Old Ares Had a Farm

S06E14: Path of Vengeance

S06E15: To Helicon and Back

S06E19: Many Happy Returns (*out of order on purpose; just trust me*)

S06E18: When Fates Collide

****STOP HERE FOR AN ALTERNATE SERIES FINALE EXPERIENCE****

Official Series Finale

****OPTIONAL, BUT RECOMMENDED REWATCH FOR EMOTIONAL IMPACT****

S01E01: Sins of the Past

S06E21: Friend in Need, Part 1

S06E22: Friend in Need, Part 2

NOTE: A Director's Cut – basically a TV movie, combining Part 1 and Part 2 – helps connect some of the plot points in the Series Finale, but is otherwise not that different.